



VOTERS GUIDE

Primary Election – Fort Bend County

NONPARTISAN

March 2, 2010 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Check our website: www.lwvhouston.org



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that provides information about political issues and candidates in order to promote greater citizen responsibility and participation in government.

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Because the League is nonpartisan, it does NOT support or oppose any political candidate or party. It does publish and distribute information for citizens to use in preparing to cast an informed vote.

About the VOTERS GUIDE --

Our intent in preparing this VOTERS GUIDE is to present information on candidates appearing on the Fort Bend County Primary Election ballot, listed in ballot order. Information from respondents is included in the VOTERS GUIDE. Each candidate is solely responsible for the content of material submitted and the opinions expressed therein.

Responses to this VOTERS GUIDE were obtained by means of a questionnaire sent to opposed candidates whose names appear on the ballot. Answers are printed exactly as received. The League does not edit for meaning, grammar, or spelling. Because of space restrictions, the League advised candidates of word limits. Replies exceeding the word limit are indicated by an ellipsis (...). Candidates who did not respond in time for printing show “No response received” following their names.

Information on candidates in statewide races was prepared by the League of Women Voters of Texas.

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The races are listed by political party. Democratic Party candidates begin on page 2. Republican Party candidates begin on page 7.

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.

**Fort Bend County Early Voting Schedule
March 2, 2010 - Primary Election**

Rosenberg Annex Building	4520 Reading Road, Rosenberg, TX
Cinco Ranch Branch Library	2620 Commercial Center Blvd, Katy, TX
Aliana Clubhouse	17122 West Bellfort, Richmond, TX
Hightower High School	3333 Hurricane Lane, Missouri City, TX
Meadows Place City Hall	One Troyan Dr., Meadows Place, TX
Missouri City Community Center	1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City, TX
Tuesday - Friday	February 16 - 19, 2010 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	February 20, 2010 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	February 21, 2010 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday	February 22 - 26, 2010 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Irene Stern Community Center	6920 Fulshear-Katy Road, Fulshear, TX
Beasley City Hall	319 S. 3rd Street, Beasley, TX
Lost Creek Park	3703 Lost Creek Blvd, Sugar Land, TX
Tuesday - Friday	February 16 - 19, 2010 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	February 20, 2010 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	February 21, 2010 CLOSED
Monday – Friday	February 22 - 26, 2010 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Chasewood Clubhouse	7622 Chasewood Drive, Missouri City, TX
First Colony Conference Center	3232 Austin Parkway, Sugar Land, TX
Houston Community College at Sienna	5855 Sienna Springs Way, Missouri City, TX
Old Needville Fire House	3115 Richmond Street, Needville, TX
Tuesday - Friday	February 16 - 19, 2010 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	February 20, 2010 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	February 21, 2010 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday	February 22 - 26, 2010 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sugar Land Methodist Church	431 Eldridge, Sugar Land, TX
Townwest Town Hall	10322 Old Towne Ln, Sugar Land, TX
U of H at Cinco Ranch	4242 South Mason, Katy, TX
Tuesday - Friday	February 16 - 19, 2010 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	February 20, 2010 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	February 21, 2010 CLOSED
Monday – Friday	February 22 - 26, 2010 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Pecan Grove Baptist Church	1727 FM 359, Richmond, TX
Tuesday - Friday	February 16 - 19, 2010 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	February 20, 2010 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	February 21, 2010 CLOSED
Monday – Friday	February 22 - 26, 2010 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE / Democratic Party

Member of U.S. Congress. Serves in the House of Representatives. The House originates revenue bills and, by tradition, appropriation bills. The House brings charges of impeachment for trial in the Senate. Both the House and the Senate count electoral votes following a presidential election and, if no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, the House chooses the President from among the top three candidates. The member is elected for a two-year term. Rank-and-file member salary \$174,000. Speaker of the House salary \$223,500. Majority and Minority Leaders salary \$193,400.

Questions to Candidates *Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)* *What reasonable measures can be taken to reduce the risk of terrorism? (60 word limit)* *What are your recommendations for reducing harmful emissions into the air? What specific legislation would you support? (60 word limit)* *What measures, if any, should the federal government take to stimulate job growth? (60 word limit)*

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AL GREEN RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR DISTRICT 9



ROBERT PRUETT

Thirty year Law Enforcement Veteran. The last ten years as Chief of Police for the City of Galena Park. Classified as a Vietnam and Cold war era veteran with service in the United States Army and the Texas National Guard. Attended Sam Houston University Texas Police Chief Leadership Series.

Intelligence gathering on terrorism is the most effective means. The cultivation of friends in foreign countries who may have an ear to the ground is most important. Fair and reasonable foreign policy must be maintained with other allies in the fight on terrorism. We must be vigilant in the protection of our borders.

Continued effort must be made in the clean emissions of our transportation needs by slowly weaning ourselves from fossil fuels. The use and improvement of solar, wind technology as well as nuclear energy has proven to be safe and reliable.

The stimulation of small business is most effective in getting people back to work. Low interest loans should be made available through the Small Business Administration. America needs to return to our proud "Made in America Label." Foreign trade agreements need to be challenged to protect Americans from the unfair competition of low third world labor.

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WINSTON COCHRAN

I have a B.A. in Economics from Columbia. I understand what America needs to bring it out of recession. I have a law degree from UT. I am the only lawyer in this race. I have practiced law for 30 years as a prosecutor and defense attorney.

The 9/11 terrorist trials should be military. We should stay in Iraq and Afghanistan as long as we are needed, and I would defer to the President and the military leadership on that decision. We should build up the Navy so it can take the lead in fighting maritime piracy. We should support Israel.

I support Cap and Trade if and only if petrochemical plants and refineries in other countries are made to comply with the same standards for pollution and worker safety that American plants must meet. We should promote alternative energy and recycling. I favor another round of Cash for Clunkers, but with better controls. President Obama's commuter rail emphasis is good.

We need a Roosevelt-style program of public works – starting with a levee for Galveston, but also roads, channels, and buildings. Promoting recycling in cities that lack it would provide jobs. We should initiate a program of recycling oyster shells to replenish reefs and strengthen the fishing industry. Building up the Navy would reinvigorate shipbuilding and the steel industry.



JEFF CHERRY

I am a high school social studies teacher and have been for the past 29 years. As a member of the World Affairs Council of Houston I have studied extensively the energy sector and understand the role Texas can play in the global economy.

Increased security measures at home include making the Ellington Field a first responder air base and increased funding for Coast Guard operations. At the national scale we must increase greater cooperation among the intelligence agencies that will lead to fewer gaps in domestic security. Internationally we must maintain a balance between our military strength and our diplomatic options.

As a legislator I would help facilitate a streamlining of measures that would allow expansion of the nuclear industry more rapidly. It is my belief that renewable energy can reach the 50% threshold through progressive incentives. However, Cap and Trade will do little to realistically reduce greenhouse gases and will negatively impact the Houston and Texas economy.

Stimulus measures must include elements that provide immediate increases in living wage jobs, and credit availability to small businesses. It also must preserve existing industries including high tech (NASA) and manufacturing jobs (oil and gas). A third aspect is long term stimulus through a more educated and healthy workforce.

DISTRICT 22



KESHA ROGERS

I ran for Texas Democratic Party Chair in 2006, recruiting youth into politics. A political organizer with economist Lyndon LaRouche since 2002, I've worked to restore the tradition of Hamilton, Lincoln and FDR. I hold a B.A. in Political Science and Speech Communications. Full biography: www.keshiaforcongress.com

Reveal the illegal flows of black market derivatives, narcotics, and weapons by offshore banks to stop terrorism's funding. Orient the USA toward anti-colonial policies of sovereign national development with Russia, India, and China. These four powers will lead the peaceful buildup of nuclear power, water desalinization, mass transit, modern sanitation, etc., alleviating the poverty that recruits people into terrorism.

Since carbon dioxide is primarily plant food, no matter what the EPA says, I propose massive increases in anthropogenic emissions of CO2, legislated by nationwide infrastructure development, nuclear power, high-speed rail, urban reconstruction, and agriculture. The biggest cause of ecological degradation is globalization, both via the looting of resources, and the enforced poverty of "green jobs" and "green energy".

End the bailout, and put the Federal Reserve System through Glass-Steagall bankruptcy reorganization, transforming it into a Hamiltonian-style National Bank. Use Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution to issue long-term credit for nationwide infrastructure development, manned space exploration, nuclear power, high-speed rail, urban reconstruction, and agriculture. Employ youth in productive Civilian Conservation Corps-style jobs.



DOUG BLATT

25 years of experience in information systems development required me to analyze and solve problems efficiently and effectively. Earned a MBA from TX A&M at Commerce. Owned/Managed a small profitable business. Also worked for all 3 branches of government at state and local levels.

Convince the wealthy nations of the Middle East to provide more support for the Palestinian people who have been living in camps for decades, and accept them into their countries as citizens. If the Palestinians had better living conditions, many would be less likely to join terrorist groups. Finish building Iraqi and Afghani infrastructures and bring our troops home.

Invest more in clean energy and mass transit solutions. Create incentives for businesses and individuals to switch to cleaner energy sources through more tax deductions and implement stiffer penalties on polluters. Keep raising the café standards for the automobile industry. Offer tax incentives for business whose workers telecommute, ride-share or ride mass transit regularly. Ratify international global climate change agreements.

Give tax incentives to business that hire. Create a nationwide unemployment database that employers hire from before asking for a visa-holder. Invest more in education and retraining for the unemployed. Invest more in small business startups and growth using grants, loans, and business expertise. Expand the role of the small business administration to help small businesses survive and grow.

GOVERNOR / Democratic Party

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties: executes all laws and conducts all business with other states and the federal government; fills appointive offices; fills vacancies in state or district elected offices by appointment; calls special sessions of the legislature and sets their agenda; approves or disapproves every bill passed by the legislature. Annual authorized salary: \$115,345

Questions to Candidates: *What training and experiences qualify you for this office? (50 words)* *What policies do you support to create jobs and assist those who are unemployed? (75 words)* *What do you see as the state government's role in increasing the use of alternative fuels and energy conservation among Texas residents? (75 words)* *Aside from the issues above, what do you consider the two most serious and pressing issues facing Texas during the next four years and how would you address them? (75 words)*

STATE



FAROUK SHAMI

I came to America with \$71 dollars in my pocket and through hard work and determination achieved the American dream. The company I founded is worth over a billion dollars. We do business in over 106 companies. I will bring my business skills to this office to solve Texas problems.

The state should strongly encourage conservation and energy use reduction amongst the government, business and Texas residents. This will not be enough to solve all of our problems, though. I have a plan to research new technologies, train Texans to work in green jobs and utilize solar and wind technologies to create new sources of energy. Doing so, we can put Texans to work and close coal fired power plants, cleaning up our air and...

First, we should have accepted the federal government's offer to help subsidize our unemployment insurance fund. Beyond that, I have a plan to build small business incubators, create green energy jobs, promote industry development clusters along the border, put people to work modernizing core infrastructure, create high paying jobs in economically distressed areas, and modify tax incentive policies so we're not competing against ourselves to encourage companies to move.

The Border: We need to embrace Mexico as a trading partner and negotiate and encourage Mexico's Government and their people to establish jobs on their side to help solve legal immigration long term. Furthermore, I have a plan to get serious on apprehending the drug distribution gangs and stop wasting time attempting to apprehend all undocumented workers. I plan to populate the border by bringing jobs from overseas to the Texas border. Transportation: I have...

GOVERNOR / Democratic Party

Questions to Candidates:

What training and experiences qualify you for this office? (50 words)

What policies do you support to create jobs and assist those who are unemployed? (75 words)

What do you see as the state government's role in increasing the use of alternative fuels and energy conservation among Texas residents? (75 words)

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



STAR LOCKE

As a home builder & rancher for 35 years. I have tremendous experience in dealing with all people and solving problems. As US Army Veteran I spent 14 months living inside Mexico so I can understand/fix this border & immigration problem. My Complete Report to Texas is on Feb 15...

FELIX (RODRIGUEZ) ALVARADO – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

BILL DEAR

My experience of being an investigator, businessman, author and rancher, all while raising two sons as a single parent has given me insight into the reality most Texans deal with. I know their struggles and I will truly represent them and will listen to their concerns.



BILL WHITE

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



Interest free loans to small business that wish to manufacture any Wind or Solar machines. Also free home installation of Wind & Solar power devices designed to power homes. Interest Free loans to farmers or ranchers for land, tool, equipment and expenses to raise grains for fuel.

I will place import tax on all Chinnse & foreign goods where Labor Laws & Human Rights Laws are not used with foreign workers. We close Texas Ports goods built with salve labor. This will return the 35 million jobs we lost. Also I create the Texas Defense Force; half million new jobs will be created and Veterans hired. A new Texas Army.

ALMA LUDIVINA AGUADO – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Texas needs to utilize the resources it already has, include solar and wind options for utilities, and alternative fuels for transportation. Educate residents as to the cost, as well as the pros and cons, of each source of energy. Our state government should be able to keep our citizens informed about pollution in our state and ways to live cleaner so we can care for our resources.

Give tax breaks and incentives to companies who bring their business to Texas. We have a large population with plenty of talented, innovative workers and no state income tax. Texas citizens would welcome a company into their communities. We need to market what Texas has to offer, in our small towns, metropolitan cities and suburban areas, because it is a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Texas is a national leader in traditional energy, and we must be an international leader in energy efficiency and energy supplies for our future. Leadership starts at the top, and as Texas' Governor, I will promote more clean sources of energy and energy efficiency standards. With a Governor experienced in the energy business, we can attract new jobs, bring down electricity bills, and protect our natural resources so that our children can enjoy them.

As a former businessman, I know firsthand how state government affects business. As Houston's mayor, I helped our area lead the nation in job growth. Jobs with a future come from attracting new businesses and allowing small business to grow. We must ensure an educated, skilled workforce and invest in critical infrastructure, including transportation infrastructure. Finally, we must use tax dollars for incentives more wisely and have accountability for the results of incentives.

Property Taxes. Stop renting our own property! We pay all commercial property taxes for banks, oil companies, wal marts and the malls each time we buy gasoline, groceries, a shoes or a burger. They just "passed-it-on" in higher prices. Lets replace Property Tax. Mexico. I will build a new Texas Defense Force like the Israel Defense Force. I need 30,000 Combat Troops to close this border and defeat & kill the drug lords & corruption.

E. GLENN – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Education and unemployment. Empower teachers to teach their students by taking violent and extremely disruptive students out of the classroom. Stop standardized testing because Texas wants an above standard education for children. Address the lack of graduates furthering their education by offering technical classes in high schools, introducing students to the option of attending college or a trade school. Many problems can be resolved by better educated children and workforce ready adults.

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

LIUTENANT GOVERNOR / Democratic Party

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties as part of both the Executive and Legislative branches: assumes powers of governor when governor is absent or unable to serve; acts as president of the senate; by statute, the Lieutenant Governor is a member of several Legislative branch boards and committees. The Lieutenant Governor's salary is that of a state senator when serving as President of the Texas Senate and that of the governor when serving as Governor.

Questions to Candidates:

What training and experiences qualify you for this office? (50 words)

What policies do you support to create jobs and assist those who are unemployed? (75 words)

What specific actions would you support to ensure that Texans of all ages and circumstances have access to health care according to their needs? (75 words)

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



LINDA CHAVEZ-THOMPSON – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

RONNIE EARLE

I have a proven record of fighting for ethics in Texas government, reducing crime, and bringing communities together to solve problems. A former Staff Assistant to Governor John Connally, Presiding Judge of the Austin Municipal Court, and Texas State Representative, I was District Attorney of Travis County for 32 years.

I would implement the President's health care plan, fully fund the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and invest in hospitals, nursing homes, and medical infrastructure statewide. I would create incentive programs to increase the number of primary care physicians and to recruit doctors to all areas of the state regardless of the local socio-economic conditions.

I would: - Reform the tax structure that is shrinking the middle class and punishing small business; - Abolish insider deals that create stealth taxes like exorbitant utility rates, insurance premiums, and college tuition; - Accept the federal government's return of Texas' tax dollars for unemployment benefits and economic stimulus; - Invest in retraining programs; - Invest in green energy, not pollution-belching coal plants, and use clean-burning Texas natural gas that generates severance tax dollars.

Texans must retake their government from the forces of corruption and greed that have been in control for the past 15 years. We need ethics and election law reform to reduce the temptation for corruption and ensure an ethical, transparent, and accountable government that works for all of its citizens. Our failing public education system must be adequately funded. All-day education must be available for all Texas four-year-olds whose parents want it.

MARC KATZ

I have owned an award-winning business, with more than thirty years of experience in management, marketing, sales and training. I am skilled in determining, developing and securing funding for successful business growth, attributes that are essential for this office.

The federal government is in the process of passing a national health care plan that will help cover all Texans, however we must implement it correctly to make it work for us. First of all, I would make sure that the state insurance commissioner that is appointed to oversee the federal process, is not a political appointee who has very close relationships with the big insurance companies. Next, I would push to overhaul the current...

I support the implementation of alternative power policies to help create jobs for the future. We must look to sources of power other than oil, and by creating them ourselves we will also help create green jobs for Texans, along with lightening the load of utility bills. I also feel that along with unemployment, unemployed Texans should have access to free classroom training that promotes green energy. We should teach our citizens how to build...

Education and immigration are the two most pressing issues. Our children need access to better education at a younger age. We should be more diligent that all of our children, not just a portion of them are allowed to attend pre-k and kindergarten classes. Teachers need to be treated like professionals and more attention paid to their values and ideas in the classroom rather than a standardized test. Immigration reform has also reached a critical...

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

BARBARA ANN RADNOFSKY – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE / Democratic Party

Four-year term. Must be at least 18, a citizen of the United States, and a Texas resident for at least the 12 months preceding the election. Among duties: management of state lands and mineral-right properties totaling 20.3 million acres; repository of state land documents; responsible for the prevention of and response to oil spills that occur on “submerged” lands out to 10.3 miles in the Gulf of Mexico. The Commissioner also serves as a chairman of seven state boards, including the School Land Board, the Veterans Land Board, and the Coastal Coordination Council. Annual authorized salary: \$125,000

Questions to Candidates: *What training and experiences qualify you for this office? (50 words)* *What changes do you support in the General Land Office’s management of state owned lands and mineral rights properties? (75 words)* *What changes would you make in the management of Texas coastal lands and submerged lands to minimize the effect of destructive natural causes? (75 words)* *Aside from the issues above, what do you see as the two most serious and pressing issues the Commissioner of General Land Office will face in the next ten years and how would you address them? (75 words)*

STATE



HECTOR URIBE

Thirteen-year veteran Texas house and senate. Member Natural Resources, Water Committees. Represented coastal district with oil and gas reserves on state land, beaches, bays, and estuaries. Authored laws to protect beaches, coastal lands and environment and to create Texas Enterprise Zone Act to promote economic development and create jobs. Attorney.

Coastal lands: replenish sand on our hurricane ravaged beaches and plant native flora that accelerates beach and sand dune growth. Correct inappropriate engineering efforts to create sand accretion that actually accelerates beach erosion elsewhere. Submerged lands: assure the free flow of water to bays and estuaries from Texas’ rivers and streams to submerged lands and attempt to restore the appropriate salinity levels in our bays and estuaries for habitat restoration for fowl, fish and crustaceans.

More emphasis on the idea of stewardship for the long term; would manage oil and gas leases to ensure that the Permanent School Fund enjoys like revenues in 2110. Would immediately audit leases to ensure oil and gas companies are paying fully. Would lease land for wind and solar and seek legislative support for electric grid needed to move green power where needed. Would emphasize carbon reduction, conservation and energy independence.

How will the Land Office join the battle against global warming and promote the harnessing of renewable energy sources, wind, solar and geothermal? How will it assure that in the transition from 20th Century to 21st Century technologies that there is no negative impact to the revenue streams that flow into the Permanent School Fund from the leasing of state mineral rights? Econometric models that predict the impact of policy changes may be the answer.

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

BILL BURTON

I am a Texas Veteran, Real Estate Broker for 23 years. Former Judge, Real Estate Educator, teaching Real Estate Law, Law of Contracts, Lease Agreements; and former Mortgage Broker; Appeals Arbitrator on behalf of the Texas Comptroller for Public Accounts in Property Tax Disputes and Mineral Right’s Issues.

I would have the Texas Legislature to designate a funding source through the CEPR ACT and FEMA to clean up the Coastal Lands. I will enhance current efforts dedicated to Erosion and Long Term Plans. I will assign an environmental Ecologist, and Geologist to conduct an oceanographic study and evaluate the cause and affects of existing debris and soils to determine the most conducive method for aquatic care.

The first change I support is putting the Permanent School Fund money back where it belongs. I will stop using the PSF money to promote business ventures. I will find alternative methods to general and increase funds to the PSF through other natural resources such as Natural gas and Wind energy, (better known as Renewable Energy). I will conduct a bi-annual site inspection to confirm the appropriate process is followed as outlined in the Lease...

(I). The GLO purchased more than a half billion dollars worth of Land in and near the South Texas, El Paso area which caused a negative impact on tax revenues. (A). I will determine the best use of the property. I will offer residential property for sale first to the Texas Veterans. (I). Texas Veteran Home Improvement Loan limits them to \$25,000.00, which has not changed in over twenty years. (A). I will work to...

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE / Democratic Party

Four-year term. Must be at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for the twelve months preceding the election. Among duties: heads the agency and chairs the nine-member board charged with overseeing pesticide regulation. Annual authorized salary: \$125,000

Questions to Candidates: *What training and experiences qualify you for this office? (50 words)* *How would you balance environmental concerns and economic interests of Texas farmers and consumers? (75 words)* *How do you propose to protect agricultural lands and rural communities in Texas with its high rate of urbanization? (75 words)* *Aside from the issues above, what do you see as the two most serious and pressing issues the Commissioner of Agriculture will face during the next ten years and how would you address them? (75 words)*

STATE



HANK GILBERT

I have lived and worked in agriculture my entire life. After graduation from Texas A&M, I taught high school agriculture for 13 years. For the past 5 years, I have been a “citizen lobbyist” for private property rights, against eminent domain abuse and against the Trans-Texas Corridor.

We have to do all in our power to enhance agriculture and keep it profitable. By creating a viable marketing campaign within the agency, and expanding domestic and world markets, this is possible. The TDA should also take a pro-active role with municipal governments to encourage “productive growth patterns” as opposed to urban sprawl, thus reducing the losses of agricultural lands. I will also work to prevent TXDOT from taking new agricultural lands for new...

Agricultural producers, just like our energy manufacturers, have to become better stewards of our environment. I would work closely with our research universities to in continuing to improve upon cleaner and more efficient farming techniques, broadening organic-based substitutes, and less-invasive pesticides. Besides farming, I will take the lead in developing more alternative energy through wind, solar and bio-mass technologies.

Stopping the loss of family farms by increasing markets and marketability of Texas agricultural products. The agency can, and must, take a more proactive approach in this area, and will, under my leadership. We must also offer better consumer protections, both in the grocery store, and at the gas pump. For too long, Texas consumers have been subject to rip-offs, due to a lack of oversight by this agency. This will change when I take...



RICHARD “KINKY” FRIEDMAN

I’ve been involved with ranching in Texas all my life, and I care about rural issues. Echo Hill, the ranch I live on and manage in the Texas Hill Country is a defining element for Kinky Friedman. I also served as Agricultural Extension Director in the Peace Corps in Borneo.

Candidate’s response did not meet the criteria listed for this Voters Guide.

The Texas Department of Agriculture deals with the business of farming and ranching as well as consumer safety. The current commissioner allowed tainted beef to be sent to school cafeterias. On his watch an unlicensed peanut processing plant caused a national salmonella outbreak. The key to balancing the farmer’s interest and consumer safety while preserving the environment is to remember that they go hand in hand.

I believe the two most serious issues before the commission will be preserving the family farm and protecting the consumer and ranchers and farmers from the excesses of big agri-business corporations. Farmers are facing a few companies that have a monopoly on certain seeds. Consumers are getting hurt because the lobbyists are in control at the Ag Department. We need to get some competition back into this business model, and be a watchdog for consumers.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER / Democratic Party

JEFF WEEMS – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE / Democratic Party

JIM SHARP – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, PLACE 3
 BILL MOODY – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, PLACE 5
 BLAKE BAILEY – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, PLACE 9

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS / Democratic Party

KEITH HAMPTON – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 6

3-9

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MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION / Democratic Party

LAWRENCE A. ALLEN JR. – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 4
JUDY JENNINGS – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 10

STATE SENATOR / Democratic Party

RODNEY ELLIS – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 13
PATRICIA “PAT” OLNEY – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 18

STATE REPRESENTATIVE / Democratic Party

Member of the House of Representatives must be 21 years of age and a legal resident of the state for at least two years and resident of the district from which they are elected at least one year. All bills for revenue and appropriation of funds for operation of state government originate in the House. Members’ duties include initiation of proposals for constitutional amendments, serving as an advocate for citizens in their home district and bringing any charges of impeachment for trial in the Senate. They are elected for a two-year term.

<i>Questions to Candidates</i>	<i>Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)</i>	<i>Considering the current state of reduced tax income, is the current tax policy sufficient to finance state government needs, such as public education, public safety, health care and bridge and road maintenance? If not, what measures would you support to pay for these services? (60 word limit)</i>	<i>What measures, if any, should the state government take to stimulate job growth? (60 word limit)</i>	<i>If elected, what two issues do you feel will need the most attention and resources during your term of office? Please explain. (60 word limit)</i>
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WAYNE RAASCH – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 18

RON REYNOLDS – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

DORA OLIVO

The school finance tax package of 2006 failed to raise adequate revenue, resulting in a shortfall for public education. I would strongly support eliminating hundreds of millions of dollars in wasteful spending in the Texas Enterprise Fund, which the governor can currently hand out to businesses with no accountability or guarantee that money will create jobs.

Texas should invest in our system of higher education by creating more Tier 1 schools that will create jobs and human capital for our state to thrive economically. Texas can also invest in renewable energy to lower utility bills, create jobs and keep our air clean.

Public education – In the previous legislative session, I convened a working group of legislators to improve major education legislation and ensure that we help schools that are struggling, rather than letting them fall further behind. I will continue these efforts next session. Health Care – Texas should expand the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

COURT OF APPEALS / Democratic Party

CHIEF JUSTICE, 1ST COURT OF APPEALS

MORRIS OVERSTREET – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR CHIEF JUSTICE, 1ST COURT OF APPEALS

1ST COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE

MICHAEL GOMEZ – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUSTICE, 1ST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 4

ROBERT RAY – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUSTICE, 1ST COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 8 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

14TH COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE

NORMA VENSO – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUSTICE, 14TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 2

WALLY KRONZER – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUSTICE, 14TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 5 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

TIM RILEY – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUSTICE, 14TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 9 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

DISTRICT JUDGES / Democratic Party

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS 240TH – 268TH

FREDERICKA ALLEN – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 240TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, COURT 1

ALBERT HOLLAN – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 268TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, COURT 1

COUNTY JUDGE / Democratic Party

This judge resides over commissioners court, which has budgetary and administrative authority over county government operations. This office is responsible for calling elections, posting election notices and for receiving and canvassing the election returns. The county judge may perform marriages. This office is also head of civil defense and disaster relief, and county welfare. The County judge is elected for a four-year term.

<i>Questions to Candidates:</i>	<i>Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)</i>	<i>What are three important issues facing the county at this time? How would you address them? (60 word limit)</i>	<i>Questions to Candidates:</i>	<i>Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)</i>	<i>What are three important issues facing the county at this time? How would you address them? (60 word limit)</i>
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A. PHILLIP ATISEBAOMO

I have a Doctor of Optometry degree from Indiana University and a PhD from the University of Houston. I have a private practice and lecture for two major universities. My experience as a community builder, educator, a parent, and a business owner qualify me for this position.

We face fast population growth, dwindling revenue, and lack of transparency in Governmental affairs. I will implement a forward thinking smart mobility plan in step with population growth, use available technology to do more with less, and insist on transparency in all aspects of County Government. Please visit www.DrAPhilip.com for more information.

RODRIGO CARREON

FBISD K-12 Graduate and Two A.S.S. Degrees I’m 2004-10 Elections Candidate of Fort Bend Districts of FBISD, FBFWS#1, Pct.1 Commissioner.

1. Taxes 2. Education 3. Public Improvements All Election poll schedules Need to set too open close same time, plus Agendas will Address all improvements.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER / Democratic Party

GRADY PRESTAGE – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

COUNTY COURT AT LAW JUDGE / Democratic Party

MILTON FLICK – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COURT AT LAW 1
HARRISON GREGG – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COURT AT LAW 2

DISTRICT CLERK / Democratic Party

VERONICA TORRES – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

COUNTY CLERK / Democratic Party

KORINTHIA MILLER – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COUNTY CLERK

COUNTY TREASURER / Democratic Party

K.P. GEORGE – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COUNTY TREASURER

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE / Democratic Party

Have jurisdiction over criminal misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only, e.g. assault, bail jumping, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, bad check writing, public intoxication, theft. Hears civil cases involving up to \$10,000. Handles miscellaneous complaints, performs marriages, issues commitment papers for the mentally ill, issues search and arrest warrants. Judges are elected for a four-year term.

Questions to Candidates:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What is the most critical issue facing the Justice of the Peace courts and how would you address it? (60 word limit)

Questions to Candidates:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What is the most critical issue facing the Justice of the Peace courts and how would you address it? (60 word limit)

PRECINCT 1, PLACE 2



AURELIA MOORE

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit) I am a certified Principal and Teacher in Texas. I bring over 17 years of experience in working with youths, parents, law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders. A large part of the JOP courts deal with issues such as truancy, disorderly conduct and youths, all of which I have expertise.

Being impartial and fair to all citizens is critical. Throughout my career, I have served as an unbiased mediator and have had to implement the same skill sets as a JOP. My focus will be to build a collaborative relationship with parents, law enforcement agencies and community leaders to help ensure accountability in the court.



R.J. BLUE

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit) I hold a Bachelor's and MBA in Finance and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence. I am a practicing attorney with seven years of courtroom experience. My legal education and experience is unique in this particular race, and it covers the full range of cases that could come before a Justice Court.

The most critical issue is juvenile cases. Justice Courts are in the position to process juvenile criminal cases, like truancy, at relatively early life stages. Proper intervention could minimize the possibility of future crimes and criminal activity. I would address this issue with innovative, fair but firm, penalties and programs like the Teen Court utilized in Precinct 2.

PRECINCT 2, PLACE 1



TONY SHERMAN

University of Southern California, BA, Business University of Houston, Social Work Certification South Texas College of Law, Conflict Resolution Certification Dispute Resolution Center, Mediator Justice of the Peace, Pct 7, Judge Al Green, Mediator Windsor Village United Methodist Church, Counselor The Council of Elders, Founder MCoprs100 Mentoring Program founder

The most critical issue is the growing number of youth who display bad behavior in school being placed on a fast tract into the criminal justice system. As the Children's Defense Fund calls it, "From the Cradle to Prison Pipeline". New approaches to juveniles with problems are of utmost importance. I will implement a new mentoring program already proven successful.



JOEL CLOUSER, SR.

I've served as Justice of the Peace in Fort Bend County, Precinct Two for 18 years. I have over 400-classroom hours legal training through the Texas State University, Justice Court Training Center. I have a BBA degree from Texas Southern University.

The Justice of the Peace deals with numerous quality of life issues in the community. Most pressing is school attendance. My court uses alternative sentencing programs that counsel young people in anger management, gang intervention, health issues such as nutrition and HIV/Aids, intense parental/court school attendance monitoring of the child, etc. These programs also encourage parental involvement and counseling.

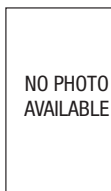
PARTY CHAIR



STEPHAN BROWN

My career began as a campus organizer in college. From there, I was awarded an internship in the Clinton White House. I have since worked for a number of key Democrats locally. I am currently employed at Houston METRO, and a member of local Democratic Clubs.

The core values that we must commit to in order to turn Fort Bend Democratic are to be active, visible, and vigilant year round. We must have precinct chairs in every community, and the resources to establish a headquarters to centralize our activities. Electing democrats will be driven by recruiting electable candidates and providing them the human resources to garner....



ELAINE BISHOP

Ft. Bend Democratic Party Chair. Serving as Party Chair past six years. Strong leadership and active community involvement, professionalism. Committed in helping communities, resolving problems, building a strong foundation for democrats. This has and is the best training that prepares me to continue the work and success Ft. Bend deserves.

Help position democrats to stand-up to fight for the important issues which affects them in Fort Bend. To increase the participation through voter registration and voter education for our county, city, and school elections. Recruit and support viable democratic candidates. Recruiting block captains and precinct chairs to increase support within precincts. www.fbcdemocrats@aol.com

Know your candidates, select your candidates, and VOTE.

Be an informed participant in the Democratic process – VOTE.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE / Republican Party

Member of U.S. Congress. Serves in the House of Representatives. The House originates revenue bills and, by tradition, appropriation bills. The House brings charges of impeachment for trial in the Senate. Both the House and the Senate count electoral votes following a presidential election and, if no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, the House chooses the President from among the top three candidates. The member is elected for a two-year term. Rank-and-file member salary \$174,000. Speaker of the House salary \$223,500. Majority and Minority Leaders salary \$193,400.

Questions to Candidates

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What reasonable measures can be taken to reduce the risk of terrorism? (60 word limit)

What are your recommendations for reducing harmful emissions into the air? What specific legislation would you support? (60 word limit)

What measures, if any, should the federal government take to stimulate job growth? (60 word limit)

DISTRICT 9



DAVE BANNEN

B.S. Electrical Engineering, Masters in Business Administration Qualifications: Strong Business background, Common sense; Proven leadership and communication skills; and a pro business philosophy. Manufacturer's Representative for almost 20 years, working with some of the largest companies in the world, including Hewlett-Packard, Schlumberger, Halliburton, Baker Hughes, and hundreds of other companies.

Simple – Profile for terrorist. Israel's system works; they don't look for weapons, they look for terrorist. We know the last 36 terrorist came from the same region, are of a specific age range, religion, etc. We had a shoe bomber - The TSA reacts to having Americans screen their shoes. Reacting to the latest terrorist strategy will never defeat terrorism.

Define Harmful emissions. I do not accept the premise that this is an important issue. The recent Copenhagen summit on Global Warming has proven the movement to be fraudulent. I will not support legislation that penalizes American Industry as the Cap & Trade bill currently does. Cap and Trade will kill the US economy costing America ~10 Million jobs.

First: Cut taxes for business. Second: Stop the stimulus II spending. Stimulus I has not worked. I will promote the long term incentives businesses need to grow in Harris County. Additionally I'll push to open up US Oil and Natural gas resources to American industry. I will get the Federal Government out of the way of American business.



STEVE MUELLER

American Legion Boys' State – 1979; BS Industrial Engineering – Texas A&M – Magna Cum Laude - 1984; Certified Project Management Professional; Business Analyst & Project Manager; Father of 7 children; BSA Troop Scoutmaster – 3 yrs; Experienced writing precise procedures and leading diverse teams to achieve positive improvements.

To begin with, the use of non-discriminating, random, full searches at airports is a violation of our Constitutional protection against unreasonable searches and seizures guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment. We need to quit using the "shotgun" approach and zero-in on the probable suspects. Secondly, we must control our borders!

First, carbon dioxide is a naturally occurring gas that is vital to the cycle of life between plants and animals. It is not a pollutant to be regulated. The theory of "global warming" is a smoke screen for more government. The earth's temperature will fluctuate regardless of government regulations. Since the environment crosses State boundaries, it is a federal issue.

If we follow Warren Harding's successful formula used in an earlier US depression, we should slash federal spending and cut taxes. For a fuller discussion, search the web for the article "Warren Harding and the Forgotten Depression of 1920" by Thomas E. Woods, Jr. and read it. It is enlightening! Learn more at: www.mises.org.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE / Republican Party

Questions to Candidates

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What reasonable measures can be taken to reduce the risk of terrorism? (60 word limit)

What are your recommendations for reducing harmful emissions into the air? What specific legislation would you support? (60 word limit)

What measures, if any, should the federal government take to stimulate job growth? (60 word limit)

DISTRICT 14



JOHN GAY – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

TIM GRANEY

I have a BS Computer Science Degree and I have run my own technology and business consulting company. I have 20 years of experience working with others to solve problems in a cost effective and efficient manner and that is what I will do as your representative in Washington.

RON PAUL – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Instead of spending one minute with every passenger or attendee we need to focus our efforts on those who fit the historical pattern of those who have committed acts of terror. Too many Americas have given up their rights and are inconvenienced on a regular basis because of the acts of a select few. Political correctness has gone too far.

I do not support the current cap and trade legislation. I believe governments and businesses can work together to bring improved technology to the market over time as technology improves and regular plant maintenance is performed. For long term energy that is clean and reliable, I support the expansion of nuclear energy and the loan guarantees needed by this industry.

Reduce the corporate tax rate to 10%. Large multinational companies would then bring \$700B in offshore profits home to America where it would be used for reinvestment. Taxes on profits of small business should be reduced to zero enabling them to reinvest in their company instead of the government. Kill cap and trade and the current version of healthcare reform.



GERALD D. WALL

Attending college for computer science, I chose to delay this education in favor of furthering my career in the petro/chemical mechanical maintenance industry. As a leader in my field, I make decisions everyday that affect the lives of those working for me, and their families who rely on them.

Controlling the borders at all points of entry, and deny entry to all non essential citizens from terror sponsoring nations. Interrogate enemy combatants to retrieve information about future attacks; they must be tried in military courts. Win the War on Terror by turning the war back over to the military, and out of the hands of politicians.

We should allow existing technology like Nuclear and clean coal to be used until newer technology is available. There are enough restrictions in place to keep emissions down. We should not hamper our ability to create jobs, while continuing to pursue newer forms of clean energy. This can best be done in the private sector.

Job growth can best be achieved when Government stays out of the way. Private industry has always been the driving force behind job growth. Reduce taxes and regulations that have strangled business growth. Reduce spending, and work to strengthen our currency. Government can give to anyone, what it has not already taken from someone else.

22

PETE OLSON – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR DISTRICT 22

GOVERNOR / Republican Party

Four-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas for the five years immediately preceding the election. Among duties: executes all laws and conducts all business with other states and the federal government; fills appointive offices; fills vacancies in state or district elected offices by appointment; calls special sessions of the legislature and sets their agenda; approves or disapproves every bill passed by the legislature. Annual authorized salary: \$115,345

Questions to Candidates

What training and experiences qualify you for this office? (50 words)

What policies do you support to create jobs and assist those who are unemployed? (75 words)

What do you see as the state government's role in increasing the use of alternative fuels and energy conservation among Texas residents? (75 words)

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

STATE



DEBRA MEDINA

My experience in maintaining a balanced budget, of ensuring the safety of my family, of being involved in my community, and working as a nurse have groomed me for the position of governor. I'm not a career politician; I am a Texan, ready and willing to help Texas.

Free markets have proven that capitalism, when allowed, will seek out and supply the most ingenious ideas and products. Get the EPA out of Texas and allow Texans to nourish energy. Texans are so resourceful; they will not miss the opportunity to capitalize on alternative fuels and energy conservation. We have just scratched the surface on wind and solar energy, without ridiculous mandates, energy will flourish in Texas.

By growing the government sector, people will not be able to get on their feet. We need to limit the size of government, therefore reducing the tax burden on our small business. When business is allowed to grow, jobs are created and American ingenuity runs rampant. Small business breeds jobs and jobs breed prosperity.

Illegal immigration and the Texas economy. Securing our borders is an issue that must be addressed. I will utilize all means necessary to secure our borders and stop illegal immigration. Regarding the economy, we must get Washington D.C. out of Texas. Mandates and regulatory laws are stifling prosperity in Texas. By exerting our sovereignty and cutting out special interests, Texas can become more prosperous and our economy can soar.

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

RICK PERRY – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR / Republican Party

DAVID DEWHURST – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ATTORNEY GENERAL / Republican Party

GREG ABBOTT – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS / Republican Party

SUSAN COMBS – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE / Republican Party

JERRY PATTERSON – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE / Republican Party

TODD STAPLES – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER / Republican Party

Six-year term (on a three-person commission). Must be a Texas resident and qualified voter, not less than 25 years old, and must have no interest in any railroad. Among duties: regulation of the oil and gas industry, including drilling production and environmental protection; natural gas utility companies; natural gas and hazardous liquids pipeline safety; surface mining of coal, uranium, and iron ore gravel, including land reclamation; transportation and storage of liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, and liquefied natural gas; railroad safety; and encourages the use of clean-burning propane and researches new technologies for its use. Annual authorized salary: \$125,000

Questions to Candidates

What training and experiences qualify you for this position? (50 word limit)

What measures do you support to assure the safety of people and the environment when granting permits for oil and gas drilling in urban and rural areas? (75 word limit)

How do you propose to balance energy production with the protection of the environment and the need for energy in the future? (75 word limit)

Aside from the issues above, what are the two most serious and pressing issues the Railroad Commission will face during the next six years and how would you address them? (75 word limit)

STATE



VICTOR G. CARRILLO

B.S. (Geology), Hardin-Simmons; M.S. (Geology), Baylor; J.D. (Law) (energy/environmental), University of Houston. Worked six years as Petroleum Geophysicist for Amoco (Houston). Texas licensed attorney & geoscientist. Former attorney for General Land Office & City of Abilene. Elected: Abilene City Council; Taylor County Judge; Commissioner, Texas Railroad Commission.

Responsible energy production and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. Texas must produce as many of our own natural resources as possible in a safe and environmentally responsible way. Texas must remain the premier energy producing state in the nation, producing more natural gas than any other country other than the U.S. and Russia and producing more renewable wind power than any other state. We must continue to plug abandoned wells and protect our groundwater.

I support ongoing regulation of gas drilling and pipeline safety (integrity testing, Call Before You Dig) rules with more “boots on the ground” inspectors. While I remain concerned about potential negative impacts from concentrated urban drilling in the Barnett, I remain committed to relying on non-biased, science-based data analysis to lead us to reasonable, practical solutions – not reactionary calls for a year-long drilling moratorium that would be a drastic over-reaction to this issue.

I’ll continue to be a good steward of taxpayers’ dollars and work with the legislature to ensure we have manpower to do the job and find ways to tighten our belt just like every Texas family must do in times of economic uncertainty. The Railroad Commission is “unquestionably the worst-named state agency” since we have nothing to do with railroads. We must change our name to something that reflects our mission: Texas Energy Commission.



DAVID PORTER

As a CPA with over 25 years of experience in oil and gas tax accounting I have a unique understanding of what it takes to explore for energy and bring it to market.

For the foreseeable future, the majority of our energy needs will come from oil and gas. Texas needs Railroad Commissioners that will stand up to the national administration that is trying to destroy the industry through its tax policy, Cap and Trade and other regulations. If we want to retain our status as a first world nation, we need adequate supplies of energy. Alternative energy is good but is not enough for the near future.

I have a personal interest in this area since I now live on a property that has 2 producing oil wells (in which I own no interest) and a pipeline running through it. I will strongly support regulations that protect the life and safety of the individuals that live near, as well as those working on drilling, new wells. I believe we must make these regulations as cost efficient as possible without reducing their effectiveness.

The Commission needs to retain the confidence of the people of Texas that it is protecting our natural resources while providing responsible regulation of oil and gas industry. The industry needs to have confidence that the decisions of the Railroad Commission are based on the merits of the case and not on politics.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE / Republican Party

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

Questions to Candidates

What training and experiences qualify you for this position? (50 word limit)

What is the effect of the increasing amount of money required to run for judicial office? (75 word limit)

What method of selection of judges is most likely to result in a qualified, diverse, and independent judiciary? (75 word limit)

Will you recuse yourself from cases in which the participating lawyers, their firms, or parties to the suit before the court have contributed substantial financial support to your election? Please explain your answer. (75 word limit)

PLACE 3



DEBRA LEHRMANN

I have served as a judge in Tarrant County for over 22 years – almost double the amount of judicial experience of any other candidate in this race. The author of two legal treatises and numerous articles, I have been recognized by the Texas Bar Foundation for my legal scholarship. I...

I believe that our current method of electing judges is more likely to result in a qualified judiciary than the appointment of judges. Many of the judicial vacancies in our state are currently filled by appointment, within a system that provides no transparency whatsoever. A single phone call by a disgruntled litigant could sabotage the appointment of a qualified applicant. On the other hand, judicial elections are determined by large numbers of the electorate.

Because judicial elections are down-ballot races that generally involve candidates with little name recognition, they are very expensive. The expense involved in seeking judicial office deters some qualified candidates from running for these positions. Moreover, these elections are sometimes determined by factors that have nothing to do with qualifications, such as ability to raise money or ability to self-fund a campaign.

Our system of electing judges in Texas requires candidates seeking judicial office to raise money to finance their campaigns. Judicial ethics regulations recognize this, and therefore allow judges to preside over cases in which the participants have contributed to their campaigns. If elected to this position, I will recuse myself from any case when required to do so by the Code of Judicial Conduct or any other rule of law.



JEFF BROWN

I’ve been a judge eight years—two on the appellate court, six on a district court. After graduating law school with honors, I was a briefing attorney for Greg Abbott on the Texas Supreme Court. Former Chief Justice Tom Phillips has endorsed me because of my work ethic and philosophy.

Currently in Texas, some judges first reach the bench by appointment and some by election, but all must stand for election to retain their seats. For the most part, this has resulted in a qualified, diverse, and independent judiciary that is accountable to the electorate. But there’s always room for improvement, and I am open to alternatives to the current system, provided they result in a qualified judiciary that is still accountable to the people.

Because judges are elected, judicial candidates must raise campaign funds. Rising campaign costs mean candidates must spend more time seeking money and less time actually visiting with voters. Before the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act, huge, unseemly contributions tarnished the Supreme Court’s image. The Act has done much to blunt money’s influence. I’m interested in further reforms to make contributions more transparent and to give Texans more faith in the fairness and incorruptibility of their judiciary.

If elected to the Texas Supreme Court, I will adhere to the practice I’ve followed in my first eight years as a judge, which is to voluntarily recuse myself whenever I worry the perception of the court’s fairness would be at issue. I’m proud to have consistently received high marks in bar polls for my fairness and impartiality, and I would do nothing to injure my hard-won reputation for integrity.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE continued / Republican Party

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

Questions to Candidates

What training and experiences qualify you for this position? (50 word limit)

What is the effect of the increasing amount of money required to run for judicial office? (75 word limit)

What method of selection of judges is most likely to result in a qualified, diverse, and independent judiciary? (75 word limit)

Will you recuse yourself from cases in which the participating lawyers, their firms, or parties to the suit before the court have contributed substantial financial support to your election? Please explain your answer. (75 word limit)

REBECCA SIMMONS – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

RICK STRANGE



I graduated with honors from UT School of Law in 1985. I was in private practice for 20 years, handled complex oil and gas and commercial matters, and became board certified in oil and gas, and civil trial law. I have served as an appellate court Justice since 2005.

Our judicial selection method is the prerogative of the voters and as a judge I serve at their pleasure. No judicial selection system is perfect, but we have utilized the current system for over 100 years and are well familiar with its strengths and weaknesses. I respect the judgment of the voters that this system works best for us.

Fundraising for any political campaign is a challenge. When races become more expensive, fewer people will be willing or able to run and otherwise qualified candidates will be excluded. Moreover, the more expensive the race the greater the potential concern that political contributions are impacting judicial decisions. However, when we curtail judicial campaign fundraising or expenditures, we decrease the information candidates can disseminate and we make it more difficult for voters to make informed decisions.

I will follow the same practice that I have consistently utilized as a Justice on the 11th Court of Appeals. I comply with the voluntary limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act and do not accept contributions in excess of those limits. When required by Texas law or to avoid the appearance of impropriety, I will promptly recuse myself and will fairly consider any recusal request if a party is concerned by any political contribution.

PLACE 3

JIM MOSELEY



Baylor Law graduate. Licensed to practice law over 31 years. Served over 13 years as Justice on the (Dallas) Court of Appeals. Written over 1,000 appellate opinions (per Westlaw; over 1,600 per Office of Court Administration). Served as Regional Director of FTC during Reagan administration.

The current system, though not perfect, most likely provides those combination of results. Most Texans want to control the state's power over their lives by keeping their right to elect judges. Elections give voters a say in the qualifications and diversity of the bench, and insure judicial independence from other branches of government. I will continue to work to improve the system we have, not do away with Texans' constitutional right to elect judges.

The effect is it increases the amount of time needed to campaign and raise money, and reduces the number of potential candidates who can effectively seek office.

“Substantial financial support” is not a well-defined term; promising to recuse based on that standard would undercut the uniform application of existing law. I will continue to follow Texas' laws and rules relating to the recusal of judges. I will work to make sure those laws and rules are clear, understandable, and maintain the public's confidence in the Texas judicial system. I will continue to apply the law fairly and without bias.

RICK GREEN – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

PAUL GREEN – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, PLACE 5

ROSE VELA



As an attorney I was a full time appellate practitioner for ten years. I was then elected to the state trial bench where I presided over thousands of complex civil, criminal (including capital murder) and family law matters for eight years. Currently, I am an appellate justice on the Thirteenth...

While not a perfect system, the election of judges is the only way individuals in our society have a say in who presides over cases in their community. Allowing a single person the power to appoint judges creates the appearance of impropriety and impression that the judge will be beholden to those in power.

The increasing amount of money required to run for judicial office creates the appearance that those who have given to a particular judge's campaign will receive favorable rulings in that judge's court. This appearance damages the credibility of the judicial system.

Unless the Legislature adopts a system whereby public funds are available to finance judicial elections, we must rely on a judge's honesty and integrity in avoiding any appearance of impropriety.

PLACE 9

EVA GUZMAN



The newest justice on the Texas Supreme Court, I have more than ten years' experience at three levels of the Texas judiciary. I have ruled on 2,000 appellate matters and authored hundreds of legal opinions. I have a proven record as a Judge who does not legislate from the bench.

Our federal system, with lifetime appointments, is said to achieve these goals. But judicial selection is a complicated and multifaceted subject; each system has advantages and disadvantages. Texans feel strongly about electing their judges; when given opportunities to change our current system, Texans have chosen not to do so. Preserving the independence of the judiciary and promoting public confidence in the impartiality and competence of our judges should be the touchstones of any selection system.

Judicial campaign funding is an unavoidable part a system with an elected judiciary. Though laws limit amounts and require disclosure of campaign contributions, this aspect of our system is criticized because giving/accepting campaign contributions can give rise to negative perceptions of judges and our legal system. Escalating campaign costs increase burdens on both candidates and members of the public who participate in the funding of judicial campaigns.

A judge must recuse in those rare situations when particular facts and circumstances warrant recusal; a judge is duty-bound to hear matters when they do not. Financial support of a campaign by lawyers/law firms, absent other factors, generally does not require recusal, and it would be impractical for judges to recuse in those cases. One who is true to conscience and judicial oath knows when bias has overcome impartiality and it is time to recuse.

2-6

JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS / Republican Party

LAWRENCE “LARRY” MEYERS – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 2

CHERYL JOHNSON – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 5

MICHAEL E. KEASLER – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 6

10

MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION / Republican Party

REBECCA OSBORNE – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MARSHA FARNEY – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

BRIAN RUSSELL – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

13-18

STATE SENATOR / Republican Party

MICHAEL MAULDIN – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 13

JOAN HUFFMAN – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 17

GLENN HEGAR – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 18

26-28

STATE REPRESENTATIVE / Republican Party

CHARLIE HOWARD – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 26

JOHN ZERWAS – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 28

Questions to Candidates

What training and experiences qualify you for this position? (50 word limit)

What is the effect of the increasing amount of money required to run for judicial office? (75 word limit)

What method of selection of judges is most likely to result in a qualified, diverse, and independent judiciary? (75 word limit)

Will you recuse yourself from cases in which the participating lawyers, their firms, or parties to the suit before the court have contributed substantial financial support to your election? Please explain your answer (75 word limit)

CHIEF JUSTICE, 1ST COURT OF APPEALS

SHERRY RADACK – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR CHIEF JUSTICE, 1ST COURT OF APPEALS

1ST COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE

DON SELF – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

EVELYN KEYES

Justice, First Court of Appeals 2002-present; 400+ civil, criminal, family, probate opinions; 14 years experience complex civil litigation as Special Assistant Attorney General, litigation partner, associate; UH Law Center '87 cum laude; Chief Articles Editor, Law Review; strong commitment to state and local legal organizations, community organizations, continuing legal education.

Appointment of district judges in largest counties and of justices of intermediate courts of appeals, Texas Supreme Court, and Court of Criminal Appeals, with a check on the appointment process, e.g., appoint/elect/retain or appoint/approval by senate/retain. Such a system would ensure the quality of judicial candidates while providing for the people's initial approval of judicial appointments and of judges' ongoing performance.

It can entice special interests to provide substantial backing to advance candidates they believe will support their agenda on the bench. Campaign fairness rules are an antidote to undue influence, but in large voting districts, where the candidates for judicial office and their qualifications are generally unknown, the ability of special interests to influence election outcomes is enhanced.

No. All contributions received by my campaign are subject to Texas Ethics Commission guidelines and are reported to the Texas Ethics Commission. My support comes from a wide variety of firms and individuals.

GAEL HARRISON

My twenty years as a lawyer have been devoted to appeals. I have handled over 200 appellate cases and am board certified in civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. I offer big-city, big-case experience, but I live in the country and work for small-town people, too.

The system we use. It is the only system that achieves the diversity in philosophy, race, experience, and expertise that we have in the Texas judiciary. In any other system, only the rich and powerful get to choose who decides the cases of ordinary people. People are smart enough to decide for themselves, and they should have a chance to do so.

Whenever vast amounts of money are required for a victory in politics, those who lack wealth and power face an uphill battle in any political race. Judicial races are no exception.

Yes. I will recuse myself from the cases in which the participating lawyers, their firms, or parties to the suit before the court have contributed \$1,000 or more to my campaign. I have already received such donations, and the donors are aware of my policy. They understand that I will follow this policy, as long as the law and the chief of my court allow me to do so.

MICHAEL MASSENGALE

I am the current judge in this position. I'm a former Baker Botts partner and for two years I worked at federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. I graduated from UT Law School with honors, and I've frequently presented and organized continuing legal education. I am an Eagle Scout.

The governor is best situated to appoint qualified, diverse, and independent judges. The governor is responsible for many types of appointments, and has capable staff dedicated to inviting applications from qualified candidates, interviewing those candidates and researching their backgrounds, and soliciting community input about the appropriate choice. The sheer number of judicial races makes it difficult for voters to obtain that same level of information about the various candidates and their qualifications and independence.

The money required for a judicial election campaign is an unfortunate side effect of our system of contested races for judicial office. The needs for fundraising and campaigning threaten to distract officeholders from focusing their efforts on performing their jobs. Another unfortunate factor is the negative appearance possibly resulting from the fact that lawyers and litigants appearing frequently in the courts may be the parties with the greatest interest in contributing to judicial campaigns.

My decisions as a judge will never be influenced by campaign contributions, or the fact that a person may not have contributed to my campaign. I carefully follow all Texas laws governing disqualification and recusal of judges. I also voluntarily comply with the fundraising limitations of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act. These safeguards ensure that no lawyer, firm, or litigant contributes so significantly as to require my recusal or create appearances of impropriety.

14TH COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE

SHARON MCCALLY

I am a forty-nine year old wife; mother; and Harris County judge. A judge for five years, I deliver balanced justice and tangible, taxpayer savings. After twenty years in law (state; federal; trials; appeals; civil; criminal) and seven years in business (construction), I have the best skills for this job.

Non-partisan, merit-retention elections might be effective to achieve judges of qualification, independence, and diversity, but only if coupled with non-partisan, pool-funded, public education about candidates. The partisan elections we have will never guarantee a qualified or independent judiciary, though diversity may result. The federal appointment system is not likely to sponsor diversity. More important, neither system is designed to foster both (a) public confidence in impartiality and (b) accountability.

The ultimate effect of expensive judicial campaigns is a further erosion of public trust in the judiciary because the practical effect is that those campaign dollars are derived from the lawyers who practice in those courts. As outlined in response to Question 2, until judicial campaigns are equally funded through a non-partisan pool of funds, citizens appearing in those courts unfortunately, but reasonably, worry about the judge's politics and funding.

Yes, I will recuse myself from cases in which the participating lawyers, their firms, or parties to the suit before the Court have contributed substantial and disproportionate support to my election campaign because it is constitutionally required by the United States Supreme Court. I will also recuse myself in strict compliance with the broader standards of Texas law, while upholding and supporting each citizen's Constitutional right to participate in the electorate process without penalty.

LESLIE BROCK YATES

I was elected to the Fourteenth Court of Appeals in 1994. I have authored over 1,000 opinions and participated in more than 6,000 cases. Prior to being elected, I was an Assistant District Attorney where I handled both trials and appeals. I was also an attorney with Union Pacific Railroad.

I do not like the current system of electing judges in partisan elections. Too many good judges have been lost in partisan sweeps. However it is not the role of a judge to make new law. I hope the voters will encourage the legislature to devise a system that keeps good judges and allows for removal of bad ones.

During my tenure as an attorney and as an appellate court justice, I have not been aware of any instance in which contributions to judicial campaigns have influenced decision making; but I am aware of the potential perception of influence by the public. Such perception weakens the respect for the judiciary and, ultimately, for the rule of law. As a result, I limit the size and amount of contributions I receive.

Judges are called upon to put aside their personal biases and make decisions based upon the law, not prejudice and favoritism. Judges have a variety of associations with a great many lawyers who practice before them. Judges need not concern themselves with whether they rule in favor of, or against, any lawyer – only whether the ruling is firmly grounded in the law and legal precedent.

MARTHA HILL JAMISON – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUSTICE, 14TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 5 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

TRACY ELIZABETH CHRISTOPHER – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR JUSTICE, 14TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 9

Make Democracy work – VOTE.

EXERCISE YOUR VOICE IN GOVERNMENT. VOTE!

DISTRICT JUDGES / Republican Party

District Courts are the state trial courts of general jurisdiction. Twenty-two criminal courts have jurisdiction over felonies punishable by death or by incarceration in state prison or death, and over misdemeanors involving official conduct. An additional three courts deal exclusively with juveniles accused of crimes. Twenty-five civil courts have jurisdiction over civil actions, which include disputes over personal or real property, civil rights, contractual matters or other business dealings, and personal injuries. In addition, there are nine specialized civil courts dedicated solely to family matters such as divorce and child custody. 4-year term.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS 240TH - 268TH

Questions to Candidates

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What do you see as the most critical administration of justice issue facing the courts? How would you address it? (60 word limit)

What method of selecting judges do you feel best ensures an independent judiciary? (60 word limit)

How would you select attorneys to represent indigent defendants in your court? (60 word limit)

THOMAS R. CULVER III – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 240TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

BRADY G. ELLIOTT

I received a BBA degree from McMurry College in accounting and a JD from South Texas College of Law. I was licensed to practice law in the State of Texas in 1973, and am licensed to practice before the US Supreme Court and subordinate federal courts. I have been Judge...

In Fort Bend County, one of the fastest growing Counties in the United States the most critical issue is the growing case load. We have been fortunate in the creation of additional District Courts to address this case load. I have instituted a mental health court to address the growing number of defendants charged with crime that have a mental...

I believe the continued election of judges will ensure that the public has the ability to access the qualifications of those seeking election to the judiciary. The election process also allows the public to insure that the judiciary adheres to the law as written.

In accordance to legislative mandate an office was created in our county to investigate a defendant's indigent status and if needed an attorney is appointed by that office from a list of qualified counsel. Attorneys apply with this office to be added to a list of indigent attorneys. These attorneys qualified by this office for various degrees of offenses...

ROXIE ROLL

My qualifications include 12 years practice as a Criminal Defense attorney, with a CPA / MBA and 17 years in financial management. My experience in this Court is my motivation to run for this office AND I will work daily to restore respect and Justice to this Court.

The critical issue is the backlog of cases compounded with the high reversal rate in this court. This can be reduced by a Judge that recognized his responsibility is to follow the law. The Judge's rulings must be fair and impartial. I believe the process of ensuring justice must be met with the sensible economics of operating this court.

Our system puts a burden on the voter to know the candidate in order to cast an informed vote. Election by the people prevents abuses that might occur from other methods of selection. An independent judiciary is further insured when incumbents are challenged and the voters have a choice. The system fails if any Judge remains in office solely because...

Reducing the size of the pool of approved attorneys would raise the quality of attorneys willing to take court appointments. The list is clogged with attorneys from other counties who often do not make court appearances or jail visits. Since I have the experience of actually representing indigent clients, my objective would be a list with only the best qualified...

FAMILY DISTRICT JUDGE / Republican Party

RONALD R. (RON) POPE – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR FAMILY DISTRICT JUDGE IN 328TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

COUNTY JUDGE / Republican Party

ROBERT E. "BOB" HEBERT – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COUNTY JUDGE

COUNTY COMMISSIONER / Republican Party

This office is a member of Commissioners Court, which supervises and controls the courthouses and jails. They appoint and employ personnel, fill vacancies in elective and appointive positions, determine county tax rates, adopt budget, call bond elections, set voting precinct boundaries, let contracts, build and maintain roads, bridges, libraries and parks, and appoint members to numerous boards and commissions. Within each member's precinct, a Commissioner is directly responsible for administration, parks, road and bridge programs. This office is elected for a four-year term.

Questions to Candidates

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What are three important issues facing Ft. Bend County Commissioners at this time? How would you address them? (60 word limit)

Questions to Candidates

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What are three important issues facing Ft. Bend County Commissioners at this time? How would you address them? (60 word limit)

STEVE SMELLEY

I graduated from University of Houston with a degree in Business Management. I am a sales manager for a national manufacturing company. I have a strong record of service in Fort Bend, including 10 years of service on the Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustees. www.SteveSmelley.com

Fiscal responsibility, Mobility, Limited Government. Fort. Bend County needs to practice fiscal discipline in these difficult times, the commissioners were never granted an open checkbook from the taxpayers to go on a spending spree. We need to address mobility concerns from a conservative point of view, we need common sense solutions that won't place a debt burden on future generations.

JAMES PATTERSON – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

JERRY EVERSOLE – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

DISTRICT ATTORNEY / Republican Party

Represents the State of Texas in criminal cases pending in Ft. Bend County Criminal District Courts and in all inferior courts of the county. Screens all cases and advises police and citizens on criminal justice matters. Primary duty is to see that justice is done. 4-year term.

Questions to Candidates

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

How can the District Attorney's office avoid allegations of selective prosecution and sentencing? Please discuss. (60 word limit)

Questions to Candidates

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

How can the District Attorney's office avoid allegations of selective prosecution and sentencing? Please discuss. (60 word limit)

NINA SCHAEFER

I have been an attorney for 24 years with a practice in criminal, juvenile and family law. I have also served as a Presiding and as an Associate Municipal Judge for two cities, presiding over hundreds of jury trials. This kind of experience is essential for a District Attorney.

A good District Attorney exercises sound judgment in the operation of his or her office and the selection of staff. He must understand that the role of the District Attorney is to seek justice not another notch on the gun. When this principle, seeking justice, is instilled in the entire organization, selective prosecution and sentencing will not take place.

RICHARD D. RAYMOND

I hold a BBA in Accounting and Management from Baylor University and a JD from the University of Houston. I am certified by all Texas courts, a partner in the Cohen & Raymond law firm, serve on the board of several chemical service companies, and I am a CPA.

The role of the District Attorney must be to seek justice, not merely convictions. The DA must work with law enforcement agencies to insure all cases pursued are valid and without even the appearance of impropriety. The guilty must be convicted, the innocent must be released. We must hire and retain the best qualified personnel to make this change.

JOHN HEALEY

After eleven years as an Assistant District Attorney, I have performed the duties of Fort Bend County District Attorney for seventeen years. I lead the largest law office in Fort Bend County; managing forty four attorneys and specialized caseloads that fight child abuse, drugs, domestic violence, and juvenile crime.

By his own example, the District Attorney must ensure equal treatment for all offenders. Office hiring practices should result in a qualified and diverse work force. The District Attorney should ensure that his Division Chief Prosecutors understand, teach, and monitor those whom they supervise, that prosecution and sentencing decisions are based on the facts of the case.

DISTRICT CLERK / Republican Party**ANNIE REBECCA ELLIOTT** - RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR DISTRICT CLERK**COUNTY CLERK / Republican Party****DIANNE WILSON** - RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COUNTY CLERK**COUNTY TREASURER / Republican Party****JEFF COUNCIL** - RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COUNTY TREASURER**COUNTY COURT AT LAW JUDGE / Republican Party**

Has jurisdiction over all civil causes and proceedings, original and appellate prescribed by law for county courts. Each judge is elected for a four-year term.

*Questions to Candidates**Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)**What do you see as the most critical administration of justice issue facing the courts? How would you address it? (60 word limit)**What method of selecting judges do you feel best ensures an independent judiciary? (60 word limit)**How would you select attorneys to represent indigent defendants in your court? (60 word limit)***BEN. W. "BUD" CHILDERS** - RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COURT AT LAW 1**JEFF MCMEANS**

Dulles High, Texas A&M and Texas Tech Law School Graduate. Lifelong Republican, lifelong resident of Fort Bend and trained mediator, who owns his own law firm in Richmond. Litigator with 17 years of trial experience and thousands of cases handled in areas focused on by CCL's (Juvenile, criminal, probate, civil)

There is a large backlog of cases on the criminal docket. With the countywide growth and only 4 county courts, as Judge I will put in many hours of work and be strict with prosecutors and attorneys to limit resets and expedite cases. Also, I will force attorneys to properly evaluate cases, and dispose of the weak ones before trial.

A non-partisan election based on skill, knowledge, experience, character, compassion, strength and veracity. This would limit good judges from being swept out of office by the changing winds of partisan politics and elections at the national level.

First I must meet them. Then I would make them watch a FBC law library video explaining how to practice in county courts. Jail cases are automatically given attorneys by the County Clerk. Selection in court would involve a rotating list allowing an equal amount of cases for each attorney, unless a defendant needs counsel immediately, then its first available.

RICK FORLANO

Adelphi University, B.A., Mathematics / University of Houston, J.D. / Attorney, Sugar Land, former law firm partner / 34 years practice / Fellow, College of State Bar of Texas / State Bar of Texas, Law Practice Management Committee for last 6 years / Texas and Fort Bend County Criminal Defense Lawyers Associations / Retired Air Force officer

Increasing dockets and large numbers of juveniles before the court. I would implement programs to speed docket flow but insure that adequate time was given to all cases for a fair and proper disposition and set up programs for juveniles to correct their problems and ensure they do not go to the criminal system while always protecting the public.

The Texas system is best because it allows the people to elect their judges and these courts are the people's court and they should be the ones to fill them. An appointed system would deny the people the right to control the selection and leave that to some appointed governmental body which would take this important right from the people.

Judges must follow the law as stated by Senate Bill 7 and I would only appoint attorneys that have proven their competency to properly represent indigents and would monitor these attorneys to ensure that they ethically protect the constitutional rights of indigents. It would be done on a non-partisan basis, giving all qualified attorneys the opportunity to serve.

SUSAN G. LOWERY - RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COURT AT LAW 3**R. H. "SANDY" BIELSTEIN** - RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR COURT AT LAW 4**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE / Republican Party**

Have jurisdiction over criminal misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only, e.g. assault, bail jumping, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, bad check writing, public intoxication, theft. Hears civil cases involving up to \$10,000. Handles miscellaneous complaints, performs marriages, issues commitment papers for the mentally ill, issues search and arrest warrants. Judges are elected for a four-year term.

*Questions to Candidates**Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)**What is the most critical issue facing the Justice of the Peace courts and how would you address it? (60 word limit)**Questions to Candidates**Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)**What is the most critical issue facing the Justice of the Peace courts and how would you address it? (60 word limit)***GARY A. GEICK**

Judge Geick graduated from Sam Houston State University with a major in business and a minor in criminology. He has 480 hours of training with the Texas Justice Court Training Center. Judge Geick has been elected for 24 years as Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 of Ft. Bend County.

The most critical issue facing the Justice of the Peace Courts is the collection of fines and fees. Judge Geick works with defendants in collecting fines and fees based on their individual financial abilities; and if fines are not paid in a timely manner according to law, cases are forwarded to collections to be enforced under Fort Bend County procedure.

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

ROBERT L. "BOB" THOMAS JR.

I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1993 and 1997 I earned my Juris Doctor. I'm an attorney, mediator, arbitrator, educator, business owner, husband and father. These attributes and my belief in education, fairness, and impartiality make me the right candidate for this position.

The most critical issues facing the Justice Courts deal with truancy. Education is critical to our children's future and the ability for America to compete in global economy. I will establish programs that encourage students to attend school and report their progress to the Court. This hands-on approach will make young people more accountable for attending school.

MARY S. WARD

University of West Georgia BS Degree, Texas Judicial Training-Justice of the Peace and Municipal Court, Texas Department Criminal Justice Academy Law Enforcement training, A&M Law Enforcement Academy, Lieutenant Colonel Texas State Guard over 18 years service. Mother of two children and five grandchildren. Retired Captain Texas Department Criminal Justice.

Availability. Our young citizens need to know that there is someone in the court system that will listen to them. This will mean that a program will need to be set up to meet with the young citizens after work or school. I pledge to be available 24 hours a day and work full time.

REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR / Republican Party*Questions to Candidates**Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)**What goals do you have for your party in Ft. Bend County? (60 word limit)**Questions to Candidates**Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)**What goals do you have for your party in Ft. Bend County? (60 word limit)***MIKE GIBSON**

Graduate of Texas A&M University in Business Management, 30 years of management in Oil & Gas and forging industry. I have been active in County Republican Party for 17 years as precinct chair, election judge, convention officer and candidate. I have numerous successes as a community volunteer and leader.

Elect Republicans to all contested county-wide positions / Unite all Republicans behind core conservative principals / Expand the Republican Party to all demographics in the county / Pro-actively spread the Republican philosophy by active participation in community programs and organizations / Energize the grassroots of the Party to support County and State-wide candidates

**RICK MILLER**

Graduate - United States Naval Academy Masters Degree - National Defense University 30 years active duty as a Naval Officer and Carrier Aviator/3 Pentagon Tours Served in numerous executive and senior/top leadership positions in the Navy and in the private sector Business owner in Leadership/Management Development County Chairman since November 2007

Continue strengthening the Party around the conservative values of the RPT Platform Outreach to ALL conservative voters/increase involvement and participation Elect conservative Republican Candidates in all local/state/national offices Continue developing a strong grassroots team across FBC Educate/inform all citizens about the conservative principles of the Party Continue building trust/confidence within the Party Keep the RPFBC the Party of choice