League of Woman Voters of the San Antonio Area

A nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

An impartial guide to help voters make informed decisions in the March 1, 2016 joint primary election

EARLY VOTING STARTS FEB. 16, POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM ON ELECTION DAY
Early voting times and places for March 1 primary

Early Voting Times
Feb. 16 thru Feb. 19 ............................. 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Feb. 20 ....................................................8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Feb. 21 ................................................12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
Feb. 22 thru Feb. 26 ............................. 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

BROOKHOLLOW LIBRARY ....................... 30 Heimer Road
CLAUDE BLACK CENTER .......................... 2805 East Commerce
CODY LIBRARY ...................................... 11441 Vance Jackson
CONVERSE CITY HALL .......................... 405 S. Seguin Rd
COPERNICUS COMMUNITY CENTER ............. 5003 Lord Rd
EAST CENTRAL ISD ADMIN BUILG ............... 6634 New Sulphur Springs Rd
ENCINO BRANCH LIBRARY .......................... 2515 East Evans Rd
FAIR OAKS RANCH CITY HALL ................. 7286 Dietz Elkhorn
GREAT NORTHWEST LIBRARY ................. 9050 Wellwood
HENRY A. GUERRA, JR. LIBRARY 7978 W Military Drive
JOHN IGO LIBRARY ............................... 13330 Kyle Seale Parkway
JOHNSTON LIBRARY ................................ 6307 Sun Valley Drive
JULIA YATES SEMMES LIBRARY ............... 15060 Judson Rd
LAS PALMAS LIBRARY .............................. 515 Castroville Rd
LEON VALLEY CITY HALL ............................. 6400 El Verde Rd
LION’S FIELD ...................................... 2809 Broadway
MAURY MAVERICK, JR. LIBRARY .............. 8700 Mystic Park
MCCRELESS LIBRARY .............................. 1023 Ada Street
MEMORIAL LIBRARY ............................... 3222 Culebra
MISSION LIBRARY ................................ 3134 Roosevelt Ave
NORTHSIDE ACTIVITY CENTER ................. 7001 Culebra
OLMOS CITY HALL .................................. 120 El Prado W
PARMAN LIBRARY@Stone Oak ................. 20735 Wilderness Oak
PRECINCT 1 SATELLITE OFFICE ................. 3505 Pleasanton
SHAVANO PARK CITY HALL (LOBBY) .......... 900 Saddletree Ct
SOMERSET HIGH SCHOOL .......................... 7650 South 1604 West, Somerset
SOUTH PARK MALL ................................. 2310 S.W. Military
TOBIN LIBRARY @OAKWELL ...................... 4134 Harry Wurzbach
UNIVERSAL CITY – CITY HALL .............. 2150 Universal City Blvd
WINDCREST TAKAS PARK CIVIC CENTER .... 8601 Midcrown
WONDERLAND MALL OF AMERICAS ........... 4522 Fredericksburg

subject to change
For more information contact the office of the Bexar County Elections Administrator, Jacquelyn F. Callanen, at (210) 335-8635

About This Voters Guide

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. For more than 90 years, helping voters cast an informed vote when they go to the polls has been the primary goal of the League of Women Voters. As a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in Making Democracy Work. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate. Questionnaires were sent to candidates in races that are contested within the same party.

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

This Voters Guide is organized by office, with candidates listed by party and state ballot order where available. Ballot order may vary from county to county. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.

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Their contributions make it possible to publish a Voters Guide for the San Antonio Area. If you would like to help support future voters guides, you can mail your tax deductible contribution made payable to LWV-TX Ed Fund to LWV/SAA, 106 Auditorium Circle, Ste. 120, San Antonio, TX 78205. Our Web site is www.lwvsanantonio.org.

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control costs. That said, I support an increase in the minimum wage to $15.00 an hour because it is the right thing to do. Women make 82 cents for every dollar men make doing the exact same job. I believes this wage gap is wrong and would support any legislation to help women secure equal pay. Our roads, bridges, dams, grids, and more are in need of immediate repair. I support a modern day version of the 1930’s Work Progress Administration to create jobs and rebuild America.

Job Growth: Climate Change is an Economic Disaster waiting to happen. If our policymakers and business leaders don’t act aggressively to adapt to the changing climate our nation’s & our states economy will be hard hit. Transitioning toward a completely nuclear-free, fossil fuel free clean energy system for electricity, heating, and transportation is not only possible and affordable it will create millions of good jobs. Texas can and should become the nation’s leader in clean energy just as it once was the world’s energy leader when oil & natural gas were king.

Tejas Vakil

Background: Education: - MS, Computer Science, Illinois Inst of Technology, Chicago - MBA, Marketing & MIS, Uni of Iowa - BS, Chemical Engg, Uni of Madras, India, Experience: - 35+ years in technology business as large company executive & entrepreneur; - Co-owner of commercial real-estate company.

Immigration: I support comprehensive reform that provides border security against illegal immigrants & potential terrorists, while allowing in skilled legal immigrants. I would provide a path to legal status to the 11 million illegals already in the country, assuming they have no criminal record. We need a guest-worker program, with eVerify and security checks, for seasonal work. The US has a moral responsibility to accept refugees fleeing war & persecution, especially from wars that we influenced in some way. All refugees have to go through stringent security checks.

Economic Health: We need to reduce the national debt and free up monies to invest in infrastructure, domestic programs, and security. To do this, I will reduce taxes to spur growth while introducing a consumption tax to pay down the debt. I support the Earned Income Tax Credit, in lieu of increasing the minimum wage. It encourages & rewards work as well as offsets federal payroll and income taxes. Infrastructure spending in the US (transportation, communications, etc.) needs to increase to ensure that the nation remains competitive in the global market. I strongly support equal pay for equal work for women.

Job Growth: Job growth will come from incentivizing corporations and small businesses to invest in new plants and services, and from innovation. We can enable this economic investment via tax cuts for both businesses & individuals. Businesses: lower corporate tax to 20%; eliminate tax on future foreign earnings; current foreign earnings can be repatriated at a 5% tax. Eliminate corporate subsidies & tax loopholes. Individuals: simplify tax code to 2 tiers: 15% & 22%; tax capital gains as ordinary income. Both of these proposals will free up significant capital, spur innovation, & create jobs.

District 23

Pete P. Gallego

Background: I graduated from Sul Ross University then earned my law degree from the University of Texas. After being elected
to the state house, I established myself as one of Texas' most effective legislators by always being willing to put people ahead of politics.

**Immigration:** I have always been a strong advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. We can enforce our laws but do it reasonably. Crafting an immigration system that keeps us safe while also quickly screening refugees is not difficult, it simply requires Congress to stop playing politics with immigration.

**Economic Health:** I believe people don’t want hand-outs, they want tools to get ahead in this new economy. Those include an increased minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, improved workforce training and the ability to save for retirement. And we cannot continue to shortchange our education system.

**Job Growth:** In this new economy innovation creates jobs. Innovation is a product of education. If we properly fund our education system, put real resources into workforce training and allow workers to transfer earned retirement benefits between jobs we can have an immediate and direct impact both creating jobs and stimulating the economy.

**Lee Keenen**

**Background:** 15 years ago I chose to become a medical professional and serve the needs of others. I attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington before going on to Temple University for podiatric medicine and surgery. 6 years ago I chose to move to Del Rio, Texas and serve the border community.

**Immigration:** Immigration reform must be progressive and a comprehensive plan is needed that will protect America’s economy without completely closing our borders. The US should regulate the influx of refugees by making the safety of our citizens the primary concern and thoroughly screening all those seeking refuge.

**Economic Health:** I would regulate wages to ensure that both men and women receive equal pay. I support an incremental increase of the national minimum wage to allow for the market to adjust without having a detrimental effect on the economy by putting an immediate heavy burden on businesses. Infrastructure improvements will require allocation of tax funds for that purpose and a mandatory maintenance schedule.

**Job Growth:** I believe in promoting jobs that can sustain a standard family unit on a single income. I am committed to the local community and local business partnerships. I will partner with the each communities economic development corporation. By providing matching funds for local economic development corporations that know the local business environment this will allow for the creation of sustainable jobs.

**District 28**

**Henry Cuellar**

**Background:** Finishing Doctoral Degree in Christianity and Leadership, gcu.edu; Masters Degree in Electronics Engineering Technology ASU, Tempe AZ; and BS Devry, Irving Texas. Background: Law Enforcement, US Government Contractor, problem solver, traveled/lived/worked (SEA, SWA, Caribbean Islands,//)

**Immigration:** Secure US Borders; Islamic Terrorist, drug deals, Fence, Sensors, Cameras. Free movement of all border crossings, a scan photo ID Card (Fingerprint/ DNA data tied to all Passports), Criminals are sent back home, Vent all Refugees, Take Time out to change Citizenship for all Immigrants (time limit, read/write English, job/work, and testing), make easy immigration path (US military, Collage Degree)///

**Economic Health:** Set up good paying jobs. What is needed more jobs wage meet experience that rises over time. Equal pay for all based on experience not US Government intervention. Raising minimum wage causes job loss, Therefore push for wage increases and equal pay by lowering taxes, company free training, and education. Work with colleges and technical schools for free training and job placement. Repeal Obama Care!

**Job Growth:** Once US Border, fenced, secure and safe. Use tax incentives and education to open more border jobs on USA side. Factory and Small business given tax breaks, Make crossing border easy with ID Card so to open more tourist. More invest incentives for training and salary increase by free market business. Give banks incentives to loan money to Small business. Remove Islamic Terrorist and drug dealers.

**District 35**

**Lloyd Doggett,** Unopposed

**Railroad Commissioner**

6-year term. Must be at least 25 years old, a Texas resident, and a registered voter. Regulates the oil & gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, & surface coal and uranium mining in Texas.

**Lon Burnam,** No Response

**Cody Garrett,** No Response

**Grady Yarbrough,** No Response

**Justice, TX Supreme Court**

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Hears final appeals of decisions on civil cases & attorney discipline, issues writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, & conducts proceedings for removal of judges.

**Place 3**

**Mike Westergren,** Unopposed
Place 5
Dori Contreras Garza, Unopposed

Place 9
Savannah Robinson, Unopposed

Judge, TX Court of Criminal Appeals

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases & applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, & administers publicly funded judicial and attorney education.

Place 2
Lawrence “Larry” Meyers, Unopposed

Place 5
Betsy Johnson, Unopposed

Place 6
Robert Burns, Unopposed

4TH Court of Appeals

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Hears appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in its district.

Place 6
Irene Rios, Unopposed

Member, State Board of Education

4-year term. Must be 26 years old or older, a U.S. citizen, a Texas/district resident, & a registered voter. Sets policies & standards for Texas public schools & oversees the Texas Permanent School Fund.

District 5
Rebecca Bell-Metereau, Unopposed

State Senator

State Senators are elected for four-year terms of office. One-half of the Senate membership is elected every two years. They must be a citizen of the United States, a qualified Texas voter, and at least 26 years old. He or she must also have been a resident of the state for five years and a resident of the district for one year immediately preceding the election for which she or he was chosen. The Texas Senate, like the U.S. Senate, has “advise and consent” powers. This means they are required to approve certain executive actions.

Questions for Candidates

Background: Please describe the combination of education, motivation and experience that qualifies you for this office.

Child Protective Services: What are the issues of the Child Protective Services program that you consider most urgent? (For example, early intervention, budget, caseloads, etc.)

Social Issues: These topics are of concern to Texas citizens. Please discuss your view on: voting, guns, sexual discrimination, access to healthcare, and ensuring that all children in Texas are well-educated.

Redistricting: The Legislature currently draws the district lines determining our voting districts (redistricting). Would you support a Citizen’s Independent Redistricting Commission at the State level? Why or why not?

District 19
Carlos I. Uresti, No Response

Helen Madla

Background: I am a mother, a grandmother, a school board member, and wife of the late Senator Frank L. Madla. I filed for Texas Senate Dist. 19 because of my commitment to quality education, and to improving the economy and transportation infrastructure in our district. Child Protective Services: I believe the entire Child Protective Services program is broken. Too often heavy caseloads and budget constraints prevent CPS from being able to do the critical early intervention so badly needed in many cases. We need to ensure adequate funding as well as legislation to make complainants accountable to prevent false accusations that drain resources from cases truly in need of attention.

Social Issues: Today’s status quo on these issues pose a serious threat to women, children and the future of Texas. We must increase voter participation to change our state’s priorities and ensure equal pay, access to healthcare and properly funded schools for all Texans. Although recent Voter ID laws have made voting more challenging, turning out to vote remains the single most effective way to create change.

Redistricting: Yes. The current system for redistricting is highly political and partisan. In fact, my precinct and I are a perfect example. My opponent, the incumbent senator, attempted to draw me out of the current Senate district because of concerns he would face me as challenger. Fortunately, my opponent mistakenly drew a neighboring precinct out of the district thinking he had achieved his goal.
**District 21**

**Judith Zaffirini**, Unopposed

**Jose Menendez**

**Background:** The son of immigrants, I grew up working in the family business and learning the values of hard work and giving back to the community. I served on the Planning & Zoning Commission, two terms on City Council, and 15 years as a leader in the Texas House where I was the most effective at passing bills.

**Child Protective Services:** Early intervention is key, but we cannot begin to intervene without adequate staffing and oversight. I was proud to vote this session to increase funding for CPS, including early intervention. The agency continues to struggle with retention issues that will require the Legislature to dedicate additional funding in the next session to increase wages, reduce caseloads, and improve oversight.

**Social Issues:** Throughout my career I have worked on legislation to protect voting rights and make registering and voting easier and accessible. The campus carry bill that was allowed to pass in the House threatens our college students’ safety at school and I will work to repeal it. I oppose all forms of discrimination and have specifically worked to pass bills to make equal pay the law of the land in Texas.

**Redistricting:** Yes! Communities of interest—including individual neighborhoods—are being split apart in order to achieve political goals. An independent commission can operate without the influence of incumbents or partisan motivation and give us districts that make sense. I helped stop Tom Delay’s illegal redistricting in 2003, and I’ll continue to make an impact for fair redistricting.

**Trey Martinez-Fischer**

**Background:** Growing up in San Antonio, I learned the value of a good education and the power of one voice to make a difference. I have served 15 years in the Texas House and Chair the Mexican American Legislative Caucus (MALC). I graduated from UT San Antonio and UT Law School and have practiced law since 1998.

**Child Protective Services:** A U.S. District Court recently found that the Texas foster care system exposed children to unreasonable risk of harm and cited “impossible workloads” for employees. The most effective tool we have to right these wrongs is to invest in our children and the agencies that serve them. We cannot overload and underpay caseworkers without seriously affecting quality of care and endangering children.

**Social Issues:** I’m proud to fight against harmful legislation—from attacks on voters’ rights like Voter ID to gun legislation like open-carry and campus-carry; and support measures to fight sexual discrimination. The future of Texas depends upon the health and education of its people. I will continue to fight for a fully-funded, equitable public education system and to make healthcare accessible to all Texans.

**Redistricting:** The Mexican American Legislative Caucus proved in court that the redistricting maps drawn by Republican legislators were intentionally discriminatory against minorities, not the result of gerrymandering. Instead of a Redistricting Commission, a better course of action is to continue the current litigation and let the Federal Court determine voter discrimination and impose an appropriate remedy.

**State Representative**

State representatives are elected for a two-year term. They must be a citizen of the United States, a qualified Texas voter, and at least 21 years old. He or she must also have been a resident of the state for two years and a resident of the district for one year immediately preceding the election in which she or he was chosen. All bills that increase taxes or raise revenue for the state originate in the House of Representatives.

**Questions for Candidates**

**Background:** Please describe the combination of education, motivation and experience that qualifies you for this office.

**Child Protective Services:** What are the issues of the Child Protective Services program that you consider most urgent? (For example, early intervention, budget, caseloads, etc.)

**Social Issues:** These topics are of concern to Texas citizens. Please discuss your view on: voting, guns, sexual discrimination, access to healthcare, and ensuring that all children in Texas are well-educated.

**Redistricting:** The Legislature currently draws the district lines determining our voting districts (redistricting). Would you support a Citizen’s Independent Redistricting Commission at the State level? Why or why not?

**District 116**

**Martin Golando**

**Background:** As a father, I am deeply concerned about the Texas that our children and grandchildren will inherit. For a decade, I worked in the Texas House of Representatives developing the experience necessary to make an immediate impact for San Antonio. I am prepared to lead and I will protect San Antonio.

**Child Protective Services:** This legislature has turned a blind eye to the needs of children in crisis for too long. Most urgently, we need to adopt an early intervention model that allows caseworkers, and if necessary, police officers immediate access to at-risk children. Caseworkers need all the tools available, including criminal enforcement, to ensure the safety of all children at risk for abuse.

**Social Issues:** Voting Rights - I am a voting rights attorney who has worked to protect minority voting rights in the court room and in the legislature. If elected, I will look to make
voting easier, less costly, and ensure that all Texans have access to the ballot. Guns - Recently, extremist Republicans have adopted ill-advised gun laws that will place all Texans at risk. I will work to repeal those laws.

**Redistricting:** Independent redistricting commissions are rarely truly independent and some have a very poor record for protecting minority voting rights. I cannot support any election change that dilutes minority voting strength. But, I am certainly open to a commission that enhances minority voting rights.

**Diana Arevalo**

**Background:** My motivation is my neighbors, the healthcare I know they are denied, the funding our students and teachers have lost, and the resources we need to move forward. After completing my Master’s at Our Lady of the Lake, I have served on numerous boards and commissions in the San Antonio community.

**Child Protective Services:** While I recognize that there are many issues with Child Protective Services, the root of the problem is that the Agency is underfunded. Our caseworkers have a caseload that doesn’t allow them the time to ensure early, proactive steps and follow up can be completed. This is why so many of these kids fall through the cracks of the system. We must invest in the children of Texas.

**Social Issues:** I believe we need to make voting more convenient and accessible. I am opposed to open carry on campus and believe we need to ensure all open carry laws maintain a high standard of background checks. I strongly believe in equal pay for equal work. Access to healthcare begins with accepting Federal funding. Lastly, we need to restore education funding to provide the resources our educators need.

**Redistricting:** I support a Citizen’s Independent Redistricting Commission at the state level whose primary responsibility is to draw a plan for state legislative districts. However, I would want to see a bi-partisan commission whose policies and procedures are developed using lessons learned from other states currently using the process.

**Ruby Resendez**

**Background:** Before starting my own graphic design business, I worked as a customer relations specialist for local printing company. There, I learned how to develop innovative ideas to solve problems. I hold a degree in accounting from the University of Texas, giving me a comprehensive understanding of budgeting.

**Child Protective Services:** A recent report revealed TX is not providing the most effective statewide case management and response to addressing children with the highest of needs. Our priority should always be for the safety and well being of the children, whether that means reducing caseloads for CPS workers or concentrating more on finding permanent residency for these children. Their future is in our hands.

**Gabe Farias**

**Background:** State Rep. candidate Gabe Farias is a proud product of District 118 and currently serves as the President and CEO of the West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, a post he has held since 2012. Prior to his work at the Chamber he served as the Chief of Staff for former Councilwoman Jennifer Ramos.

**Social Issues:** As a proud adoptive father of two beautiful children that were a part of the CPS system, I have a tremendous amount of respect for the hard work done. The department however is underfunded and the sensitive caseload is excessive for the hard working employees. Working to utilize the budgetary dollars left on the table following last session ($2.9B) for more caseworkers is a top priority.

**District 119**

**Roland Gutierrez, Unopposed**
District 120

Lou Miller

Background: Lou Miller was appointed to the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors. Rotary International District Governor of District 5840 for 2015-16. Appointed to the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors Has served as Director of Community Relations for the City of San Antonio

Child Protective Services: Response to critical situations should be made public. The data collected on the abuse and deaths should be analyzed and acted upon. The management of CPS needs to be restructured. More funding would not solve the problem alone, improved oversight is necessary.

Social Issues: Improving voter participation through electronic means. Ban assault weapons. Equal pay for equal work and not restrict people from loving who they want. Expand Medicare in Texas. Provide teachers an environment that allows them to teach the kids, not just test them.

Redistricting: I’m in favor of an Independent Redistricting Commission drawing the lines to protect the voting rights by all citizens not by partisan power. All citizens should be represented.

Latronda Darnell, No Response

Barbara Gervin-Hawkins

Background: Education: BA in Business, MEd in Education, 2/3 complete on PhD-Leadership, School Principal, Math Teacher

Motivation: Improve the quality of life for people most in need.

Elevating the political conversation Experience: 25 year CEO, created 200 jobs, management, resource developer,///

Child Protective Services: Early intervention and prevention initiatives, expand resources to ensure proper funding to reduce caseloads and create a higher level of monitoring and oversight, review laws and policies that impact the system, children and families, advocate for common sense legislation

Social Issues: Protection of voting rights ensuring accessibility, proper representation of the people, re-examine gun laws focusing on type of guns accessible to individuals and reconsideration of open carry on college campuses, sexual discrimination should be eliminated, access to affordable healthcare, educational system should be properly funded and strategically effective to meet the needs of all students

Redistricting: Yes, because citizens are directly impacted they should have input into a system that impacts their lives and who leads them.

Art Hall

Background: Harvard U, Texas Tech Law/Business, U of Wales; attorney, investment banker, administrator at La Universidad Espiritu Santo (Ecuador), St Mary’s Law, St Philip’s, now Alamo Colleges; worked for US Senator, Massachusetts Governor, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice; elected to District 8 City Council.

Child Protective Services: We must protect the most vulnerable in our society, particularly seniors and children. CPS investigates neglect and abuse, provides abuse/neglect prevention, and oversees child care regulation. I support increasing foster care, increasing adoption subsidies and permanency care assistance payments, increasing agency staffing reducing caseloads, and increasing prevention and early intervention.

Social Issues: Voting accurate, easy, accessible.

Balance right to bear arms with common good of public health, safety, no guns in wrong hands. All should be treated equally, although marriage between a man/ woman is biblical/ religious institution. Quality healthcare affordable, available to all. Quality public schools, no funding reductions. High expectations for teachers, students. Support community colleges.

Redistricting: Yes. Redistricting in hands of politicians often results in unfair gerrymandering, not reflective of demographic changes. I support Citizen’s Independent Redistricting Commission. However, if members not chosen properly and not truly unbiased and/or independent, partisanship that exists in State government can transfer to commissions. “Stacking” commissions is no better than partisanship.

Mario Salas

Background: I was a City Councilman and Vice-President of the Judson School Board. I am a retired professor. The State of Texas needs a strong advocate that can address many issues including excessive taxing of our seniors, increasing teacher salaries, ending abuse in nursing homes and children in foster care.

Child Protective Services: Intervention is important as well as the funds needed to protect our children. Those that have abused children must be held accountable and a sufficient number professionally trained staff must be on each case. Staffing will be a major issue in handling the heavy caseloads that is a problem across the state. CPS must protect our children and prevent false charges from victimizing the innocent.

Social Issues: I fully support women’s rights and equal pay for equal work. The economic disparities that exist between men and women must be eliminated. As your State Representative I will support efforts to prevent voter suppression and support State extension of Medicaid payments. I will fight for full-day schooling for Pre-K students and oppose the existing open carry gun law.

Redistricting: Yes, I would support this because for too long Republican partisan interests have Gerrymandered political lines disenfranchising the principle of one person-one vote. As long as there is no political competition in the state, at the legislative level, we will always be tied up in court, wasting precious tax payer dollars. An independent body must truly be independent.

Byron Miller “Educator”

Background: Raised to served:certified resident of District 120
w/Bachelor's Degree; background in Law; corporate experience; business owner; extensive service to community serving on various Boards and committees at state & local level; JP Judge & elected 9yrs elected official; curator of Bexar Co. Juneteenth///

Child Protective Services: We must do all that we can to support the noble and thankless job of the caseworkers who are our boots on the ground in CPS. They are overwhelmed, overworked and under paid to be the advocate and considered both “good guy and the bad guy.” They have a tough job that’s not getting easier. The high turn-over rates tell the story and CPS suffers everyday because of this crisis.

Social Issues: Education is No 1; I’m for free Community Colleges in Texas, Second Amendment grants the right to bare arms in order to form a militia. I believe in baring arms for protection of self, property and country. Texas and America must find our way to protect ourselves against ourselves. Meaning street violence is way out of hand. All humans deserve the right to accessible Healthcare, regardless of cost

Redistricting: I would have to see what an independent citizens commission looks like. If similar to picking Grand Juries then no, I would not be in support of that. Equal representation has been historically left out. However, the legislature being diverse (although with some fault) has attempted to be inclusive although, that inclusiveness has been marginalized by politics so, hold the legislators accountable.

District 123

Diego Bernal, Unopposed

District 124

Ina Minjarez

Background: I’m a Notre Dame and St. Mary’s Law School alum. Former prosecutor with a private practice representing families, children in CPS custody, and small businesses. My background as an attorney prepared me for the Legislature, and I proved my commitment to protect our children motivates me to work hard both inside & outside the courts. Graduate of St. Mary’s School of Law & University of Texas.

Child Protective Services: The most urgent problem facing Child Protective Services is the excessive caseload per caseworker, which reflects a shortage of talented caseworkers helping our kids. CPS needs more funding, stronger accountability standards and oversight, and a better method of tracking each child through and out of the system.

Social Issues: Lawmakers should not focus on making it harder for people to vote. I support the 2nd amendment with background checks. I don’t support open carry. All types of discrimination, including against women, are wrong. I support expanding Medicaid & women’s access to care. Our public schools are woefully underfunded. Every child has right to an equivalently funded education, no matter where they live.

Redistricting: I support efforts for more citizens’ participation in our government. Unfortunately, because of the history of disenfranchisement in this state, I am currently against creating a “Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission” without knowing how the commissioners would be appointed. We must develop a process that is open and transparent that allows for public input.

Sergio Contreras, No Response

District 125

Justin Rodriguez, Unopposed

District Judge

Judges are elected to four-year terms. District courts have original jurisdiction in all felony criminal cases, divorce cases, land title disputes, election contests, civil matters in which at least $200 is disputed or claimed in damages, as well as other matters. Most district courts consider both criminal and civil cases but, in counties with many courts, each may specialize in civil, criminal, juvenile, or family law matters

Questions for Candidates

Background: Please describe the combination of education, motivation and experience that qualifies you for this office.

Most Pressing Problem: What is the most pressing problem facing this court and how do you propose to handle these issues?

Election Process: Do you believe changes in the current election process are needed to improve or maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? Please explain.

37th Judicial District

Michael Mery, Unopposed

57th Judicial District

Antonia “Toni” Arteaga

Background: My 10 years of judicial experience make me uniquely qualified to continue to serve in my 3rd term as your Judge of the 57th District Court. My commitment to protect our children motivates me to work hard both inside & outside the courts. Graduate of St. Mary’s School of Law & University of Texas.

Most Pressing Problem: The most pressing problem involves children in crisis, including those children involved in custody disputes. To limit the traumatization of children, advocates must work to decrease the level of animosity between their parents/caregivers, esp. inside the courts when possible. Toward this end, both parents with their attorneys may always ask to speak directly to me, albeit inside the courtroom.

Election Process: Those who contribute, I believe, simply want a level playing field, a fair hearing and thus support those judges that provide them this. As the 1st woman ever elected to this bench (created in 1899), I am honored to receive support from across party lines. In fact, I am unopposed in November’s gen-
eral election. I am Judge Antonia “Toni” Arteaga, and I respectfully ask for your vote!

Edward L. Pina

**Background:** Graduated Tulane University in 1978 Bachelor of Arts; St. Mary’s University in 1984 Juris Doctorate; Mediation certification in 2014 Harvard University. Thirty years of courtroom experience. President, ACLU, San Antonio 1996-2002. More than 15 published Texas Bar Journal articles, law reviews, etc.

**Most Pressing Problem:** There are 13 Bexar County civil district courts. In 2014 there were only 45 trials to verdict and 42 jury trials to verdict in 2013. This comes to about 3.3 jury trials to verdict per district court. This is a symptom of infirmity in our court system. I believe it means, in part, that lawyers and the public are losing confidence in our judges to render cost effective and reliable verdicts.

**Election Process:** We currently have fairly extensive campaign finance disclosure requirements for judicial candidates. Limits on campaign contributions however are based on voluntary restrictions agreed to by each candidate.

73rd Judicial District

David A. Canales, Unopposed

131st Judicial District

Norma Gonzales

**Background:** Graduate Rice (1981), U.T. Law (1984). Practiced law for 31 years. Tried over 100 jury trials & thousands of non-jury trials. Practiced family law for 20 years which are the types of cases the court hears. Am an adjunct professor, St. Mary’s Law School (1999). Committed to justice

**Most Pressing Problem:** Citizens of Bexar County need an experienced judge. I have practiced for 31 years, almost twice as long as my my opponents combined (5 & 11). I have represented children, fathers, mothers, grandparents on thousands of cases. With experience comes compassion, sensitivity, open mindedness, patience, knowledge, perspective and temperament necessary to efficiently address the needs of the people.

**Election Process:** Although changes would be beneficial because, without vast financial resources, raising money from attorneys who practice before the court is the primary means to obtain funds to help educate the voting public, my vast experience in the courtroom and personal high ethical standards would not be affected by political contributions. I am AV rated by my peers: highest rating in ethical standards.

Elena Villasenor

**Background:** I care about the quality of our courts and the people that come before them. I have been a trial lawyer for 11 years, handling complex disputes from start to finish. I know the hard work that happens before you get to the courthouse. I am a proven community leader who will give you a fair shot.

**Most Pressing Problem:** The 14 Bexar County Civil Courts work as a team to collectively handle the civil court docket. I would like to work on improving accessibility to and the efficiency of our courts for those who cannot afford an attorney by assisting the staff attorneys reviewing uncontested pro se cases and working to expand existing programs that provide free legal services.

**Election Process:** I have reservations about electing the judiciary through partisan politics. Having said that, I must operate within the context of the existing system. I will not allow any contribution, regardless of amount, to play a role in or influence my judicial opinions. I will afford every attorney and every party an equal opportunity to be heard. I will be fair and impartial.

Devin Gabriel

**Background:** Of the candidates in my race, I have had the most diverse law practice, involving family matters, personal injury, contracts, employment, real estate, business litigation, and much more. Importantly, I have a keen understanding of the issues affecting children and families, who need to come first.

**Most Pressing Problem:** The most pressing problem affecting our district courts is the multitude of lawsuits that weigh our docket down, preventing quick resolutions and resulting in burdensome litigation costs for our families. My diverse law practice, business management experience, and knowledge about how my father, Judge John Gabriel, Jr., has administered the 131st allow me to effectively keep our cases moving.

**Election Process:** I firmly believe that funding judicial campaigns with monies donated by lawyers and law firms carries with it an inherent risk of partiality and favoritism. Though current economic realities prevent my campaign from following my father’s “No Money from Lawyers” stance, I will fight to keep the 131st unbiased, fair, and focused on justice for our families and children.

166th Judicial District

Laura Salinas, Unopposed

175th Judicial District

Catherine Torres-Stahl

**Background:** I have been honored over 22 years to serve as a prosecutor, Municipal and District Court Judge, Defense Attorney and now, as Deputy Director and General Counsel for our Adult Probation Department. This Court handles very serious offenses and this position is not a training ground for me. I’m ready!

**Most Pressing Problem:** Criminal district courts have a high vol-
ume of cases that come through the courts. Daily dockets handling sentencing, motions to revoke probation and trial settings are the most efficient way to deal with this volume. Additionally, we can utilize many programs available through our Probation department to help reduce our recidivism rates and I am uniquely knowledgeable about this programming.

**Election Process:** I would prefer another system, however, unless there is across the board public campaign financing, someone like myself would not have the opportunity to serve because of lack of personal wealth. This would affect the diversity of our benches. I recognize the serious ethical considerations in accepting contributions and I am constantly self-aware of the importance of those considerations.

**Tony Jimenez III**

**Background:** BA in History-LMU. Boalt Hall School of Law. County Court-at-Law Judge-9 years: Domestic&Family Violence Court, Mental Health, criminal, civil, juvenile & family law cases. Frmr Adjunct Professor, St. Mary’s School of Law, Night Magistrate, Special Bexar Prosecutor 2015. See website for more.

**Most Pressing Problem:** This court is in the process of establishing a specialized docket called the Esperanza Court. If this court continues with this particular docket, I will advance its policies and goals removing women from the cycle of prostitution by training, education and employment. Run dockets on a set schedule with no overlap allowing the clerks, probation officers and deputies to complete tasks effectively.

**Election Process:** I have been an advocate for change in the process since the 1980s when I argued for non-partisan election of judges and limitations of campaign funds before an Ethics Committee, chaired by retired Chief Justice Jack Pope. Changes are needed to insure that those seeking a judicial bench have the qualifications and fitness for the office. Judges should be elected based on qualifications and merit.

**379th Judicial District**

**Ron Rangel,** Unopposed

**386th Judicial District**

**Carlos Quezada**

**Background:** Harlandale ISD Grad Palo Alto College Grad St. Mary’s Grad Assistant Bexar County Jury Room Bailiff. Webb Co. Assistant District Attorney in 09-14. Awarded Professional of the Year by the Laredo Domestic Violence Coalition. Appointed Bexar Co. Special Prosecutor Elected to Harlandale ISD Board

**Most Pressing Problem:** The most pressing problem facing the juvenile court system in Bexar County is the lack of options the Judges have. I would like to see the creation of more diversion programs for young offenders such as a arts program that helps graffiti offenders express themselves in a positive way. Diversion programs help guide and rehabilitate the juvenile without a stain on their record.

**Election Process:** I feel that the current system works well but there is always room for improvement. Currently many campaign finance rules exist and further candidates are governed by code of judicial ethics. A good look at those rules and regulations will show that judicial candidates are held to a very high standard, higher then any other office in this state.

**Arcelia Trevino**

**Background:** While raising two boys, I obtained my degree in Education, graduating Magna Cum Laude; I was inducted into honor societies. I taught English for 3 years, was a UIL coach my 1st, coached track my 2nd and 3rd year. As single mom, I obtained my law degree and have ran my own law practice for a decade.

**Most Pressing Problem:** Drugs, gangs, drop outs, bullying, and violence are issues before the juvenile court. I propose that the Court focus on protecting our youth by providing the minors before the court the opportunity for rehabilitation, empowering them to focus on their education while being tough and holding minor offenders of bullying, truancy, and violent offenders accountable.

**Election Process:** Yes, incumbents evidently have established support and endorsements. It is difficult for a new candidate trying to make a difference in the community to raise funds. We need to level playing field for incumbents and candidates so they can focus on the issues and not the money. Campaign contributions should be limited or publicly financed for judicial offices to limit the influence of campaign money.

**399th Judicial District**

**Frank J. Castro**

**Background:** I graduated from St. Mary’s Law School in 2003. I have worked at the Texas Rural Legal Aid helping women who were victims of domestic violence with their divorces. I also worked as a felony prosecutor and defense attorney and have tried numerous jury trials involving serious injuries and crimes.

**Most Pressing Problem:** I believe it is the amount of cases being resolved in an untimely matter. Although it is necessary to allow both the prosecutor & defense atty time to prepare their cases, many cases take too long. I am the only candidate in the Dem primary who has been both a prosecutor & a defense atty. I believe this experience is invaluable in the capacity to move cases efficiently & to judge them fairly.

**Election Process:** Yes. In the past yr, a former Bexar Co. Judge was sentenced to fed prison for accepting bribes from a defense atty. This same atty has also donated to my opponent’s campaigns in the past. Although there is nothing illegal about donations from attys, I feel this can lead to

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problems in regards to the ability to maintain impartiality. I have campaigned with my own money & will be impartial to all!

Ray J. Olivarri

Background: I have over 25 years experience in the Criminal Justice System as a probation officer, attorney and judge. I have conducted hundreds of trials to conclusion, heard thousands of motions and magistrate people accused of crimes. Currently the presiding Judge of the 339th District Court.

Most Pressing Problem: There is a lack of inpatient facilities for offenders with mental health needs. The result of this contributes to the backlog of cases in criminal district courts. I will continue to work with agencies and officials to identify gaps in the delivery of these services. Closing the gaps will enable the offender to receive appropriate care and in turn aid in their rehabilitation and reduce recidivism

Election Process: My decisions on the bench are based only on the facts and the law that apply to each case. I am in favor of any election process that would eliminate the need to raise funds and keep qualified judges that are dedicated to preserving impartiality and public accountability.

407th Judicial District

Karen Pozza, Unopposed

408th Judicial District

Milton Fagin

Background: Attorney At Law for 42 years in San Antonio. Board Certified Family. 65% of cases are family law. Practiced exclusively in civil courts my entire career. St. Mary’s Law School, Law Review, Dean's List. I know how these Courts work, have the wisdom, maturity and experience to make correct decisions

Most Pressing Problem: To elect the right person District Judge of this Court. It is imperative to have a Judge who will rule based on the case law of Texas, the laws of the State of Texas and the United States. The Judge runs this Court not the lawyers. We must elect a person like MILTON FAGIN who will see that correct decisions are made that will affect the lives of our residents. We must elect a Judge with experience

Election Process: There should be strict limitations on the amount of contributions made by lawyers and others who regularly appear before the Civil District Courts, or prohibit them from donating any money. Their money gives the appearance of impropriety. The Judiciary must be free from outside influence and anyone who tries to buy Justice. I believe in maintaining the highest integrity and honesty in this Court.

Virgil Yanta

Background: 33 years of experience in a variety of case types all over Texas, plus 100's of jury & nonjury trials as a Board Certified lawyer, combined with the passion to serve & a history of service to the downtrodden, all have given me the patience, compassion, and wisdom needed to be an outstanding jurist.

Most Pressing Problem: Access to AFFORDABLE justice looms at the top of our legal system's problems. Already, I have initiated efforts to establish a groundbreaking legal clinic to provide access to the courts to injured workers who have nowhere else to turn, other than to our nightmare, overtaxed disability maze. So, law students would gain invaluable legal experience in helping those clients — a win-win situation!

Election Process: While I dream of the day when we will have publicly funded elections, I am realistic enough to realize that my lifetime long will have passed before that happens. So, I am comfortable taking contributions: I am confident in the knowledge that lawyers know me well enough to realize that my integrity is beyond cavil — and that I’ll always “call ’em as I see ’em,” regardless of who the players are.

Angelica Jimenez

Background: The majority of the cases heard in this court are family law cases which is the type of law that I practice. I know the law, the process and more importantly I have the temperament to be effective. I earned my JD from St. Mary’s University School of Law and graduated top of my class in May 2010.

Most Pressing Problem: Our presiding system is fairly efficient, when sufficient judges are available. My aim is to help develop a system where a sufficient number of judges are available and streamlining hearings that commonly come before this court while still affording all the opportunity to be heard. We can work together to ease wait times to be heard on different matters due to the occasional lack of judges.

Election Process: While no system is perfect, the current system of accepting campaign contributions will not play a role in or influence my judicial opinions or behavior in any way. I will afford every attorney and individual an equal opportunity to be heard in the courtroom. Campaign contributions will have no bearing on the judicial process, but are a reality in our current system.

Gabe Quintanilla

Background: I graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1983. I have previous judicial experience, having served as a City Magistrate from 1992-1993. I also served as an Assistant District Attorney, Assistant Attorney General, and have litigated at all levels of court, both state and federal.

Most Pressing Problem: All district courts handle a high volume of cases involving families in crisis. These consist of families going through divorce and facing either custody issues, child support, visitation, or other family issues. I would bring both experience and sensitivity to these families. I have represented hundreds of cases involving these issues during my private practice of law.

Election Process: I am troubled by the current election process
and believe that the method of electing judges should be examined and perhaps modified in Texas. Currently, there are vast sums of money donated by lawyers who practice in the courts. Unfortunately, the system is geared in this manner. Many times, lawyers are the only people interested in these races, outside of the candidates’ friends and families.

**Kristal Cordova Thomson**

**Background:** I received my B.A. from University of Texas and my J.D. from St. Mary’s School of Law. I have practiced family law for over 13 years, and I am Board Certified in Family Law. I specialize in complex trial work. I teach other attorneys as a frequent author and speaker on different legal issues.

**Most Pressing Problem:** One of the most ignored, pressing problems at the courthouse is the rise of litigation where a special needs child is involved. Special needs children have a whole different set of needs than other children, and the courts need to be familiar with those issues. As a Mom of a child with special needs, I could help by providing general information for the other district court judges.

**Election Process:** Yes. It is very difficult for judicial candidates to run as a “typical” politician because of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Although the judges I practice in front of do not let campaign contributions interfere with their rulings, the public in general has concerns about the process. The perception is that judge bias can be purchased with a contribution. This must be corrected.

**438th Judicial District**

**Lauro A. Bustamante**

**Background:** 35 years practicing law, Doctorate in law degree, over 200 hours of continuing legal education. A passion for law and serving Past elected official on the Edwards Aquifer Authority. My wife Rebekah Bustamante our 10 children and grandchildren. All the above qualifies me for this office.

**Most Pressing Problem:** My mission is to use the best legal tools and communications technology to protect constitutional rights and allow all access to the courts. My goal is to serve the people by hard work, education, and compassion. This is my mission and goal to handle problems facing this court.

**Election Process:** Reform in campaign finance is needed. Equal time and information and education is needed. Organizations like schools, tv, civic organizations should serve to improve and maintain impartiality. Voting should be mandatory for every one. I would mandate an informal pre-hearing conference to facilitate problem-solving conversation among the litigants in an attempt to limit and further identify the issues needing court intervention. Then require the presentment of a sworn Certificate of Conference by all parties prior to setting the case for hearing.

**County Court-at-Law No. 5**

**John A. Longoria**

**Background:** Licensed to practice law forty-two (42) years. Served in public office over twenty-six 26 years, including three (3) as a judge. Two (2) as the Constitutional County Judge and one (1) year as County Court at Law #5 Judge. Extensive in church and civic activities.

**Most Pressing Problem:** Heavy dockets, particularly DWI cases. Solution: work hard at hearing pre-trial motions and trial availability. Word daily at least until 5 PM including Thursdays and Fridays. Continue to educate defendants, attorneys and the public regarding the actual definition of intoxication. Enforce probation conditions strictly.

**Election Process:** The first and simplest change could be to make judicial races non-partisan. It may be that judicial races could be done separately from the usual general elections. Justice should not be colored with party politics nor should judicial races be privately funded. Initial appointment by a non-partisan commission with retention elections immediately following the appointment, could work.

**Caitlin Howell**

**Background:** Edu: Trinity Univ. (Sum. Cum Laude), American Univ. Washington College of Law; Pub: Combating Gender Inequities in Law School; Work: Women in the Law Clinic, US Comm’n on Civ. Rights; Founded Law Offc. of Howell & Sabrin: criminal, family, appellate, small business; Scene in SA: Top Attorney 2014-15

**Most Pressing Problem:** Recidivism: County Court is often the first time a person is in a criminal court. One of my main motivations is ensuring that the person’s first time in court is the first & last. I plan to bring underused resources – such as Chrysalis, Rape Crisis Center, RUI – to address individual needs.
and to ensure equal & meaningful justice regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, or economic status.

**Election Process:** Yes, I think reform of judicial campaign finance is needed. A number of people are concerned that should they support one candidate, the other will not treat them fairly in the future; this, however, must be balanced against the need for transparency. The best way to ensure impartial judges is to improve gathering and distribution of information about the candidates to inform voters more fully.

### Sheriff

**Questions for Candidates**

**Background:** Please describe the combination of education, motivation and experience that qualifies you for this office.

**Mental Health Services:** Are there sufficient services for people with mental health problems who are in jail? What, if anything, would you change about the handling of prisoners who may have mental health issues?

**Reducing Recidivism:** What services would you support or what programs would you institute to reduce recidivism?

**Community Relationship:** What methods would you use to improve the relationship between the community and sheriff’s deputies?

### Charles “Chazz” Cervantes

**Background:** I have 30 years of experience. This experience involves my career in law enforcement as well as dealing with criminals, juveniles, youth, the general public and people with mental health issues. I have enlisted onto my staff people who have experience, training and certification in servicing the public.

**Mental Health Services:** There are only two major programs in Bexar County, which are NAMI and the Center for Health Care Services. We need to budget for financial access to develop more readily available programs that deal with mental health issues. When arrested, people need to be properly screened by qualified mental health experts. These people need to be placed in the correct institution.

**Reducing Recidivism:** When it comes to Recidivism, we need to understand how recidivism negatively affects our society. This fundamental concept that involves a person’s relapse into criminal activity, despite sanctions or interventions for previous crimes, had been proven to not be effective and rather has promoted repeat offenses. Firstly, these repeat offenses are a result of a lack of education.

**Community Relationship:** Much of what we’ve discussed leads to efforts that do not just reduce recidivism, reduce repeat offenses and promote the aid of people with mental health issues, but also unify law enforcement entities into programs that will educate the public. Educating the public is essential to achieving all our goals. They public needs to be educated on four central areas which are mental health issues, their///

### Matt Ninan, No Response

### Andy Lopez

**Background:** My 40 year career in Law Enforcement started at the Sheriff’s Office as a detention officer. I was fortunate to climb the ladder to Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Sergeant, Internal Affairs, and assigned as Chief of Community Relations and Support group unit with 264 officers under my command.

**Mental Health Services:** The services that are presently in place should be improved. The on-site mental health professional should be consistently included in the evaluation process prior to classification. The offender should be monitored within a reasonable timeframe and placed in an area that is devoid of items to allow for suicide.

**Reducing Recidivism:** Provide educational services such that a trade or skill could be learned where upon their release they can be productive.

**Community Relationship:** Reinstate the Community Relations division and involve the Officers in community events.

### Tax Assessor-Collector

### County Commissioner

#### Precinct 1

### Sergio “Chico” Rodriguez, Unopposed

#### Precinct 3

### Brandon J. Johnson, Unopposed

### Justice of the Peace

This court has jurisdiction over Small Claims and Class “C” Misdemeanors. Offenses include matters pertaining to evictions; juvenile offenses such as failure to attend school, disorderly conduct, or minor in possession of alcohol or tobacco; violations concerning driver’s license, moving vehicle violations, liability insurance and vehicle plate inspections, etc.

**Questions for Candidates**

**Background:** Please describe the combination of education, motivation and experience that qualifies you for this office.

**Funding Needs:** What are the funding needs of the office of Justice of the Peace?

**Process Serving, Customer Service:** What issues need to be addressed regarding process serving and customer service?

#### Precinct No. 2, Place 1

### Roberto “Robbie” Vazquez, Unopposed
Precinct No. 2, Place 2

Monica Lisa Caballero

**Background:** I am currently in my 12th year as a JP and was licensed as an attorney 19 yrs ago. Although a JP does not have to be an attorney, it is extremely important that a JP have an excellent understanding of the law. I am extremely energetic and enthusiastic which helps in a high volume court such as JP#2.

**Funding Needs:** The funding needs of the JP court is in the area of technology. This would enable video conferencing and/or simple pretrial issues to be conducted with more ease and convenience to court patrons added to the efficiency of the court. Additionally it would be exciting to see the JP court become paperless in the near future which would be eco-friendly and would be cost effective to the County.

**Process Serving, Customer Service:** Precinct 2 is extremely timely in forwarding documents for process service to the Constable's office. There are no issues regarding this that need to be currently addressed as the process is smooth and efficient. Court staff receives sufficient substantive training regarding criminal and civil processes but would benefit highly from added training regarding customer service skills improvement.

Steve Walker

**Background:** Master's Degree from University of Incarnate Word. Four years on JP bench 2009-2012. Never overturned in my decisions. Retired public school teacher, teaching at all levels. Currently Mediator at Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center..and JAG Officer for Audie Murphy American Legion chapter £336.

**Funding Needs:** County determines funding.

**Process Serving, Customer Service:** More efficient customer service.

Pamela Gabriel Craig

**Background:** At age of 50 I graduated St. Mary's Law School. I have handled criminal and civil matters. I was a former City Municipal Court Judge and Bexar County Magistrate Judge. I want to ensure that the people have access to an effective judicial system without having to hire an attorney.

**Funding Needs:** The funding needs for the Justice of the Peace are for office space, office supplies, and staff personnel. Funding is authorized through the County Commissioners.

**Process Serving, Customer Service:** There needs to be sufficient staff to provide assistance to the public in a timely fashion. The process serving is a function of the Constable and not the Justice of the Peace. I am not aware of any problem in this area at this time.

Val Flores

**Background:** I began serving the citizens of Bexar County in 1978 as a Bexar County Sheriff’s Deputy, I have served as Precinct 2 Constable since 2009. My motivation is protecting my community with great pride. I hold a Criminal Justice Degree and a Master Peace Officer License.

**Emerging Problems:** At this time I do not see emerging problems within the office besides budget restraints, we will need to go before Commissioners Court and request funding for our needs.

**Minimum Qualifications:** At least 10 or more years of experience as a Law Enforcement Officer along with at least an Associates Degree.
Charlie Pena, Jr.

**Background:** Associates Degree Master Law Enforcement Certification 42 years in Law Enforcement 8000 hrs Law Enforcement training I came up threw the ranks of the community and into law enforcement where I felt a passion to help those who could not protect themselves. corrupt, inefficient leaders must be replaced

**Emerging Problems:** Accountability begins with the head of the office. I will begin at the top with an open door to the Texas Rangers so that agency can adequately conduct its’ on going investigation. Leadership will exist as well as transparency. The office will resume what it was designed to do with upmost professionalism and service to the community. All members will be held accountable for their actions.

**Minimum Qualifications:** A minimum of 45 hrs college Intermediate Certification Or 10 years Law Enforcement experience

Michelle Barrientes Vela

**Background:** Would be as listed below: 1. I’m a License Peace Officer in the State of Tx 2. Experienced as a Deputy Constable 3. As a Leader I will not shy away from my Integrity, values or Morales. I will serve my community with Honor as I serve side by side in the front lines with my Deputies to decrease crim//

**Emerging Problems:** 1. We need more community Policing, Police Prences and becoming more proactive as Officers 2.working with all local Law Enforcement Offering more training to the officers along with community education and programs to our citizens in Bexar County

**Minimum Qualifications:** The minimum qualifications for the position of the Constable would be as followed: An active or inactive Licensed Peace Officer An honorable retired Texas Peace Officer or Investigation or currently a special Investigator Associated Degree from an accredited College

Rudy Garza

**Background:** Master Peace Officer, LE Instructor, Former member of AACOG LE Academy Advisory Committee ,Adjunct Instructor for AACOG LE academy, LE firearms instructor, Less lethal instructor, Cert k9 handler, cert armorer, 25 yrs LE experience w/20 yrs @ Pct3 Constable’s office . Hold the position of Captain.

**Emerging Problems:** Lack of strong leadership, many supervisors with personal agendas, & lack of focus on the needs of the community. I will conduct a review of current leadership & place only qualified leaders in key positions; put in place rules & regulations that promote public and officer safety. Always have an open door policy in regards to the public & staff. Support schools. Be the Leader all deserve.

**Minimum Qualifications:** The State of Texas outlines minimum qualifications for the position of constable, however it would be great to see a requirement for prior experience ,training requirements, & certification levels prior to running for the position .

Precinct No. 3

Edward (Ed) Coleman, Unopposed

Precinct No. 4

Stan Ramos

**Background:** Certified Texas Peace Officer for 20 years. Licensed in the State of Texas as a Private Investigator for the past 11 years. Worked Federal cases, State District Court Felony cases. As a Military Veteran, I will bring Honor, Discipline, Leadership and Integrity to the Constables office.

**Emerging Problems:** The current problem in the constable’s office is that the deputy constables are not doing their jobs within the “Civil” nature of the job. Many are doing too much “police” work. I also see a problem in accountability. Many deputies just “call in” their hours worked for the week and some of the time is not accurately accounted for. I also see a need for more job training for the deputy constables.

**Minimum Qualifications:** First and foremost a Constable MUST be a Certified Peace Officer. He must posses at least a BASIC certification level via TECOLE. He must be knowledgeable in Civil and Criminal Process. He must posses an attitude of confidence, yet show compassion when required. Must be willing to work long hours as needed and, he must be willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Robert “Mike” Blount

**Background:** I am a lifelong Pct.4 resident and graduate of Highlands High school. Through 40 years of law enforcement, I have acquired a Master P.O. License and graduated the Constable Leadership Institute. Quality of service is my motivation and we must have an experienced qualified Constable to lead the way.

**Emerging Problems:** Budget constraints are always a challenge. 2 years ago, Pct. 4 doubled in size and population, however, my office staff has remained the same. In the near future, I look forward to working with commissioners to maintain a staff that lets my officers do the job in a timely and professional manner. I will also continue to provide the latest training and education to all my staff in a timely manner.

**Minimum Qualifications:** State law dictates the requirements to be elected However, I believe that a Constable must be involved with the community he serves. They must be transparent at all levels and possess the experience and education that is required to make tough decisions. They must have a complete understanding of the JP court and service of their process. Above all, a Constable must be a person of high integrity.
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES

President

Jeb Bush
Ben Carson
Chris Christie
Ted Cruz
Carly Fiorina
Elizabeth Gray
Lindsey Graham
Mike Huckabee
John R. Kasich
Rand Paul
Marco Rubio
Rick Santorum
Donald J. Trump

US Representative

Each representative serves a two-year term, must be at least 25 years old and must be a resident of Texas and a US citizen for at least seven years. Constitutionally delegated powers of the house are origination of revenue bills, initiation of impeachment proceedings, and authorization to elect the president when a tie or lack of majority exists in the electoral college.

Questions for Candidates

Background: Please describe the combination of education, motivation and experience that qualifies you for this office.

Immigration Reform: What is your position on immigration reform? What role should the U.S. play in accepting refugees? Please explain.

Economic Health: What would you do to improve our economic health, with specific reference to minimum wage, infrastructure and equal pay? Please be specific.

Job Growth: What would you propose to stimulate job growth in this country: Explain how your proposal would actually create jobs.

District 21

Lamar Smith


Immigration Reform: America has the most generous immigration system in the world, admitting one million legal immigrants each year. That is more than all other countries combined. And that generosity should continue. In addition, the United States has humanitarian programs to admit those who are persecuted in their own countries because of their religion, political views, or ethnic backgrounds.

Economic Health: It is my responsibility as a Member of Congress to ensure that businesses have the tools to succeed in today's economy, particularly the nearly 28 million small businesses in America. Hardworking Americans deserve good wages. I believe the best solution for ensuring higher wages is a government that empowers job creators and innovators to succeed. This economic success will in turn produce higher wages and more take-home pay.

Job Growth: Economic prosperity and job growth can be accomplished through policy solutions that empower the private sector. Eliminating unnecessary and costly regulations, lowering taxes, and balancing the federal budget would create jobs and help the economy.

John Murphy

Background: Education: Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering with an additional concentration in Economics

Immigration Reform: Yes, we need comprehensive immigration reform. Money and manpower are not the answer, as we’ve seen the number of illegal immigrants swell from less than 4 million in 1990 to over 12 million today. We should return to something similar to the Bracero Act of the 1960’s. Although it had flaws, such as not allowing workers to change employers, it was superior to our current system. The U.S. should continue to accept refugees as it always has. The vetting period is over a year and a half and is quite effective at screening would-be terrorists. We should not allow our fear to overcome our humanity.

Economic Health: The basic role of the government is to create an environment where people and businesses can thrive. Minimum wage laws would lead to a larger shadow economy in which people are paid under the table. Although I support reining in our budget, I believe spending on our infrastructure would be a wise investment that will pay dividends. Everyone should be treated equally under the law and if someone can prove they have been discriminated against then restitutions should be made.

Job Growth: Ending the tax on profits earned abroad would create jobs almost immediately. Currently we are creating incentives for companies to keep the money they earn abroad. This means that they do not reinvest in new offices, R&D, and hiring new employees in the US. We should curb the regulatory state, which hinders job growth and invest in education, so that our citizens are the most qualified and competitive in the world.

Todd Phelps

Background: Education: Hyde Park Baptist High School The University of Texas Farm and Ranch Management Commercial Lending Energy. Experience: Farm and Ranch Management Commercial Lending Energy Fighting to protect taxpayers in Austin by running for Mayor

Immigration Reform: I support establishing criminalization and
prosecution for those here illegally, that refuse to return home. I will propose and support new and expanded criminalizing of illegal aliens as well as deportation with full cooperation with ICE. When we start to prosecute and enforce laws, those here illegally that do not respect our laws will head home. The situation is at epidemic proportion and talk of amnesty which I would never support only causes people to be trafficked here and risk death and injury. Enforcement is better for us and better for anyone wanting to live in the U.S.

**Economic Health:** Focus on expanding industry/industrial jobs and working class job infrastructure in addition to High Tech, so that people who do not have advanced education can obtain meaningful wages that actually allow them to support themselves.

**Job Growth:** Demand that any existing programs to stimulate jobs focus on the working class and lower income sectors as well so that people can support themselves.

**Matt McCall**

**Background:** Education: BA Economics and Business Westmont College. Experience: I have built and run a successful business in the medical industry. I am running to be a citizen legislator and then go home.

**Immigration Reform:** We should seal the border immediately. There are many facets of immigration reform and they should be handled in bite size pieces that people can actually read and debate. At one time an immigrant had to prove he or she would not be a burden to society in order to come here. That should be the standard for all immigration again. Those who come here should be coming to build a better future for their children and grandchildren and to contribute to American society—not to live off of it. Immigration is not a right; it is a privilege. No refugees from countries that ideologically oppose us.

**Economic Health:** What the workers of America need is more jobs and job growth. Wages go up when there are more jobs than people. We have 96 million citizens of working age out of the workforce. Half of all those working are working for federal, state, or local government entities. This is unsustainable. We must rapidly grow the private sector by removing government red tape and regulatory burden. Capitalism has lifted one billion people out of poverty in the last decade, and we need to move back to much smaller, efficient, and out of poverty in the last decade, and we need to move back to much

**Job Growth:** We have the highest corporate income tax in the developed world and some of the lowest import duties. This is driving jobs overseas. I want to scrap all (yes all) corporate income tax and impose a 20% import duty. This will raise the same amount of money and will stimulate job growth as every one in the world will want to build everything here. The 10th amendment needs to be used to get rid of the job killing EPA and OSHA and give these responsibilities back to the states. I want to break up the big banks and get back to small banks that lend to small businesses who create 80% of new jobs.

**District 23**

Will Hurd, No Response

William “Hart” Peterson, No Response

**District 28**

Zeffen Hardin, Unopposed

**District 35**

**Railroad Commissioner**

6-year term. Must be at least 25 years old, a Texas resident, and a registered voter. Regulates the oil & gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, & surface coal and uranium mining in Texas.

**Questions for Candidates**

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

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

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

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

**Lance N. Christian**

**Background:** As a geologist (P.G. 10342) in the Groundwater Advisory Unit, I am the only candidate with Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) experience. I am a technically oriented person with no previous political experience that will analyze issues objectively, while serving no political interests. Bachelor of Science - Geological Sciences, 1994 Bachelor of Arts - Geography, 1995 Masters Program - Geological Sciences (incomplete)

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

**Urban Drilling:** There are two primary threats from 'fracking' activities. First, is the possibility of groundwater contamination by induced fracturing. Effective groundwater sampling programs before drilling, during well development, and after completion is the most definitive method to discern pollution issues. Additional casing and cementing may be necessary in well construction plans.
to prevent such issues. Second, are issues relating to induced seismicity. Those issues warrant further investigation.

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

John Greytok

Background: This position is basically a judicial one. The Railroad Commission functions as a tribunal. While there is not space for my full resume, in short I am the only candidate with the legal training, knowledge and experience to do a good job from day one. B.A. Economics (with Honors), UT Austin J.D. (with Honors), UT Austin

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

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

Other Issues: First, stabilize the agency by successfully completing the Sunset Review. Second, continue crucial technology upgrades. Third, we must fight back against the Obama EPA’s irrational war on the Texas energy Industry.

Ron Hale

Background: Being a licensed professional engineer and private security consultant for the Texas energy industry for the last 18 years. Technical School TBFAA Tomball College

Trans-Pecos Pipeline: Everything has to be done by the standard provided by Title 16. We need to do a better job explaining the benefits to the public in the area.

Urban Drilling: There are no main health issues related to fracking. Fracking has been around for 60+ years. Think about this the drill hole is 12,000-15,000 feet deep. That’s at least 10 Empire state building stacked on top of each other.

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

Doug Jeffrey

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

Weston Martinez

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

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

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

Other Issues: We achieve the above goals by increasing technology in reporting and finding new ways to frack responsibly. This will keep Texas moving forward. This is how we develop responsibly and economically.

As Texas Rail Road Commissioner I will fight for every Texan to have an Energy Independent Future. The conservative leaders across Texas are supporting me because I know the issues, I know the Process, and I know how to fight for Texas Values. visit and share www.westonfortexas.com

Wayne Christian, No response

Gary Gates, No response

Justice, TX Supreme Court

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Heirs final appeals of decisions on civil cases & attorney discipline, issues writs of mandamus/habeas corpus, & conducts proceedings for removal of judges.
Questions for Candidates

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

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

**Public Protection:** The Texas Supreme Court oversees and controls rules and standards for the legal profession. What changes to the attorney disciplinary rules are needed to provide better protection to the public?

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

**Place 3**

**Debra Lehrmann**

**Background:** With a total of 28 years judicial experience, I have served on this Court for 6 years and have written on a vast number of complex legal matters including oil and gas, contract interpretation, commercial, corporate, and securities law, tax, torts, family and probate law, civil procedure & evidence. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, I graduated with high honors from The University of Texas in 1979 and The University of Texas School of Law in 1982; I am a candidate for an L.L.M. in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law.

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

**Public Protection:** I have the honor of serving as the Court’s liaison to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals and the Commission for Lawyer Discipline. In this capacity, I have devoted many hours to ensuring that complaints are handled in an efficient and just manner. The recently enacted Civility Oath is an example of the Court’s ongoing concern that lawyers conduct themselves with utmost professionalism at all times.

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

**Michael Massengale,** No Response

**Place 5**

**Rick Green**

**Background:** Licensed mediator, former TX Legislator, author and teacher for over 15 years on the proper jurisdictions of the government as outlined in the Constitution. J.D., U. of Texas School of Law, B.B.A. Finance, Angelo State Univ., Wylie High School, Wylie, Texas

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

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

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

**Paul Green,** No Response

**Place 9**

**Eva Guzman**

**Background:** The depth and breadth of my experience includes service at 3 levels of the Texas Judiciary. As a Supreme Court Justice, I have ruled on thousands of civil appeals. I bring to my work a conservative judicial philosophy, a strong work ethic, superior credentials and a firm commitment to excellence. Duke University School of Law, L.L.M. Judicial Studies South Texas College of Law., Juris Doctor University of Houston, B.B.A.

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

**Public Protection:** As a Court, we serve the public interest well when we promulgate rules and standards that protect the public and that are also fair to all stakeholders in our system of justice. The present rules are imperfect and should be revisited to address changes that may be necessary due to new technologies, 21st century practice models, and other substantive deficiencies. An effective rule-making process will include input from the public and the Bar.

**Access to justice:** I am the Supreme Court of Texas Liaison to the Access to Justice Commission. In that role, I have led and participated in local and national efforts to improve access to our courts by the almost 6 millions Texans who live at or below the
JOE POOL, No Response

Judge, TX Court of Criminal Appeals

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Reviews all death penalty cases & applications for habeas corpus in felony cases, hears final appeals on criminal cases, & administers publicly funded judicial and attorney education.

Questions for Candidates

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

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

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

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

Place 2

Mary Lou Keel


Impartiality: Iron discipline.

Accomplishment: The Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases on appeal, nothing else. Candidates for that court should demonstrate an aptitude for that kind of work. I do. I represented the State in 279 criminal cases on appeal when I was a Harris County prosecutor. My opponents have handled criminal appeals numbering in the single digits.

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

Chris Oldner

Background: Fearless integrity and an entire professional career committed to the improvement of the criminal justice system. I am the top rated judge in Collin County. With 15 years as a trial judge, I have never been reversed in a felony case. My statewide judicial leadership is unmatched in this race. Texas Tech University School of Law - Juris Doctorate, 1993 Baylor University - Bachelor of Arts, 1989 Plano East Senior High School - High School Diploma, 1985

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

Accomplishment: In 2007 I served as the Local Administrative Judge for all the Collin County district courts. In August of that year, we were moved from the courthouse we had occupied since 1979 into the new courthouse. The move involved several offices that serve the courts and every district court. I led a team of judges and clerks that orchestrated the complete move with less than two days of normal court operations disrupted, and maintained at least one operational court to address any emergency.

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

Ray Wheless

Background: I offer the broadest legal experience. My twenty-one years pre-judge experience trying criminal and civil cases and my AV rating placing me in the top 5% of all lawyers is unmatched. As a judge, I have disposed of over 23,000 cases, conducted over 500 jury trials and sat as an appellate judge. I earned my GED in the Air Force during the Vietnam War era and attended college at night. I earned a Bachelors in Business Administration at California State University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas at Austin, Texas’ top law school. Double Board Certified. AV rated.

Impartiality: I was appointed to my first bench as a County Court at Law Judge and appointed by the Governor as a District Judge. I have never had an opponent. Because I didn't have to campaign, I did not accept campaign contributions until a few years ago. I have now received contributions from a broad cross section of citizens. Most of these people are not criminal defense lawyers and will never have cases before me. I pledge that I will follow the Rule Of Law and administer justice blindly.

Accomplishment: I created the first DWI/Drug Court Program in Collin County and serve as the Chairman of the Special-
ized Courts Advisory Council to Governor Greg Abbott. My role is to establish best practices and recommend funding to the Governor for alternatives to incarceration such as Veterans Court Programs and Drug Court Programs. As a member of this Court, I will help to shape our criminal justice system policy and help administer State funds to train judges in these specialized courts.

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

**Place 5**

**Sid Harle**

**Background:** Appointed to the 226th District Court Bench in 1988 by Gov William Clements; previously Prosecutor and Defense Attorney State and Federal Courts; I have prosecuted, defended and presided over every conceivable type of criminal case, including Death Penalty litigation; I have a proven track record. Austin College 1974-1975; University of Texas 1975-1978; Bachelor of Arts with Honors; St. Mary’s University School of Law - Juris Doctorate 1980

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

**Accomplishment:** Appointed by Supreme Court to preside over the State of Texas vs. Michael Morton in Williamson County. It led to the discovery that Mr. Morton had served 25 years in prison but was proven actually innocent by DNA. In addition, the prosecutor withheld favorable evidence that would have exonerated Mr. Morton. The actual perpetrator committed another murder while Mr. Morton was in prison. I exonerated Mr. Morton and instituted a criminal proceeding against the prosecutor, who withheld evidence.

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

**Steve Smith**

**Background:** I served as a Texas Supreme Court justice and authored numerous opinions. My conservative judicial philosophy is another important qualification. My prior litigation experience includes litigating the Hopwood v. Texas case that eliminated unconstitutional racial preferences at Texas universities. I graduated with Honors from the University of Texas School of Law in 1986. UT Law is generally recognized as not only the best law school in Texas, but the best law school in the Southwestern United States.

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

**Accomplishment:** I am proud of my service on the Texas Supreme Court. My judicial philosophy mirrors that of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia: textualism and rejection of the liberal “living constitution” theory. When reviewing a constitutional or statutory provision, judges should enforce the plain meaning of the text. See, e.g., my majority opinion in the landmark case of Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services v. Mega Child Care, 145 S.W.3d 170 (Tex. 2004).

**Brent Webster**

**Background:** I’ve practiced Criminal law since 2006, and I have very diverse criminal, trial and appellate experience. I’ve handled everything from misdemeanors to murder and I’ve written appeals. I currently served as the General Counsel for the Williamson County District Attorney’s office. J.D., University of Houston Law Center B.A. in Political Science, Southwestern University

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

**Accomplishment:** I am proud of how hard I fought for children that have been physically abused. I have been very successful helping multiple children get out of bad environments where their life and physical safety was at risk. I believe this will make me a better judge because, not only will I be a strong advocate for our constitutional rights, but I also have a deep and profound understanding of what victims of violent crime must live with for the rest of their lives.

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

Scott Walker, No Response

Place 6

Michael E. Keasler

Background: 17 yrs Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, 17 yrs 292nd District Judge, 12 yrs Dallas Senior Felony Chief Prosecutor 432 jury trials, former chair State Bar Judicial Section, 7 yrs dean, Texas Judicial College, 25 yrs National Judicial College faculty, teach ethics and constitutional law nationally. B.A. University of Texas at Austin, 1964 L.L.B. University of Texas School of Law, 1967

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

Accomplishment: In 2011, with professors Joseph Hoffman and Penny White and attorney Robin Wosje, I co-wrote and taught a National Judicial College curriculum for appellate judges handling capital murder cases. Judges from all over the country attended the course and were very complimentary of its content and teachers. My work on this curriculum and preparation for teaching it has been helpful in analyzing the capital cases I deal with regularly.

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

Richard Davis, No Response

4TH Court of Appeals

6-year term. Must be age 35-74 years, a U.S. citizen, a Texas resident, licensed to practice law in Texas, a registered voter, & have 10 years experience as a lawyer or judge. Hears appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in its district.

Jason Pulliam, Uncontested

Member, State Board of Education

4-year term. Must be 26 years old or older, a U.S. citizen, a Texas/district resident, & a registered voter. Sets policies & standards for Texas public schools & oversees the Texas Permanent School Fund.

District 5

Ken Mercer, Unopposed

State Senator

State Senators are elected for four-year terms of office. One-half of the Senate membership is elected every two years. They must be a citizen of the United States, a qualified Texas voter, and at least 26 years old. He or she must also have been a resident of the state for at least five years and a resident of the district for one year immediately preceding the election for which she or he was chosen. The Texas Senate, like the U.S. Senate, has “advise and consent” powers. This means they are required to approve certain executive actions.

District 19

Peter P. Flores, Unopposed

State Representative

State representatives are elected for a two-year term. They must be a citizen of the United States, a qualified Texas voter, and at least 21 years old. He or she must also have been a resident of the state for two years and a resident of the district for one year immediately preceding the election in which she or he was chosen. All bills that increase taxes or raise revenue for the state originate in the House of Representatives.

Questions for Candidates

Background: Please describe the combination of education, motivation and experience that qualifies you for this office.

Child Protective Services: What are the issues of the Child Protective Services program that you consider most urgent? (For example, early intervention, budget, caseloads, etc.)

Social Issues: These topics are of concern to Texas citizens. Please discuss your view on: voting, guns, sexual discrimination, access to healthcare, and ensuring that all children in Texas are well-educated.

Redistricting: The Legislature currently draws the district lines determining our voting districts (redistricting). Would you support a Citizen’s Independent Redistricting Commission at the State level? Why or why not?

District 117

Rick Galindo, Unopposed
District 118

John Lujan, No Response

Robert A. Casias

**Background:** Marine Combat Veteran, BS degree, Constitutional Conservative, cattle rancher. Our Country and Great State of Texas are losing ground to the Progressive Socialist and political correctness. I will not vote for Joe Strauss. He has taken $195,000 from Richard Trumpka, AFL-CIO.

**Child Protective Services:** Agency is too large, 8,000 employees. Must be streamlined, 2.5 billion $ budget. Many issues with a large govt. entity which is inefficient. Probable waste, fraud and corruption in the organization. Audit must be conducted. One of many issues facing the TX. legislature. A large case load which may indicate poor management.

**Social Issues:** I support the 2nd Amendment. Health Care is the largest issue in the TX. budget. I support competition, school vouchers, $$ follow the child. Poor performing must be shut down in 36 months. Discrimination is illegal.

**Redistricting:** I could support. One person, one vote has been the standard, meant for legal citizens not illegal criminals who have violated our borders. Many not eligible to vote end up voting. Must have valid picture ID to vote.

District 121

Sheila Bean, No Response

Joe Straus, No Response

Jeff Judson, No Response

District 122

Lyle Larson, Unopposed

**District Judge**

Judges are elected to four-year terms. District courts have original jurisdiction in all felony criminal cases, divorce cases, land title disputes, election contests, civil matters in which at least $200 is disputed or claimed in damages, as well as other matters. Most district courts consider both criminal and civil cases but, in counties with many courts, each may specialize in civil, criminal, juvenile, or family law matters.

131st Judicial District

David Kaliski, Unopposed

175th Judicial District

Libby Wiedermann, Unopposed

386th Judicial District

Laura Parker, Unopposed

399th Judicial District

Jan Ischy-Prins, Unopposed

407th Judicial District

Karen Pozza, Unopposed

408th Judicial District

Leslie Sachanowicz, Unopposed

438th Judicial District

Frances V. Dunham, Unopposed

County Court-at-Law No. 5

Linda Molina, Unopposed

Sheriff

Susan Parmerleau, Unopposed

**Tax Assessor-Colleter**

Primary duties include assessing and collecting property taxes for the county and registering all motor vehicles within the county.

Questions for Candidates

**Background:** Please describe the combination of education, motivation and experience that qualifies you for this office.

**Maximizing Tax Collections:** What measures will you take to maximize the tax collection rate? Be specific.

**Important Problem:** What is the most important problem in the County Tax Assessor’s office and how do you plan to address it?

Michael Berlanga

**Background:** I am a lifelong resident of Bexar County, graduate of Central Catholic 1977, BBA in Accounting from St. Mary’s in 1980 at the age of 22, and Masters in Professional Accounting (concentration-Tax) from UTSA. Licensed as a CPA and Real Estate Broker, I have been a taxpayer advocate for 35 years.

**Maximizing Tax Collections:** I will use the office to change the culture of the authority. As an advocate for the taxpayer/citizens who live in Bexar County, I will use the office to model Bexar County to all counties in Texas to propose property tax reforms to the legislature. The reduction in taxes will require a commitment from School Districts to find alliances for efficiency of overhead and reduce the burden on seniors.

**Important Problem:** The inability of the current Tax Assessor to do more than simply collect the most taxes while not influencing property tax reform or limiting the assessment process on current property owners. To not distance himself from a legislature that needs to be challenged and not affirmed in the recent passing of Proposition 1 as being
Fernando Padron

**Background:** B.A. in Theology. Presently earning a Master of Public Administration, and a Master Certificate in Non-Profit Organizations at UTSA. 20 years experience working for a nonprofit organization helping the poor. Recently worked as the Special Project Director for the Bexar County Tax Office.

**Maximizing Tax Collections:** As property values skyrocket and as local governments maintain or in some cases continue to increase their tax rates, taxpayers in Bexar County will find Fernando Padron advocating and defending taxpayers rights at the local and state levels, relentlessly fighting for public policy that support Citizen rights and keep taxpayers from overpaying on their property taxes.

**Important Problem:** From overcrowded substations to unhappy taxpayers, the Tax Office works with antiquated technology costing taxpayers money and time. Fernando Padron will help implement a state of the art customer management system and website to help taxpayers be online instead of in line. Adding new tools like a text messaging system that will inform citizens of office wait time.

Gerard Ponce

**Background:** 30+ yrs community involvement & 17 yrs Administrative experience, Chief Court Administrator 11 Bexar County Courts - the operational budget - Accounting department. Establish juvenile Justice Court System - Domestic Violence Courts, Committee to create the D.W.I task force, Community Service Hours.

**Maximizing Tax Collections:** Will work closely with Seniors, handicapped and individuals so ensure their taxes get paid so as to not lose homes to unpaid taxes.

**Important Problem:** Persons losing their homes due to unpaid taxes - I’d like to address this by working closely with persons in need, creating alternatives to funding for tax in arrears. In that way, these individuals will not lose their homes; and upon death, all that their family worked their entire lives to achieve is not totally lost. Their children or heirs will be able to keep the family home.

**Precinct 3**

Mike Koerner

**Background:** I am a combat veteran and retired Naval Officer. For the past 5 years, I have served as both the District Director for Congressman Quico Canseco and Regional Director for Senator Ted Cruz. These experiences have provided the background necessary to be an effective and engaged leader in Bexar County.

**Growth Challenge:** The greatest challenge to the county is balancing the limited resources available with the increasing demands for county funds. As an extension of the State Legislature it is imperative that Commissioner’s Court prioritize and focus on those core areas such as roads/infrastructure, public safety, public health, and the county jail that serve all the citizens of the county.

**Unincorporated Growth:** The best way to address issues of growth in the unincorporated areas of Bexar County is to continue to prioritize and focus on the core responsibilities of Commissioner’s Court, while working in conjunction with the other 20 plus municipalities located throughout the county. By taking a leadership role, Commissioner’s court can work to address these challenges with all players in the county.

Pamela Lill, No Response

Kevin Wolff, No Response

**Justice of the Peace**

This court has jurisdiction over Small Claims and Class “C” Misdemeanors. Offenses include matters pertaining to evictions; juvenile offenses such as failure to attend school, disorderly conduct, or minor in possession of alcohol or tobacco; violations concerning driver’s license, moving vehicle violations, liability insurance and vehicle plate inspections, etc.

**Precinct No. 2, Place 1**

John Waldron, Unopposed

**Constable**

Primary duties consist of serving subpoenas and executing judgments of the courts.

**Questions for candidates**

**Background:** Please describe the combination of education, motivation and experience that qualifies you for this office.

**Emerging Problems:** What emerging problems do you foresee in the Constable’s office and how will you address them?

**Minimum Qualifications:** What should be the minimum qualifications for the position of Constable?

**Precinct 1**

John Garza, Unopposed

Martin “Cam” Chavez (continued next page)
Background: I have 5 years of customer service and customer relations. I have over 1300 hours of law enforcement training. I am currently working as a Bexar County Deputy Constable. My motivation is to regain the trust of the community by my actions not words. I’m corruption free and have not been tainted.

Emerging Problems: I see the lack of trust that the community has for law enforcement. I will hold my deputies accountable for their actions and implement body cameras that will be worn and utilized. I see that the law abiding citizens of Bexar County are tired of being harassed and mistreated by my law enforcement. I will have my deputies go after real criminals and have them stand by the oath they swore to uphold.

Minimum Qualifications: Constables should have some experience in law enforcement. Constables should serve no more than two terms, so that we don’t get to comfortable in our position. Constables should not have any cases against them where they stole from County and it’s citizens. Constables should be trustworthy people and not tainted with corruption.

Jesse “Jay” Alaniz, No Response

Precinct 2

Kenneth R. “Randy” Menn

Background: I have the personal satisfaction of being a Public Servant for over forty years. I served 21 years as Balcones Heights Police Chief and 2 additional years as a San Antonio Park Police Supervisor. I have an AAS Degree in Criminal Justice from San Antonio and a BAAS Degree from Texas State University

Emerging Problems: I chose to accentuate the positive and not view the responsibilities of the Constable as problems. It is the Constable’s, or any leader’s, duty to effectively deal with all situations under his or her authority. In doing so, the goal should be to prevent problems. And if a problem does occur, deal with it and view it as an opportunity to lead the office, in the future, more intelligently.

Minimum Qualifications: At a minimum, a qualified candidate must be a Basic Texas Peace Officer, knowledgeable of Texas Laws, trained in “Customer First” and “Customer Excellence”, trustworthy, caring, fair, friendly and have a favorable background. Additional preferred qualifications should include management, leadership and supervisor experience, higher education and a proven track record of service.

Joseph R. Pineda

Background: I currently have over 12 years of Law Enforcement experience and 17 years of private security experience that include supervision and management. I hold an Advanced Peace Officer License with over 1300 hours of Law Enforcement training and in process of obtaining my Master Peace Officer license.

Emerging Problems: Without the proper change, I see an office that will continue to have an un motivated deputies and minimal presence in the community that will continue to work on the least amount of hours possible. I would bring my leadership and management skills to the agency and bring back the pride and love they once had being there, extend service hours and days and bring focus to crime prevention.

Minimum Qualifications: Qualifications should include a minimum of 5 years full time patrol with a municipal or county Law Enforcement agency. A Constable should also have a minimum of an Advanced Peace Officer License and 5 years of any type of supervision or management experience.

What is Provisional Voting?

The Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 provides for provisional voting if a voter’s name does not appear on the list of registered voters due to an administrative error. If your name is not on the rolls of registered voters in your precinct, but you believe you are registered, the election judge will attempt to determine if you are registered somewhere in your county. If your registration cannot be found, you may cast a provisional vote by filling out an affidavit and a paper ballot. This ballot is kept separate from the regular ballots, and the case will be reviewed by the provisional voting ballot board. The ballot will be counted only if the voter is determined to be a registered voter in that precinct. Provisional voters will receive a notice in the mail by the tenth day after the local canvass advising them if their provisional ballots were counted and, if they were not counted, the reason why.
**Princinct 3**

**Mark Stewart Vojovodich**

**Background:** Master peace officer with Instructor’s license with over 35 years of service; 4 year degree Wayland Baptist University and over 7300 training hours. Six years as constable of PCT 3 and have served as an investigator, patrol sergeant, lieutenant and captain at BSCO prior to service as constable.  

**Emerging Problems:** Our areas’ continued growth is the fastest in the county. Our population and workloads will expand as do the number of residents and we will continue to address all problems our citizens bring to our attention. We have expanded our technical ability to make maximum use of our available officers and we are the leaders in service and effectiveness in Bexar county. PCT 3 has been identified as the///

**Minimum Qualifications:** In order to be elected as a Constable in the State of Texas, you must be either (1) eligible to be licensed under sections 1701.309, 1701.312, and 1701.502 of the Texas Occupations Code AND (a) has at least an associate’s degree, (b) is a special investigator under Article 2.122(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, or (c) an honorably retired peace officer or honorably retired federal criminal investing///

**Franz Lamar Rickhoff**

**Background:** At the National Federal Law Enforcement Academy for the Veterans Affairs Police and SACC academy I was one of the top drivers and marksmen. For five years Chief Charlie Pena and I have helped revise truancy intervention by dealing directly with fulfilling the needs of at risk students.  

**Emerging Problems:** My focus is on school safety and neighborhood security. Pct 3 is currently focused on ticket quotas writing 10,000 traffic tickets a year. Ticket quotas are illegal and need to be stopped and when I win office I plan on focusing on traffic safety at our schools instead of revenue for the county.  

**Minimum Qualifications:** While serving in the US Army in Iraq I learned how to care for my fellow soldiers in the most intense conflicts. This experience is hard to find in the states. I believe the constable should be about the community and the problems within instead of focusing on personal gain.

**Precinct No. 4**

**Christopher J. Milam,** Unopposed

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**Interactive Voters Guide**

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

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**What should I take to the polling place?**

In addition to your photo ID, which is discussed in detail on the back of this Voters Guide, you can bring any written or printed material into the voting booth for your personal use. You cannot use mobile phones, smartphones and tablets or other electronic devices at the polling place. You may bring this Voters Guide into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this Voters Guide, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional. (Texas Election Code, Section 61.011)
Voting in Texas Primaries
When you vote in a political party's primary, you become affiliated with that party for the next two years. At the time you vote, your voting certificate will be stamped with the name of the party in whose primary you vote. You may vote in only one party's primary. If there is a runoff, you may vote only in the same party's runoff election. (Note that in the general election in November, voters may vote for any candidate they wish, regardless of whether they voted in a party primary or runoff or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.)

Only party members can participate in the precinct, county or senatorial district, and state conventions of a particular party. Proof of party affiliation (i.e., your stamped voting certificate) is needed for admission to a party's convention. Parties other than those whose candidates are listed in this Voters Guide are not holding primary elections; instead, their candidates are nominated and selected in their precinct, county, and state conventions.

Party precinct conventions are the first step in the process that adopts the state party platform; certifies the party's nominees for state office in general elections; selects delegates to the party's county or senatorial district, and the state and national conventions; nominates presidential electors; elects national party committee members; and writes the national party platform.

What to take to the polls
Texas requires voters to show photo ID

Texas now requires voters to show an acceptable photo ID at the polls. The only acceptable photo IDs are:
Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) issued photo IDs
- Driver license
- Personal identification card
- Concealed handgun license
- Election Identification Certificate
United States government issued photo IDs
- Passport
- Military identification card
- Citizenship certificate or naturalization certificate with photograph

Only the above photo IDs can be accepted at the polls. Other photo IDs, including student IDs, employer IDs and out-of-state driver licenses, cannot be accepted. See PHOTO ID DETAILS AND EXCEPTIONS on back page.
- Photo ID is not required to vote by mail. Voters may apply for a mail ballot if 65 or older, ill or disabled, or absent from their county during early voting and on Election Day. Note: Photo ID will be required of first time voters if a driver license or Social Security number was not included with the voter registration application.

Join the San Antonio Area League of Women Voters
Dues are $75 for individual memberships, $100 for household memberships at the same address, $30 for students.
Name__________________________________________
Address________________________________________
Phone__________________________________________
Mail to LWVSAA, 106 Auditorium Circle, Ste. 120, San Antonio, TX 78205
Telephone: 210-657-2206