

United States Representative

United States Representative, District 26

Description:

"No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen."

— U.S. Constitution, Article I, section 2, clause 2

Texas Congressional District 26 includes portions of Dallas (Precincts 2910 and 2911), Denton and Tarrant Counties.

Map

<https://fyi.capitol.texas.gov/fyiwebdocs/PDF/congress/dist26/m1.pdf>

Dallas County Map

https://www.dallascountyvotes.org/wp-content/uploads/2013_map_USCongressionalDist34x44.pdf

Denton County - none

Tarrant County Map

<https://access.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections/interactive-maps/us-congressional-district-maps/US-Rep-26.html>

Population by county

<https://fyi.capitol.texas.gov/fyiwebdocs/PDF/congress/dist26/r4.pdf>

[Dallas County Elections](#)

[Denton County Elections](#)

[Tarrant County Elections](#)

Candidates (choose 1):

Mark Boler

Party: L

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (972) 896-0047

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

A: - no response -

Q: 2. Immigration: What are your priorities regarding the immigration system?

A: - no response -

Q: 3. Healthcare: How would you address access to and the cost of healthcare?

A: - no response -

Q: 4. Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to protect students from gun violence?

A: - no response -

Q: 5. Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

A: - no response -

Q: 6. Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for private school vouchers and why?

A: - no response -

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: - no response -

Michael C. Burgess

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 2334 Denton, TX 76202-2334

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DrBurgessTX/>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

A: - no response -

Q: 2. Immigration: What are your priorities regarding the immigration system?

A: - no response -

Q: 3. Healthcare: How would you address access to and the cost of healthcare?

A: - no response -

Q: 4. Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to protect students from gun violence?

A: - no response -

Q: 5. Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

A: - no response -

Q: 6. Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for private school vouchers and why?

A: - no response -

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: - no response -

Carol H. Iannuzzi



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: 1079 W Round Grove Rd Ste 300-317 Lewisville, TX 75067

Campaign Phone: (469) 630-1288

Website: <http://Carol2020.com>

Education: B.S. Accounting - Rutgers University Texas Women's University Various courses (Anatomy, Texas Government, Business Statistics) Collin County Community College Various courses (Biology, Anatomy, Psychology)

Experience : I received a B.S. degree in Accounting from Rutgers University and completed additional biology/anatomy college courses. I was promoted early in my career from Corporate Accounting into working on contractual agreements with engineers and lawyers. My professional career encompassed the energy, electric utility and information technology industries. I retired from HP Enterprise Services (a division of Hewlett-Packard Company) as a Sr. Contracts Negotiator in the Legal Dept.

Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/caroltx26>

Twitter: <http://Twitter.com/caroltx26>

Other Address: 712 Red Oak Dr Lewisville TX 75067

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

A: I received a B.S. degree in Accounting from Rutgers University and completed additional biology/anatomy college courses. I was promoted early in my career from Corporate Accounting into working on contractual agreements with engineers and lawyers. My professional career encompassed the energy, electric utility and information technology industries. I retired from HP Enterprise Services (a division of Hewlett-Packard Company) as a Sr. Contracts Negotiator in the Legal Dept. I volunteered as follows: Keep Lewisville Beautiful, assisting at food bank, teaching Sunday School, as an election clerk, as a precinct chair, assisted political campaigns and humanitarian trips for relief/aid at Texas/Mexico border.

Q: 2. Immigration: What are your priorities regarding the immigration system?

A: In Congress, I will: Support the reversal of policies that separate parents from their children at the border as this is still ongoing. Support the end of "metering" or the limiting of number of asylum applications. (I visited the Texas/Mexico border on humanitarian trips last year and many families are seeking safety from violent cartels/gangs in other countries.) Support legislation to work toward modernization of Immigration system with a priority of keeping families together. Support the protection of "Dreamers" that were brought to the U.S. as children. Support legislation that treats spouse and children of green card holders as immediate relatives. Support increasing number of visas offered for

permanent work-based immigration. Support a program to allow any county or city to petition for additional immigrant visas to support the region's economic development strategy if there are no workers to fill them. Support increasing visas for domestic violence survivors.

Q: 3. Healthcare: How would you address access to and the cost of healthcare?

A: The Affordable Care Act or ACA provides access to healthcare for those with pre-existing conditions and allows young adults to stay on a parent's health insurance plan until they are 26 years old. The ACA provides a framework that we can build on by protecting and expanding our healthcare markets. I will support expansion of healthcare markets through an option that allows Americans to buy in to Medicare. This would lower costs by allowing competition with the private insurers. Those that want to keep existing employer health insurance plans can do so. I will support legislation to allow Medicare to negotiate directly with pharmaceutical companies to lower prescription drug prices and therefore lower the prescription costs for Americans. Additionally, I will support legislation to protect and expand Medicaid. Many Texans, particularly the elderly, children and the disabled depend on Medicaid for their healthcare coverage.

Q: 4. Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to protect students from gun violence?

A: School facilities should be updated with structural and technological foundations. Efforts by schools to provide structure for educators and students to address bullying with mental and behavioral health, peer mediation programs, and diversity/inclusion programs. We need to invest in school counselors, psychologists and nurses. Close loopholes that allow state and local governments to opt out of providing mental healthcare as stipulated by the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996. I support background checks for everyone when seeking purchase of firearms regardless of where they are purchasing the weapon. In Congress, I will support legislation banning assault weapons and high capacity magazines for those that do not serve in the military or law enforcement officers.

Q: 5. Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

A: In Congress, I will: (1) Support restoring the Voting Rights Act to prevent states and localities from passing discriminatory voting laws. (2) Work to make the voter registration process convenient, fair, and secure for all eligible Americans including same day and automatic voter registration. (3) Work to ensure all eligible Americans can have safe and accessible voting options, such as vote-by-mail, no-excuse absentee voting, and early voting. (4) Support safeguarding elections from cyberattacks by requiring paper ballots for all voters.

Q: 6. Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for private school vouchers and why?

A: I oppose using public funds for private school vouchers for the following reasons: Funds for vouchers compete with funds for overall improvements in America's public schools such as to reduce class size, enhance teacher quality, provide every student with books, computers, and structurally safe schools. Vouchers encourage economic, racial, ethnic, and religious divisions in our society. America's success has been built on our ability to unify our diverse populations. Americans want consistent standards for students.

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: - no response -

State Senate

State Senator, District 12

Description:

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 3. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Sec. 3. ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE OF SENATORS. The Senators shall be chosen by the qualified voters for the term of four years; but a new Senate shall be chosen after every apportionment, and the Senators elected after each apportionment shall be divided by lot into two classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the first two years, and those of the second class at the expiration of four years, so that one half of the Senators shall be chosen biennially thereafter. Senators shall take office following their election, on the day set by law for the convening of the Regular Session of the Legislature, and shall serve thereafter for the full term of years to which elected.

(Amended Nov. 8, 1966, and Nov. 2, 1999.)

Sec. 6. QUALIFICATIONS OF SENATORS. No person shall be a Senator, unless he be a citizen of the United States, and, at the time of his election a qualified voter of this State, and shall have been a resident of this State five years next preceding his election, and the last year thereof a resident of the district for which he shall be chosen, and shall have attained the age of twenty-six years.

(Amended Nov. 2, 1999.)

Texas State Senate District 12 includes portions of Denton and Tarrant Counties.

Map:

<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/fyiwebdocs/PDF/senate/dist30/m1.pdf>

Denton County Map - none

Tarrant County Map:

<https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections/interactive-maps/state-senate-district-maps/State-Senate-12.html>

Population by county

<https://fyi.capitol.texas.gov/fyiwebdocs/PDF/senate/dist12/r4.pdf>

[Denton County Elections](#)

[Tarrant County Elections](#)

Candidates (choose 1):

Jane Nelson



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 608 Grapevine, TX 76099

Campaign Phone: (817) 488-7400

Website: <http://www.janelson.org/>

Education: Bachelor of Science (Education/English) University of North Texas

Experience : Jane Nelson is a businesswoman and former teacher who served two terms on the State Board of Education before her election to the Texas Senate. She represents District 12, serves as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and is the highest ranking Republican in the Senate. A strong advocate for business, Senator Nelson has been recognized for her work on health care, mental health and education, along with her record supporting victims of human trafficking, domestic abuse and sexual assault.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SenatorJaneNelson>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/senjanenelson>

Other Address: Instagram: [senjanenelson](#)

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: *What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?*

A: - no response -

Q: 2. Healthcare: *What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?*

A: - no response -

Q: 3. Local Control: *How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?*

A: - no response -

Q: 4. Immigration: *What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?*

A: - no response -

Q: 5. Gun Violence: *What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?*

A: - no response -

Q: 6. COVID-19: *What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?*

A: - no response -

Q: 7. Voting Rights: *What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?*

A: - no response -

Q: 8. Open Government: *How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?*

A: - no response -

Q: 9. Budget: *How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?*

A: - no response -

Q: 10. *Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?*

A: - no response -

Q: 11. *Public Education: What are your top priorities for public education?*

A: - no response -

Q: 12. *Standardized Testing: What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?*

A: - no response -

Q: 13. *Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?*

A: - no response -

Q: *Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)*

A: - no response -

Shadi Zitoon



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 1387 Grapevine, TX 76099

Campaign Phone: (817) 381-8171

Website: <http://www.shadizitoon.com>

Education: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering.

Experience : Quality Analyst 2010-present Contractor 2002-2010

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ShadiforTexasSenate/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ShadiZitoon>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. *Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?*

A: I graduated from UTA with a BS in Computer Science and Engineering. In my day job, I work in a local automotive manufacturing plant as a quality analyst. We produce automotive parts for all types of vehicles; I am the guy who makes sure everything runs smoothly. Any problems that come up, I troubleshoot and ensure they get sorted out. I aim to find solutions to problems in the Senate, rather than making decisions based on special interests or party loyalty. Additionally, in the spirit of teamwork, I will partner with experts in crafting evidence-based policy.

Q: 2. *Healthcare: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?*

A: It is baffling to me that we have not expanded Medicaid in this state yet. Medically, we lead the US in all the wrong categories. I think COVID has shown just how important it is to have healthcare available to everyone at an affordable price. Texas has lost out on more than \$20,000,000,000 by not taking federal money to expand Medicaid and left millions without insurance. Not to mention, the health and lives that have been lost due to the lack of medical care it would have provided. Expanding Medicaid and allowing small businesses to enroll their employees in the program would take the expense from them and allow greater economic flexibility. It shouldn't just be the big box stores and massive corporations that benefit from government bailouts. Why shouldn't we use the tools available to us as one of the highest GDP producing states in the nation to help entrepreneurs through this time?

Q: 3. *Local Control: How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?*

A: As Texans, we are generally in favor of local control, and I believe that communities should be able to govern what happens inside their boundaries. The only exceptions for that local control should be in cases where it affects the health and safety of the surrounding areas. On occasion, we have seen our state legislature betray that principle by imposing its own will on local decision making, even when it does not involve issues of community health and safety. Just recently we have seen opposition to the

decision the Austin City Council made to redirect some of the funds and responsibilities from their police to other agencies better equipped to meet their citizens needs. We should be supporting these creative local solutions to the issues they see in their community. 'Local control as long as it agrees with me or my donors' is not the way it should be. Local means local and that should not be partisan.

Q: 4. Immigration: What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?

A: We should not do the federal government's job when it comes to the border. Our police are already asked to do too much; we should not be adding to the already impossible job we ask them to do. The border is going to be an increasingly important issue over the coming years. Due to the lack of leadership in dealing with climate change, we will continue to see an increase in climate migration where families are forced to move from their homes due to a scarcity of resources caused by climate change. We have allowed a second class of citizens to be created and abused by people. We see workers get targeted and put in camps on the border, but nothing happens to the businesses who are underpaying and profiting off of these workers' compromised positions. I'm not saying that Texas can naturalize people, nor should we make it inhospitable to workers by increasing overhead, making it harder to hire employees, but we should be at the forefront of driving the discussion on immigration reform.

Q: 5. Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?

A: We need to make sure that gun purchases are not being made by those who should not have them, while protecting the privacy of those making the purchase. We can accomplish this by using a subsidized FFL to verify the backgrounds of transferees (and ensuring no state registry is kept). I also support legislation holding owners partially accountable for guns that are knowingly stolen/ lost and not reported to the police. We also need to look at the cause of gun violence in our society. Mental health is stigmatized and that stops people who need help from seeking it out. In addition, there is a lack of coverage for many people. Mental health is part of your overall health and should be covered by your health insurance. Expanding Medicaid is one way we can immediately help more than a million fellow Texans have access to healthcare.

Q: 6. COVID-19: What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

A: Every path to recovery starts with getting COVID under control. Once people can safely go out again our economy will recover. The key is ensuring that people and businesses can survive until the risk of COVID is over. All Texans need affordable healthcare. Controlling a pandemic while people can't afford to go to the doctor if they are sick or even take off work to recover is not the way to do it. We need people to be able to get the treatment they need and have the ability to stay at home to recover instead of going to work and contributing to the further spread of COVID. Our leaders have abandoned our small businesses with orders that prevent them from opening or allow opening at a capacity that is not sustainable, while also not doing anything to help with the bills that are continually due. We will also need to tap into the rainy day fund to support people. We can expand unemployment benefits to help keep our neighbors afloat and also will help support local businesses.

Q: 7. Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

A: We need to do all we can to encourage all citizens to get out and vote. We have the ability to do a lot of things to increase the vote, but there has been deliberate suppression to ensure they stay in place. Same-day voter registration, extended polling hours, giving everyone the option to vote-by-mail, removing obstacles to vote (i.e. voter ID laws), increased polling places, and making voting day a holiday are all things that are feasible and could increase voter turnout, and therefore, representation.

Q: 8. Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?

A: Our government needs to be more transparent at all times, not just during a state of emergency. Meetings should always be open to the public where practical and streamed or saved online, as well. Not everyone can take time out of their workday to follow the latest meetings by their elected official, but we should make sure it is easy for them to see the meetings that govern the state. We also need to reduce the cost of seeking public records through the Texas Open Records Act.

Q: 9. Budget: How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?

A: Our state and cities are going to be facing historic budget shortfalls. We will have to provide assistance to prevent them from having to decide what services they need to cut (leading to more unemployment). The only other way for these cities to recoup their losses is to increase taxes on people who live there and are already hurting from the economic problems caused by COVID. If the federal government does not pass a funding bill to help our cities it will fall on us to ensure those cities remain solvent. State agencies have already been told they will have a 5% budget cut across the board, but it is likely that budget shortfalls will lead to a greater deficit than that for many of our agencies. We will need to tap into the rainy day fund as well as find new avenues of funding for our state. Legalizing and taxing cannabis is one way to increase funds. This would also free up money, that is spent on the failed war on drugs, to be used on more constructive programs.

Q: 10. Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?

A: I don't support using public money for charter/ private schools. If we really want to ensure all children receive a top tier education, we need to invest in our public schools and not divert much-needed money to private entities. Charter schools can discriminate. They are not equipped to best meet the needs of today's diverse group of learners and can turn students away. We have an obligation to reach all the children that walk through the doors of our schools and ALL means ALL. Period.

Q: 11. Public Education: What are your top priorities for public education?

A: School funding must increase. Our teachers are underpaid and overworked, and far too many schools are overcrowded. Adding the new issues that have been caused by COVID, we are not positioning our teachers or our students to succeed. Several of the issues plaguing our schools can be addressed by providing proper funding. Teachers deserve pay that reflects their status as professionals and is competitive with other job markets as many teachers leave the classroom for higher-paying jobs. The best teachers are leaving the classroom because the current public K-12 funding can't compete

with cost-of-living increases while teacher salaries remain the same. Students are the main benefactors of smaller student/teacher ratios, quality, affordable, and accessible Pre-K programs, good infrastructure, exemplary mentoring, and health programs. None of these factors can be adequately addressed by current funding, let alone a decrease in funding.

Q: 12. Standardized Testing: What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?

A: High stakes testing like the STAAR test gives us limited information about what went right and wrong during the prior school year. It allows the TEA to rate our schools with an A-F rating and this one letter cannot adequately capture the learning experience or cognitive growth of students during a school year. Current high stakes testing does not allow teachers to provide differentiated instruction. We need to measure children's progress but current methods only measure a child's ability to take a test. It is better to use teacher-made (Formative) assessments. This assures testing fits the content that has actually been taught. Then advancement should be decided by a committee for each student formed by parents, teachers, and administrators. This also encourages interaction between the student, their family, and the school, and allows for forming a better curriculum that fits the child's needs.

Q: 13. Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?

A: Criminal Justice Reform: We need to reform our criminal justice industry into a system that is focused on rehabilitation and not needlessly incarcerating people for low-level offenses or the 'crime of being poor.' Cannabis legalization: We are losing out on a multibillion-dollar industry from which the tax dollars can help fund many programs to make our state better. We have already seen many blueprints from the other states that have already begun reaping the benefits, we should use the best of their models and create a system that has opportunity for all Texans. Climate change: Every few years we are having 100-year weather events. Some of the effects of climate change are already upon us. We need to work to protect our state's and our nation's environment. Part of that comes with transitioning to the future and moving away from fossil fuels as one of our primary industries. We also need an environmental watchdog with teeth.

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: <https://www.youtube.com/v/HbpDyttFKWs>

State Representative

State Representative, District 63

Description:

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 3. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Sec. 4. ELECTION AND TERM OF MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified voters for the term of two years.

Representatives shall take office following their election, on the day set by law for the convening of the Regular Session of the Legislature, and shall serve thereafter for the full term of years to which elected. (Amended Nov. 8, 1966, and Nov. 2, 1999.)

Sec. 7. QUALIFICATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES. No person shall be a Representative, unless he be a citizen of the United States, and, at the time of his election, a qualified voter of this State, and shall have been a resident of this State two years next preceding his election, the last year thereof a resident of the district for which he shall be chosen, and shall have attained the age of twenty-one years. (Amended Nov. 2, 1999.)

Map

<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/fyiwebdocs/PDF/house/dist63/m1.pdf>

Candidates (choose 1):

Tan Parker

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 271741 Flower Mound, TX 75027

Website: <http://tanparker.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/tparker63>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/tparker63>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

A: - no response -

Q: 2. Healthcare: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?

A: - no response -

Q: 3. Local Control: *How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?*
A: - no response -

Q: 4. Immigration: *What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?*
A: - no response -

Q: 5. Gun Violence: *What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?*
A: - no response -

Q: 6. COVID-19: *What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?*
A: - no response -

Q: 7. Voting Rights: *What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?*
A: - no response -

Q: 8. Open Government: *How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?*
A: - no response -

Q: 9. Budget: *How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?*
A: - no response -

Q: 10. Vouchers: *What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?*
A: - no response -

Q: 11. Public Education: *What are your top priorities for public education?*
A: - no response -

Q: 12. Standardized Testing: *What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?*
A: - no response -

Q: 13. Other Issues: *What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?*
A: - no response -

Q: Two Minute Video Option: *Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)*
A: - no response -

Leslie Peeler

Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: 2221 Justin Rd Ste 119-135 Flower Mound, TX 75028

Campaign Phone: (972) 834-9422

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/lp4tx63>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/PeelerTx>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: *What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?*
A: - no response -

Q: 2. Healthcare: *What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?*
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Q: 3. Local Control: *How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?*
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Q: 4. Immigration: *What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?*
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A: - no response -

Q: 7. Voting Rights: *What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?*
A: - no response -

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Q: 13. Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?

A: - no response -

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: - no response -

State Representative, District 64

Description:

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 3. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Sec. 4. ELECTION AND TERM OF MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified voters for the term of two years.

Representatives shall take office following their election, on the day set by law for the convening of the Regular Session of the Legislature, and shall serve thereafter for the full term of years to which elected. (Amended Nov. 8, 1966, and Nov. 2, 1999.)

Sec. 7. QUALIFICATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES. No person shall be a Representative, unless he be a citizen of the United States, and, at the time of his election, a qualified voter of this State, and shall have been a resident of this State two years next preceding his election, the last year thereof a resident of the district for which he shall be chosen, and shall have attained the age of twenty-one years. (Amended Nov. 2, 1999.)

Map

<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/fyiwebdocs/PDF/house/dist64/m1.pdf>

Candidates (choose 1):

Angela Brewer



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: 624 W University Dr #307 Denton, TX 76201

Campaign Phone: (940) 595-3449

Website: <http://angelafortexas.com/>

Education: MEd in Curriculum Design - 2014 - Concordia University; MS in Communication Studies - 2007 - University of North Texas; BAAS in Political Science - 1997 - University of North Texas; High School diploma - 1992 - Denton High School

Experience : 7 years as an adjunct professor of Communication Studies at UNT, Collin College, Dallas County Community College, Tarrant County College, and Weatherford College; 5 years teaching high school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; 2 years as the Director of Program and Adult Development with the Girl Scouts; 4 years teaching high school civics and leadership for two Washington, DC-based nonprofit organizations; 2 years working for Congressman Martin Frost in Washington, DC, and in political campaigns in TX

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/angelafortexas>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/angelafortexas>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

A: I am a Dentonite, an educator, and a mom ready to lead in the Texas Legislature. Denton is my hometown, so local values shaped me, and I want to bring those Denton County values to the statehouse. HD64 is vibrant, creative, and compassionate, and we work together and care for our neighbors. Austin needs a good dose of compassionate problem-solving and teamwork and I am ready to get the job done. We also have a deep love for education. As a former high school teacher and current adjunct professor at UNT, I know the challenges teachers face in their work and the incredible joy that comes from guiding students in their learning. And I am a mom. My family negotiates the challenges working families face—getting health coverage, helping our parents age in place with dignity, affording childcare, and generally making ends meet in a time of increasing costs and stagnant wages. Experience in the classroom and negotiating everyday family challenges will guide all of my work in the statehouse.

Q: 2. *Healthcare: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?*

A: Ensuring access to affordable healthcare is both the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. Texas must expand Medicaid to insure 1.6 million Texans, recover \$10 billion/year in federal funds, and save rural hospitals, and we must invest in county health programs. Increased access to healthcare helps new moms, allowing moms and babies to thrive in Texas instead of seeing so many moms die after giving birth. We must pass laws to end surprise billing, create mental healthcare parity, and cap the costs of prescription drugs. We are fortunate that when it comes to health care, doing what is morally right is also a sound economic choice. Working to make Texans healthier will contribute to the economic stability of our state by keeping Texans healthy and getting care to sick folks early in their illness while treatment is more affordable and effective. When we work together to keep Texans healthy, our communities are stronger, our state is better off, and our neighbors can thrive.

Q: 3. *Local Control: How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?*

A: Texas is a diverse state. A drive across our state reveals meaningful variety in environments, populations, and community traditions. Because of that, local governments should be empowered to reflect local needs in their decision making. Citizens of Denton were certain that we wanted cleaner air and water and an escape from the hazards gas wells bring when we voted to ban fracking in 2014. The legislature was dead wrong in undoing the hard work of Denton residents to ban fracking in our community and HD64 must elect a representative who will fight to make sure local needs are never overturned by the legislature again. For example, Denton City Council should be able to regulate gas well reverse setbacks for new home construction and all city councils should be able to decide how to raise revenue for city expenses.

Q: 4. *Immigration: What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?*

A: State and local governments play a fairly narrow role in immigration. All law regulating migration in the U.S. is made by the federal government, and its failure to adopt 21st century immigration laws that meet the needs of our modern economy has left many Texas industries dependent on labor from unauthorized immigrants while also making those immigrants vulnerable to discrimination and labor abuse. Instead of working to fix our broken immigration system, the federal government has focused on deporting unauthorized immigrants and has insisted that state and local governments carry the burden of identifying those to deport without providing extra funding to police and local governments to help them get the job done. Our police departments are overburdened with non-federal work and should not be required to enforce federal law without the federal government paying for their services.

Q: 5. *Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?*

A: Passing common sense gun laws and creating a culture of gun safety work hand-in-hand with responsible gun ownership. Not only are common sense laws proven to reduce gun violence and reduce the numbers of innocent victims killed or injured in that violence, but they are supported by a significant majority of Texans. The next Legislature should focus on keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have them by requiring background checks on all gun sales and allowing judges to temporarily prevent firearms access to people who have shown serious warning signs that they could be a risk to themselves or others. We must also promote responsible storage of firearms to prevent unintended shootings. When we work together to speak honestly about gun violence and the impacts it has on our families and our communities, we can find fertile ground to create policies that will make us all safer. We owe that conversation and that work to the 3,500 Texans who die from gun violence every year.

Q: 6. *COVID-19: What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?*

A: Our state's inability to adequately respond to the health and economic needs of Texans during the COVID-19 crisis revealed a broken state government. Twenty years of elected officials cutting public health budgets and ignoring the problems in state government put Texas in an impossible situation when faced with a public health crisis. When the pandemic hit, state agencies were ill-equipped to implement robust COVID-19 testing and contact tracing plans, could not meaningfully support small businesses struggling to pay their bills and employees, could not meaningfully support and supply hospitals caring for hundreds of thousands of sick Texans, and could not efficiently manage unemployment and other social safety net systems. The 87th Legislature must work to rebuild state agencies so that they can effectively serve Texans in good times and take the lead to protect Texans during disasters.

Q: 7. *Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?*

A: Protecting Texans' voting rights is a sacred obligation of the state legislature and fixing our system to ensure free and fair elections is at the top of my legislative agenda. I will fight to end gerrymandering and map manipulation and draw fair maps during the 2021 redistricting process. I will expand access to vote by mail, increase the number of Election Day polling sites, and allow for county-wide vote centers in every county on Election Day so that no Texan's voice is left out because they could not find a place to vote. I will modernize our voter registration system by adopting online and same day voter registration. I will defend election security by encouraging counties to adopt voting machines that use

paper ballots and implement systematic audits of vote totals during every election. Free and fair elections are the bedrock of democracy and we must fix our voting system immediately in order to preserve our democracy.

Q: 8. *Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?*

A: Government belongs to the people and the people should expect transparency in the proceedings, decisions, and actions of their governments at every level. During an emergency, like the COVID-19 public health emergency, access to more factual information from state and local agencies prevents citizens from making decisions with too little information. Current, factual information is critical to a fully informed response by local governments and individual citizens. I will work to ensure state and local government agencies are abiding by open meetings laws, including the proceedings of the Legislative Redistricting Board and meetings held virtually instead of in person. I will also work to ensure state and local governments and agencies are quick in their responses to Texas Public Information Act requests.

Q: 9. *Budget: How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?*

A: The budget shortfall will require creative problem solving in the 87th Legislature. The current Legislature has already cut the budget in a way that shows little creativity and a lot of shortsightedness, making cuts to education and public health programs. The next Legislature must do a better job building a budget that meets the needs of Texans and plans for the future while living within the revenue shortfall. I will defend public education and public health funding during budget negotiations. We can write a slimmed down budget that still prepares Texas for the future by pursuing maximum available federal stimulus funding, reallocating some revenue we put into savings, using Rainy Day funds, and legalizing, regulating, and taxing small amounts of marijuana. Budget cuts should focus on postponing some agency spending, like travel, hiring for non-public health or non-education positions, and capital spending, to future budget cycles if a delay does not directly impact services.

Q: 10. *Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?*

A: I oppose the use of public money for private schools and will fight any legislation to create private school vouchers. Texas public schools do a great job educating our future and private school education has negligible impact on student achievement. Much of our public schools' success comes from being held to a high standard of accountability and required responsiveness to federal, state, and local regulations. They also accept every student, no matter the student's needs and abilities, and that diversity helps build strong learning communities. Private schools do not have to meet those standards and should not be eligible for public money. Texas ranks 43rd in the US for per pupil spending and diverting public money into private school tuition leaves public schools with even less funding. Instead of subsidizing private schools with public money, the legislature should work to develop a modern school finance system that promises outstanding public education to every Texas student.

Q: 11. *Public Education: What are your top priorities for public education?*

A: Teachers should be respected as professionals. Showing respect looks like fair pay, affordable insurance, protected retirement benefits, and freedom from teaching to the test. When policy makers respect teachers, teachers succeed in creating student-centered learning spaces. We must equip students with 21st century learning tools like computers and high speed Internet. Universal Pre-K is a cost effective plan that levels the playing field and gives every child a chance to begin Kinder with the basic skills needed to succeed throughout their education. We must end high stakes STAAR testing. We must empower schools to invest in trade and technical education so that non-college bound kids leave high school with marketable skills that allow them to compete in the workforce. We must reinvest in humanities and arts programs in schools, honoring every facet of learning and helping students develop skills and passions in every field of study that interests them. We must bring back recess.

Q: 12. *Standardized Testing: What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?*

A: We must end the inflated role of high stakes standardized tests. The STAAR test does not effectively measure the quality of teaching or the success of schools. School districts should not waste money on curriculum designed to maximize test scores, teachers should not waste teaching time on test taking skills, and students should not suffer the stress these tests create. Testing should return to its useful purpose: to measure learning and allow schools and teachers to use that data to observe patterns that show what is working in the classroom and to identify areas for improvement. Test preparation should look like it did when I was a kid: the day before a state test, we were reminded to get a good night's sleep, eat breakfast, and bring pencils to class the next day. That was it. No pre-testing, drills, or practice for the test. Just an opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning and teachers and administrators to see what was working and what needed improvement.

Q: 13. *Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?*

A: The 87th Legislature must act to put the needs of working families first. I will fight for the bread and butter economic issues that will make life better for every Texan—access to quality health care and time off to care for sick loved ones and growing families, a living wage that respects a hard day's work, safe and affordable child care, excellent public schools, and safe communities. I stand with Texas women to protect and promote reproductive health care. I will fight for the 55,000 college students in HD64 by increasing funding for higher ed and helping universities support student mental health, helping students not just survive, but thrive. I will fight for social justice by closing race and gender pay gaps, protecting LGBTQI+ Texans from discrimination in the workplace, housing, and healthcare, and supporting cities' efforts to build police departments that work in partnership with the communities they serve and that work to increase officer job satisfaction and morale.

Q: *Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)*

A: - no response -

Rick Routh
Party: L

Biographical Info:

Campaign Phone: (817) 881-5616

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: *What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?*

A: - no response -

Q: 2. Healthcare: *What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?*

A: - no response -

Q: 3. Local Control: *How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?*

A: - no response -

Q: 4. Immigration: *What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?*

A: - no response -

Q: 5. Gun Violence: *What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?*

A: - no response -

Q: 6. COVID-19: *What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?*

A: - no response -

Q: 7. Voting Rights: *What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?*

A: - no response -

Q: 8. Open Government: *How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?*

A: - no response -

Q: 9. Budget: *How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?*

A: - no response -

Q: 10. Vouchers: *What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?*

A: - no response -

Q: 11. Public Education: *What are your top priorities for public education?*

A: - no response -

Q: 12. Standardized Testing: *What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?*

A: - no response -

Q: 13. Other Issues: *What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?*

A: - no response -

Q: Two Minute Video Option: *Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)*

A: - no response -

Lynn Stucky



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 464 Denton, TX 76202

Campaign Phone: (940) 458-4422

Website: <http://lynnstucky.com>

Education: Bachelors Degree, Kansas State University; Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StateRepLynnStucky/>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/RepLynnStucky>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

A: I moved to Denton, Texas, in 1983 immediately after graduating from Veterinary Medical School at Kansas State University. Since then, I started a local veterinary practice that allowed me to care for the animals of about 9,000 North Texas families and farmers. I married my wife, who I met in college, started a family and we firmly established our roots as Denton County residents. We regularly support local nonprofits helping the homeless, shelters for abused women and children, and various community advocacy groups. In 2016, I was elected to the Texas House of Representative for House District 64. Additionally, I spent 15 years (from 1997-2012) serving on the Sanger ISD School Board. In the last four years on the board, I served as the Board President leading initiatives to expand the district and improve education outcomes. In the most recent session, I served on the important Article III Subcommittee on Appropriations, which oversees the state's allocation of education funding.

Q: 2. Healthcare: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?

A: A lot of constituents tell me they want more transparency, which is why we passed SB 1264 last session to end the practice of surprise medical billing. With that transparency will come competition, which will drive prices down and bring more affordability across the market. Good nutrition is also a big part of healthy living, especially when it comes to children. I supported legislation that protects the free lunch program. Additionally, in 2019 I voted to increase funding for women's health initiatives by nearly 25%, especially for new mothers and children. Among those initiatives are more postpartum care for new mothers, money to fund transportation to medical providers for women and children, and directing the state's health agencies to develop long-term funding programs for newborn blood screenings, hospital-to-home maternity care, coordination services for at-risk pregnant women, and a telehealth system to deliver prenatal and postpartum care.

Q: 3. Local Control: How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?

A: It's all about communication between myself, the Texans I represent, and the local governments, agencies, and businesses. That's why I participate in regular discussions with the education leaders in HD64, including teachers and parents, city councils, the County Commissioners Court and anyone else who has an opinion on how our state should be run. I also think it has to be managed similarly to how we propose state constitutions. Lawmakers present a general idea and get a consensus among education experts from the statewide level, down to individual superintendents and campus administrators. It's quite common for districts or cities to share similar problems, which is where statewide law helps provide a blanket fix. Fortunately, our statutes are flexible enough for us to provide those solutions on the microlevel so we don't offset another district or city's statutory authority.

Q: 4. Immigration: What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?

A: The biggest crime with immigration is human trafficking. It is estimated that there are nearly 40 million slaves currently around the world. Sadly, many of them are children sold into sex. It's important for State and Local officials to provide resources to the community, like funding programs that help teachers recognize the signs of a child who is being targeted or exploited for human trafficking. They also need to work with federal officials to provide appropriate measures of public safety and security for communities throughout the state.

Q: 5. Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?

A: Education. Mental Health services. Better community resources to provide outreach for potential abuse victims. There are many aspects of gun violence that can be addressed by simply educating both children and adults about responsible ownership and safe handling. Last session, I supported bills that made mental health services a priority by increasing funding and developing new community-based programs. We should also do more to reduce the burden on local police departments, county jails and hospitals. These agencies and the individuals who work there have become revolving doors for many Texans with mental health disorders and few local resources to end the cycle.

Q: 6. COVID-19: What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

A: I believe the state should serve three key functions in a hybrid statewide-national response to a pandemic like this: 1) Provide as much information to keep the public as safe and healthy as possible; 2) ensure the availability of personal protective equipment to medical providers, emergency response crews, first responders, and the general public; 3) make sure testing is accessible and equitable for all citizens who could not reasonably prepare for a pandemic response on this level.

Q: 7. Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

A: I believe Texas has one of the most expansive voting systems in the country, with citizen input and engagement directly at the local level. Texas has one of the longest Early Voting periods, which has been expanded this cycle to afford voters more time to visit the polls when crowds are smaller. I also will continue to inform my constituents about key deadlines, voter registration updates, and relevant links to Denton County resources on voting.

Q: 8. Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?

A: Open Records are a function of the Texas Attorney General's office, which oversees opinions and guidance for state agencies releasing the information requested by the public. In the next session, I will consider legislation that increases transparency of executive orders, especially with regard to the allocation of taxpayer dollars. Other policy considerations include shortening the time period to respond and provide documents while ensuring the proper protection of vital information contained in sensitive documents.

Q: 9. Budget: How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?

A: If families across Texas are having to tighten their belts, then so will the Texas Legislature. The Governor has already called for all agencies to look at a 5% reduction in operational funding. The

budget-writing process is ongoing and will be clearer once the Comptroller Provides his Biennial Revenue Estimate at the start of the session in January. Two areas of the budget that I do not support cutting are public education and women's health care.

Q: 10. Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?

A: I am opposed to any form of vouchers. The proposals I have seen all are vulnerable to fraud and abuse, which will not protect or benefit Texas students.

Q: 11. Public Education: What are your top priorities for public education?

A: Fully funding public education Eliminating the STAAR Test Easing pathways to skilled-training and higher education

Q: 12. Standardized Testing: What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?

A: Standardized tests should be reduced or completely eliminated in order to provide an education that prepares Texas students for the real world and the tools to compete in a modern economy.

Q: 13. Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?

A: I'm still just a local guy who has lived in Denton County for nearly 40 years, which is why my focus will be on the issues that my constituents are talking about around their kitchen tables. This means more transparency in medical billing, securing our border to crack down on human trafficking, and improving health care for women. It also means regular conversations between now and when session starts so we can begin crafting the policies that improve the future for all Texans.

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: - no response -

State Representative, District 65

Description:

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 3. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Sec. 4. ELECTION AND TERM OF MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified voters for the term of two years.

Representatives shall take office following their election, on the day set by law for the convening of the Regular Session of the Legislature, and shall serve thereafter for the full term of years to which elected. (Amended Nov. 8, 1966, and Nov. 2, 1999.)

Sec. 7. QUALIFICATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES. No person shall be a Representative, unless he be a citizen of the United States, and, at the time of his election, a qualified voter of this State, and shall have been a resident of this State two years next preceding his election, the last year thereof a resident of the district for which he shall be chosen, and shall have attained the age of twenty-one years. (Amended Nov. 2, 1999.)

Map

<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/fyiwebdocs/PDF/house/dist65/m1.pdf>

Candidates (choose 1):

Michelle Beckley



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: 3740 N Josey Ln Ste 150 Carrollton, TX 75007

Campaign Phone: (469) 346-5741

Website: <http://michellebeckley.com>

Education: Primary Education CFB ISD kindergarten - high school. BS Biomedical Science Texas A&M University

Experience : I have lived in the district most of my life as well as going to school here & running my business here. I worked closely with both county & local officials during the 2019 legislative session to make sure that my voting reflected the needs of the district. I strongly defend local control and believe the state representative should work with others when possible.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MichelleBeckleyTexas/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/ForHD65>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

A: I have lived in the district most of my 50 years running a small business that allows me to talk with the people of this district on a daily basis. During the 86th legislative session, I worked both sides of the aisle to get work done for the people of this district and Texas. Running a retail business is very much like running the offices for this public office. Serving the people of the district means staying engaged and my offices have accomplished this both during session and in the district. I located my district office in the heart of the district to provide easy access to its residents.

Q: 2. Healthcare: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?

A: Texas is currently experiencing a healthcare crisis. We have the highest number of uninsured in the nation, and millions more are under-insured due to excessively high premiums. Many hospitals in rural areas are being closed, leaving even more Texans vulnerable. We must work to ensure that everyone has access to affordable, high-quality health care, and nobody should go bankrupt because they get sick. Texas has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the developed world. This means our mothers are dying during childbirth. We have also failed Texans with disabilities by underfunding access to specialized care and its providers. This is why Texas must immediately take the Medicaid Expansion.

Q: 3. Local Control: How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?

A: I 100% support local control on local issues. We have elections regularly that allow the voters to decide if our local elected officials are doing the jobs we elected them to do. I believe the over reach our current state government has been proposing needs to stop.

Q: 4. Immigration: What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?

A: Texans need to change their mindset from the border is a challenge to its a vast economic opportunity. With the current retreat from Chinese goods due to Covid19, Texas has the potential to be a trade power house with Mexico which benefits both countries. To fully take advantage of it along the i35 corridor we would need to improve our inland ports to decrease wait times for goods traveling throughout the United States. Complete immigration reform policies fall to the Federal Government which the United States clearly needs to address. Babies in cages and family separations are completely unacceptable and a barbaric policy by the current administration.

Q: 5. Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?

A: I proudly stand with the 97% of American who support universal background checks on all gun sales. Universal background checks will keeps guns out of the hands of people with a dangerous history, including felons and domestic abusers. Since 1994, over 3 million gun sales have been denied at licensed firearms dealers to felons, domestic abusers and other prohibited purchasers, keeping those guns out of the hand of people who pose a danger to our community. Preventing gun violence isn't just about preventing school shootings, it is about protecting women. In states with universal background checks, there are 47% fewer women shot to death by their partner! It is time in Texas we respected gun rights while protecting our communities.

Q: 6. COVID-19: What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

A: Statewide Texas should implement safety standards that are enforceable and easy to follow to gain the consumers confidence. I have spoken with retail & restaurant associations who are making programs for their industries. Texas should fully support such endeavors. With the current backlog of the DSHS reporting of the Covid testing and the mass data dumps, it's impossible to set any metrics. I cannot stress enough how we must get this basic infrastructure up to date and able to handle situations for the current population and future growth of Texas.

Q: 7. Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

A: All Texans should have the option to request to vote by mail. The current restrictions on voting by mail are arbitrary and serve only to disenfranchise voters. The right to vote is the most fundamental right of every citizen in a democratic society. We need to allow any government issued ID as acceptable for voting verification. If we are going to insist on requiring specific IDs to vote, we need to make the process of obtaining them inexpensive and easy. The current system of having Supercenters where you can obtain your ID is not working. Expecting people to take days off work and wait in line for hours is not acceptable. Voter registration needs to be simplified and Texas should adopt online and automatic registration.

Q: 8. Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?

A: - no response -

Q: 9. Budget: How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?

A: Comptroller Glen Hegar recently project a \$4.5 billion shortfall of our current state budget. The reality is Texas will need the rainy day fund to make up our current shortfall. Depending on how the

economy fares we are going to have some very tough questions about our next state budget. At this time, it is too early to know where Texas is going to need the funds the most or how much we will need. I have been in contact with legislators on Appropriations and am very aware and preparing for this very real problem we will have in the 87th session.

Q: 10. Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?

A: Vouchers take money out of public schools and give it to private schools. This only harms the students that remain at the public school.

Q: 11. Public Education: What are your top priorities for public education?

A: Public schools must be fully-funded to achieve the goal of providing children with the tools they need to succeed. We worked in the 86th session to improve the calculations of funding schools, but not all districts benefit from the new funding and we need to improve what was done.

Q: 12. Standardized Testing: What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?

A: - no response -

Q: 13. Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?

A: Education is the foundation of a strong economy, by providing the knowledge and skills needed to meet the ever-changing requirements of the global workforce. Every child should have access to a high-quality education and the opportunity to achieve the American dream. Public schools must be fully-funded to achieve the goal of providing children with the tools they need to succeed. We must never allow school voucher systems, which have failed time and again, to siphon funds into the coffers of for-profit businesses at our expense. It's past time for the state of Texas to fully legalize medical and recreational use and sales of Cannabis. The failed war on drugs is costing taxpayers millions of dollars annually. Texans are footing the bill for the large private prison system in our state. Instead we could use the tax revenues of cannabis sales to invest in our public schools and infrastructure.

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: - no response -

Kronda Thimesch



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 118978 Carrollton, TX 75011

Campaign Phone: (972) 538-1728

Website: <http://krondafortexas.com>

Education: Bachelors of Landscape Architecture from Texas Tech University

Experience : With 30 years as a local business owner, I understand the importance of jobs, economic opportunity, and a strong economy. Throughout 5 years as a Lewisville ISD School Board Trustee, I've worked to ensure that our students obtain the best education possible. My experience in serving our community includes charitable & civic organizations, including Rotary, Communities in Schools, LISD Education Foundation, and Chambers. My endorsements of almost 400 community leaders reflect those experiences.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KrondaForTexas/>

Twitter: <http://KrondaForTexas>

Other Address: Instagram: Kronda For Texas

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

A: For the 5 years of my time in elected office as a school board trustee, and my 30+ years as a business owner and volunteer in this community, I have established a reputation for integrity, honesty, collaboration, and mutual respect. I believe one can lead with both character and grace, it does not have to be either/or. As an entrepreneur and employer, I understand the importance of job creation,

economic opportunity, and a strong economy. I have earned state certification as a Master Trustee, and have worked diligently to ensure that our students obtain the best education possible. I have a proven ability to work with people from all backgrounds in bi-partisan manner. My experience in serving our community includes working with countless charitable, civic and education groups, because I understand that our non-profits, local chamber groups, and social services organizations are doing crucial work to keep our community strong and successful (a full list is available at my website).

Q: 2. Healthcare: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?

A: * As a business owner, I know the rising cost of healthcare and know how these spiraling expenses erode family budgets. We must continue to explore innovative solutions to lower healthcare costs which do not interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. Texans should have additional options when purchasing medical insurance of their choice, such as being able to purchase across state lines, but this may require action at the federal level. * TX legislation preventing "Surprise Medical Billing" was an important step in preventing excessive medical charges without the patient's knowledge; I support those changes and we should continue to explore further efficiencies of this kind. * I support the Healthy TX Women Plan, which provides resources for the health needs of low-income women such as exams, treatments & screening. * I support allowing TX public school districts to opt out of TRS-Care in order to pursue competitive alternatives to provide healthcare for our teachers.

Q: 3. Local Control: How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?

A: Elected officials "closest" to the people often have the biggest impact on the day-to-day lives of the constituents they serve. Local elected officials are often more accessible, as they live nearest to their constituents. Less government oversight and local control are important to allow our communities flourish. That goal must be balanced with the needs of the state as a whole, where state leadership has enabled Texas to become the 10th largest economy in the world. After five years as a local elected official, and having spent many days within that service in collaborating with and speaking to our county, state and federal representatives, I believe I am eminently suited to help maintain a balance between the rights of local government and the needs of the state as a whole.

Q: 4. Immigration: What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?

A: I believe that it is important not to blur jurisdictional responsibilities, which is a slippery slope to eradicating local control. Texans are best served when local, state and federal officials and authorities all stay in their correct lane. State and local governments should not have the responsibility and cost for enforcement of laws they don't make; in the same way that no government should have the right to force the spending of public dollars from taxes they don't levy. I support enforcement of all laws, but I believe that all jurisdictions must retain the responsibility for enforcement over only those laws they have the authority to make. I support state and local law enforcement fully collaborating with their counterparts at the federal level, and would support multi-jurisdictional task forces if the need was determined, whether to enforce immigration law, human trafficking violations, interstate commerce matters, or any other issue that affects multiple communities negatively.

Q: 5. Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?

A: As a former school board trustee and a mom who has parented four kids through our local public schools, ensuring the safety of our children and citizens has always been a priority. We must make it a priority to address mental health as a community, and provide the appropriate resources to entities which serve those who may be at risk of committing self-harm or violence against others. Quite often, this will mean providing additional resources to counselors and police officers in schools, as it is often young offenders who first demonstrate the warning signs that will lead later to violent incidents with tragic casualties. We should vigorously prosecute those who violate our gun laws, while respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens who practice responsible gun ownership.

Q: 6. COVID-19: What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

A: implementing and enforcing safe social distancing behavior, and we should be adopting those best practices across industries and workplaces for the benefit of all in our community. Americans know that we must take responsibility for our own actions. People want to get back to work, and the sooner we can minimize COVID by adhering to social distancing and other recommended safe practices the sooner we can get back to work and resume our normal lives. Regarding our school districts: parents deserve to know that their children are going to be safe on campus, as do the educators in the classrooms. If the Texas Education Agency intends to mandate how a public school district must respond to COVID-19, with regard to face-to-face instruction, then TEA should be earmarking funds to aid ISDs in fulfilling those mandates. If an ISD is going to be held responsible for outcomes, they must be given the authority and funding to make the decisions needed to effect those outcomes.

Q: 7. Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

A: It is important that we maintain the integrity of our election process with accountability and access. Governor Abbott has extended early voting, giving voters 3 weeks to early voting at any polling location in Denton County. Early voting locations in Denton County have been doubled, and Election Day sites have gone from just over 90 sites on Election Day in 2018 to over 150 in 2020. With new polling sites across the county, early voting is encouraged to avoid lines on Election Day. Mail-in ballots are available to those who are 65 or older, the disabled, or those who are out of the county during early voting or election day. It is important that all entities with a role in election integrity (including candidates) are making efforts to educate voters as to the changes in scheduled, location, and identification policies, so that voters can enjoy full participation in the election process in a safe manner.

Q: 8. Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?

A: At the start of the pandemic I was on the school board and dealt with this very issue, so I know first-hand how essential it is to pivot quickly and effectively during a state of emergency. Government entities have done their best in transitioning to new methods of meeting during recent state of emergencies. For example, during Hurricane Harvey, there were cities and local governments without

electricity and Wi-Fi access; in some cases, entire buildings were destroyed, resulting in more serious challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic created new obstacles for government agencies such as city councils and school districts who had to implement new procedures in order to meet virtually in a secure online environment. There were also issues in access to technology and Wi-Fi that allows everyone to be on the same secure platform. The expectation should be transparency in meetings, with the first and highest priority being the health and safety of the public during an emergency.

Q: 9. Budget: How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?

A: As a business owner who employs members of our community, I have experience in making tough decisions during economic downturns. In fact, in the early years when we were building our business, my husband and I went without compensation to ensure that our employees and their families would continue to be paid. I have a great deal of concern regarding the budget deficit as projected by State Comptroller Glenn Hegar. To prevent long-range effects that would impair the success of future generations, we must reduce unnecessary government spending to ensure that taxpayer resources are spent responsibly. Our State's Constitution mandates a balanced budget, and it is our duty to uphold this guideline for the benefit of our Texas residents. The Governor has asked all state agencies to look for places they can trim 5% for the upcoming budget cycle, and I look forward to seeing how and where the Legislature can support this fat-trimming while not reducing crucial state services.

Q: 10. Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?

A: I fully support school choice, and in fact Jeff and I chose to homeschool our children for a time. As a steward of public funds though, and as a supporter of the separation between church and state, I don't support funding for private and homeschool education in the form of tax dollars, especially when redirected from public education. Government funding to private schools and homeschool (at some point) would then include government oversight, which I would not support.

Q: 11. Public Education: What are your top priorities for public education?

A: I am dedicated to preserving the American Dream for future generations because of my own story -- and the American Dream is founded on a quality public education. My grandmother grew up in northern New Mexico on a dirt floor and didn't finish high school. Yet I, her granddaughter and her great-grandchildren, were able to graduate from public school and go on to successful endeavors. These are the opportunities that should be available to all Texas children through the "fair and reasonable" public education that is granted to them by our state Constitution. Current funding formulas do not allow for funding to be distributed equitably or fairly. These formulas are outdated, and need to be overhauled so we can more accurately pinpoint the funding that our schools need. With improved funding formulas, we can provide better resources for our teachers and our students. Our goal must always be to ensure that all of our students receive a quality education.

Q: 12. Standardized Testing: What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?

A: During my tenure as a school board trustee, I spent hours talking with superintendents and teachers who agree that measuring students' learning outcomes is important, but we must make some adjustments to ensure real success. In order to ensure a more accurate and well-rounded measure of a student's success and progress, we need to implement a measuring process that balances testing with other sources of student work. Additionally, we need to give teachers the opportunity to learn from the tests so they can pivot and address any issues rather than waiting for results after the class has already ended. Texas Education Agency is post-equating without measuring the true success of our student's performance. Measuring a student's true success should be the goal -- not a business opportunity for those making the tests.

Q: 13. Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?

A: As a business owner who has spent time during the pandemic reaching out to other local business owners and their employees, I've found that the biggest challenge for our community members is that they've been hindered by the economic downturn of the pandemic. Business owners are struggling to pay their employees, and pay their own rent. Employees are getting laid off, and new graduates are having a difficult time finding employment. This doesn't only have economic impacts though, as financial stress can oftentimes lead to depression and severe anxiety. This is an issue that needs to be met with immediate action, and the first step in this process is to reduce cumbersome and unnecessary barriers and regulations that hurt businesses and their employees.

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: <https://www.youtube.com/v/3zmsTtUVa08>

State Representative, District 106

Description:

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 3. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Sec. 4. ELECTION AND TERM OF MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be chosen by the qualified voters for the term of two years. Representatives shall take office following their election, on the day set by law for the convening of the Regular Session of the Legislature, and shall serve thereafter for the full term of years to which elected. (Amended Nov. 8, 1966, and Nov. 2, 1999.)

Sec. 7. QUALIFICATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVES. No person shall be a Representative, unless he be a citizen of the United States, and, at the time of his election, a qualified voter of this State, and shall have been a resident of this State two years next preceding his election, the last year thereof a resident of the district for which he shall be chosen, and shall have attained the age of twenty-one years. (Amended Nov. 2, 1999.)

Map

<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/fyiwebdocs/PDF/house/dist106/m1.pdf>

Candidates (choose 1):

Jared Patterson

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 5419 Frisco, TX 75035

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jpattersonx>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/JaredLPatterson>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: *What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?*

A: - no response -

Q: 2. Healthcare: *What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?*

A: - no response -

Q: 3. Local Control: *How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?*

A: - no response -

Q: 4. Immigration: *What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?*

A: - no response -

Q: 5. Gun Violence: *What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?*

A: - no response -

Q: 6. COVID-19: *What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?*

A: - no response -

Q: 7. Voting Rights: *What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?*

A: - no response -

Q: 8. Open Government: *How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?*

A: - no response -

Q: 9. Budget: *How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?*

A: - no response -

Q: 10. Vouchers: *What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?*

A: - no response -

Q: 11. Public Education: *What are your top priorities for public education?*

A: - no response -

Q: 12. Standardized Testing: *What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?*

A: - no response -

Q: 13. Other Issues: *What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?*

A: - no response -

Q: Two Minute Video Option: *Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)*

A: - no response -

Jennifer Skidonenko



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 2144 Roanoke, TX 76262

Campaign Phone: (214) 883-3437

Website: <http://skidonenkofortx.com/>

Education: I graduated high school in 1996, in NC. After moving back to Florida, I attended community college, but was unable to complete due to financial reasons.

Experience : Over ten years in property management for Community Associations in FL & TX Started Moms Demand Action group of Denton County, then DFW Regional Lead Organizer for Beto for Senate campaign

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SkidonenkoForTX>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/SkidonenkoForTX>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Background: What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?

A: While working in the industry of Community Association management, I learned that they function like small cities, with the responsibility to balance a budget, enforce rules & regulations, maintain common grounds, resolve conflicts, etc. It was an opportunity to learn how to work with so many different people that I will always carry with me in everything I do. It taught me that one size does not fit all, and that just listening and being flexible is almost always the best start to resolving an issue. Outside of my professional life, I have been a single mom, which has given me the life experience and perspective that too few lawmakers have now. Since then, I've married, and decided to be a stay at home mom with our youngest who was born with a cleft lip & palate, and has already had 2 surgeries. Since then, I started the Denton Co Moms Demand Action group, and was the DFW Regional lead until I decided to run. Additionally, I was a volunteer organizer for Beto O'Rourke in 2018.

Q: 2. Healthcare: What state legislation, if any, is needed to increase the availability of affordable healthcare for Texas residents?

A: We need to expand Medicaid. We can no longer put this off for whatever ridiculous reason the Texas GOP keeps using. Expanding Medicaid would extend coverage to 1.4 million uninsured Texans under the age of 65. This would reduce the maternal mortality rate, reduce the number of Texans filing bankruptcy over medical bills, aid in opening (or re-opening) medical clinics and hospitals in rural communities, and provide mental healthcare, which, by the way, would also reduce the suicide rate and curb gun violence. Currently, new moms on Medicaid lose their coverage 60 days after giving birth. We need to extend coverage to one full year, to continue providing coverage for follow ups and examinations should any complications arise as a result of the pregnancy. Our maternal mortality rate would drop, and probably very significantly.

Q: 3. Local Control: How would you balance the interest of the state versus the rights of local communities to self govern?

A: Local communities should have the freedom to create local ordinances that create a better, safer life for all of its residents, even if it exceeds the standards of the state. However, ordinances that discriminate, or violate state or federal law, shouldn't be passed. Many cities have higher standards for building codes than the state of Texas does, but my opponent voted to take that away in the last session, because that's what he was told to do by special interests. I prefer to speak directly to the leaders of the cities I will represent and take their advice into account.

Q: 4. Immigration: What role should the state and local governments have in enforcing federal immigration policy?

A: - no response -

Q: 5. Gun Violence: What are your recommendations to curb gun violence in our state?

A: Gun violence is more than mass shootings that make the nightly news. It's domestic violence, suicide, road rage, impulsive shootings, unintentional shootings - when a toddler finds a gun and shoots themselves or someone else. Gun violence is a public health crisis that must be handled as such, and with various solutions, but there's one main problem that's unique to the United States: easy access to guns. Universal background checks on all gun sales, including private sales, especially at gun shows, will reduce a lot of gun violence. Additionally, Extreme Risk Protection Orders (Red Flag Laws), will

allow a family and/or law enforcement to petition a judge for temporary removal of guns from someone who may be a danger to themselves or others. Red Flag laws will not effect the vast majority of law abiding gun owners. They have been proven to prevent shootings, including mass shootings, and suicides.

Q: 6. COVID-19: What actions do you believe are needed at the state level to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

A: - no response -

Q: 7. Voting Rights: What actions, if any, would you take to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to safe and fair elections?

A: - no response -

Q: 8. Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?

A: - no response -

Q: 9. Budget: How will you address the state budget deficit caused by COVID-19?

A: - no response -

Q: 10. Vouchers: What is your position on using public funds for school vouchers for private schools and why?

A: - no response -

Q: 11. Public Education: What are your top priorities for public education?

A: - no response -

Q: 12. Standardized Testing: What role should state standardized testing play in the public school system?

A: - no response -

Q: 13. Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas legislature, and what are your positions on these issues?

A: We need to raise the minimum wage, \$7.25 is a joke. Most small businesses already pay well above minimum wage, it's the large corporations like Walmart, big chain fast food restaurants, retail, etc., with billion dollar profits, that are taking advantage of our low min wage, while the rest of us pay for it in other ways, because their workers still have to use government assistance programs to eat and pay rent. Care for the elderly is abysmal in Texas. I've heard some horrifying details about the neglect and mistreatment of patients in these facilities. The state's response time to complaints is far too long, in most cases an entire year. This is unacceptable and a cruel way to treat our most vulnerable. We need more case workers, and stronger oversight on the facilities that are run by for-profit companies.

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: - no response -

District Judge

Denton County District Judge, 431st Judicial District

Description:

<https://www.txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts/trial-courts/>

Presidential Year

Candidates (choose 1):

Jim Johnson



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 50748 Denton, TX 76206

Campaign Phone: (940) 435-9806

Website: <http://justiceplace.com>

Education: J.D., Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (now Texas A&M), summa cum laude (top 1%). B.A., Economics, The University of Texas at Austin, with highest honors (top 1%). B.B.A., Accounting and Business Honors Program, The University of Texas at Austin, with highest honors (top 1%). Diploma, Everman High School (Valedictorian). Member, Texas Bar College.

Experience : Law Offices of James S. Johnson (12 years covering Business, Family, and Criminal Law). Texas A&M Law School, Adjunct Professor of Law (11 years). CitiFinancial Japan, Inc. (3 years as Chief Executive Officer). Associates International Corporation (7 years as Finance Officer). EY Ernst & Young (9 years as Auditor). Texas-licensed CPA since 1985.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jim.johnson.923>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/justice1place>

Other Address: Home: 6805 Beckworth Lane, Plano, Denton County, Texas, 75024

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. What are the pros and cons of your jurisdiction's docket system? Explain how this system does or does not help move cases quickly through the courts thus easing the burden of overcrowded dockets in the trial courts.

A: The 431st District Court's docket covers all of Denton County with general jurisdiction over all types of cases: criminal felonies (mostly crimes of bodily assault, up to murder cases such as last year's death penalty trial that lasted most of September 2019), personal injuries, medical malpractice, divorce, CPS/custody, plus complex business cases (including fraud, civil conspiracy, deceptive trade practices, breach of contract, trade secrets, insurance code, securities act violations, and property tax foreclosures). Pros of a general jurisdiction docket are that it can help prevent special interest groups over one particular area of law from having undue influence on the Court. Cons are that qualified candidates for this broad knowledge court are fewer. To effectively reduce overcrowded dockets, this court needs to be managed by an attorney with comprehensive legal knowledge (not limited to a narrow specialization) plus proven experience in executive management.

Q: 2. What tools are available to you to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism? How will you use them?

A: First of all, I want to be clear: I will not legislate from the bench and I believe people should be held personally responsible for their actions. Our legislature enacts laws and my job as Judge is to uphold the rule of law. Within Denton County, our lawmakers have provided several specialty courts with one of their objectives being reduced rates of incarceration and recidivism. I will work to ensure that individuals who qualify for those special programs, such as veterans suffering from combat-related disabilities, or individuals qualifying for drug treatment programs, or persons needing mental health care, are each directed to the appropriate and available specialty courts.

Q: 3. Do you believe any changes in the current election process are needed to improve or maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? Please explain.

A: No. The rules in place that govern judicial ethics, when followed as they should be by all qualified candidates, provide proper assurance of impartiality. Rather than enacting new regulations, it's more important to focus on electing the right persons: individuals characterized by intelligence, integrity, and intensity to do the job right.

Q: 4. Discuss the effect of campaign fundraising on judicial independence.

A: I comply with the voluntary expenditure limits of the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act (JCFA), which levels the playing field among candidates' spending. In addition, the JCFA sets a contribution limit of \$2,500 from any one individual plus limits contributions from law firms or PACs. The regulations as enacted help provide reasonable assurance that campaign fundraising will not adversely impact judicial independence, but the primary control is having candidates with a proven career record of independence, fairness, and objectivity such as mine.

Q: 5. Explain any virtue of The Missouri Plan (originally the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan, the merit plan or some variation) versus the way Texas currently selects most of the judiciary.

A: I support public election of Judges as done by Texas. In contrast, the Missouri Plan removes election power from the people and places it in the hands of a small committee often dominated by liberal academicians and state bar representatives. The Wall Street Journal reports that the Missouri Plan has moved its judiciary left and that it "is doing no favor to fairness" by making judicial selections "behind closed doors." I do not support the Missouri Plan. I believe that the public in Texas is better able to hold their judges accountable to know the law and to uphold the law by requiring vetting through general public elections. In addition, I believe that the public is entitled to learn each candidate's judicial philosophy as revealed (through ethical guidelines and impartial independence) by public elections.

Q: 6. How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing their client?

A: Both the U.S. Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals have long held that the criminally accused have a constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel. Although, in the role as a judge/umpire, there is a presumption that each attorney is undertaking a legal course of action benefitting their client, the judge must ensure fairness when an attorney is performing deficiently in a way that prejudices the client. Accordingly, in a criminal case, I'd consider requiring or appointing advisory counsel to join the case if needed for a constitutionally valid trial. Also, whenever a defendant makes a substantial complaint about effectiveness of counsel, I would conduct a hearing and make findings on whether a change of counsel should be made.

Q: 7. Explain why you would make a fair and impartial judge.

A: I've prepared my whole life for this important job. I have business, family, and criminal trial experience (I've handled cases involving murder and other violent felonies, misdemeanors, divorce, child custody, and complex business trials). I am a CPA and former chief executive officer of a

multibillion dollar business and have served 11 consecutive years as a professor at Texas A&M law school. I graduated valedictorian of Everman High School then went to UT Austin where I finished in the top 1% of my class with a triple-major in economics, accounting, and business in the University of Texas Business Honors Program. I attended law school at Texas Wesleyan (now Texas A&M) where I also graduated in the top 1% of my class. I'm ready, and I ask that you vote for me, Jim Johnson for Judge.

Diana Weitzel



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: PO Box 701708 4475 Trinity Mills Rd Dallas, TX 75287

Campaign Phone: (214) 597-8298

Website: <http://www.dianafordenton.com>

Education: Bachelor of Science - Indiana State University; Masters of Business Administration - Texas Christian University; Juris Doctor - Texas Wesleyan University School of Law

Experience : Over 30 years experience as an attorney and business executive well versed in civil, family, criminal, and animal law with a record of high client satisfaction. Skilled litigator and certified mediator with superior skills in achieving objectives, strategy, legal research and writing.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DianaforJudge>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. What are the pros and cons of your jurisdiction's docket system? Explain how this system does or does not help move cases quickly through the courts thus easing the burden of overcrowded dockets in the trial courts.

A: The Texas Courts greatest challenge is to move cases through the courts. Texas has implemented the e-filing systems, expedited trial rules, and implemented Access to Justice Programs. Also Texas has added additional courts to improve the burden of overcrowded dockets at the trial courts.

Q: 2. What tools are available to you to reduce the rates of incarceration and recidivism? How will you use them?

A: The District Court I am seeking is a general jurisdiction court but primarily hears family law cases and civil cases however I am a strong proponent of drug offense diversion court that offer court monitored rehabilitative services as an alternative to incarceration, a method that is proven to cost less while simultaneously improving the chance of repeat offenses.

Q: 3. Do you believe any changes in the current election process are needed to improve or maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? Please explain.

A: I believe election of judges is very important to maintain accountability and allow the local community to decide the makeup of the justice system. The Texas Ethics Commission provides strong rules to limit the undue influence of donors, and every judge make take an oath of integrity to follow the law.

Q: 4. Discuss the effect of campaign fundraising on judicial independence.

A: I believe election of judges is very important to maintain accountability and allow the local community to decide the makeup of the justice system. The Texas Ethics Commission provides strong rules to limit the undue influence of donors, and every judge make take an oath of integrity to follow the law.

Q: 5. Explain any virtue of The Missouri Plan (originally the Missouri Nonpartisan Court Plan, the merit plan or some variation) versus the way Texas currently selects most of the judiciary.

A: Regarding The Missouri Plan, I do not believe a central committee selection process, even if nominally non-partisan would provide enough accountability for judges or give local communities enough input into the selection of judges. The Missouri process puts the process in the control of the elite and is still open to political maneuvering. Retention elections almost never lead to the removal of judges. I would prefer to maintain our current direct elections and perhaps study the underlying qualifications required to run. The Missouri system has also had a negative impact on the diversity of jurists.

Q: 6. How would you handle a situation where an attorney appearing before your court is inadequately representing their client?

A: As a court, judges serve the public interest to apply rules and standards that protect the public and fair to all people in our judicial system. The courts should remain impartial and apply the law equally and neutrally to all parties and litigants

Q: 7. Explain why you would make a fair and impartial judge.

A: I have over 30 years experience as an attorney and business executive well versed in civil, family, criminal, and animal law with a record of high client satisfaction. I am a skilled litigator and certified mediator with superior skills in achieving objectives, strategy, legal research and writing. I would apply the laws of the State of Texas to protect the litigants and conduct myself with the utmost professionalism at all times. I possess the appropriate temperament and character, capabilities and credentials, independent and impartial, and the confidence of the public.

Sheriff

Denton County Sheriff

Description:

<https://www.county.org/About-Texas-Counties/%E2%80%8BAbout-Texas-County-Officials/%E2%80%8BTexas-County-Sheriff>

Candidates (choose 1):

Tracy Murphree

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Tracy-Murphree-for-Sheriff-1814351868789149>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/SheriffMurphree>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Please explain your plan for deportation of undocumented persons?

A: - no response -

Q: 2. What are your proposals for enhancing collaboration among the Sheriff's Office, City and Town Councils, the County Commissioners, and the community?

A: - no response -

Q: 3. Please explain how you think the Sheriff's Office can contribute to improving race relations.

A: - no response -

Q: 4. Many mentally ill persons are in jail instead of treatment. How do you propose to remedy this situation?

A: - no response -

Q: 5. What issues within your County need the most attention? What solutions will you pursue?

A: - no response -

Freya Odinsdottir (Write-in)



Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: 4705 Merchant Trail Denton, TX 76207

Website: <http://www.freyjaforall.com>

Education: B.A. Yoga and TaichiQuan- Naropa University Currently studying for M.S. in Exercise Physiology at Texas Woman's university

Experience : 2007-2011 United States Marine Corps infantry, 2015-2019 Corrections supervisor, special operations response team, Denton County Sheriff's Office

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/freyjaforall>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/freyjaforall>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. Please explain your plan for deportation of undocumented persons?

A: The Sheriff's office has no jurisdiction over deportation. However, it is the Sheriff's office's cooperation with ICE that causes separation from families. Denton County Sheriff's Office under my leadership will not cooperate with ICE, except in the instances of violent offenders, who make up a minority of those being held for ICE. An ICE detainer restricts individuals from posting bail, or receiving a Personal Recognizance bond, and from appearing for court dates and hearings. It forces taxpayers to pay more money to hold individuals longer than their sentences mandate. I have no interest in my office doing the federal government's dirty work.

Q: 2. What are your proposals for enhancing collaboration among the Sheriff's Office, City and Town Councils, the County Commissioners, and the community?

A: I recognize and acknowledge that many of the things I hope to accomplish will require my officers to work in tandem and cohesion with local legislators. Additionally, I want to be able to best serve the people of Denton County. I have a firm conviction that sitting down in together, listening to what all sides of a discussion want, and coming to an agreement where everyone is moving in the direction of their goals, is the best way to do that. I want to know from city and town legislators what they want from me in the fulfillment of my duty, how they think that I can best fill my role as a public servant. I want to talk to the leaders within the communities of Denton County, particularly those of marginalized groups, but also of the majority, to find out what the people want. I want to be able to bridge those needs and wants with those presented by the legislators, so that I and those under me are not only serving the will of the government, but the will of the people.

Q: 3. Please explain how you think the Sheriff's Office can contribute to improving race relations.

A: 3. I think law enforcement's biggest problem is that not enough attention is paid to inclusion and tolerance. That must be a primary focus of hiring and training. There are too many people in the Sheriff's office who think protecting themselves and their subordinates from accountability is how business is done. I want those people out. I want full transparency with the public. I want everyone from bottom to top held accountable for their actions. I want my actions under a microscope, and theirs, too. And if people find me or a member of my staff failing somehow, I need to know who, where, and how to fix it. There's a deputy I respect deeply. When people were wearing safety pins to show that they were a safe space for oppressed and marginalized people, he said, "No, thank you; I pin mine on every day." I think that's noble. But I think it's more important that every officer and deputy feel like that, and that the people we serve feel that the Office of the Sheriff is a safe space.

Q: 4. Many mentally ill persons are in jail instead of treatment. How do you propose to remedy this situation?

A: 4. A lot of people who are incarcerated for mental-health related incidents can't be sent to treatment because there are not enough treatment beds available. The Office of the Sheriff must constantly work with the county officials and county commissioners. I am prepared to ask them for this kind of help. Those mental health services available to inmates are woefully inadequate. Deputies simply need to have better training. Perhaps one option is to reach out to facilities out of the county that might have more space. I think, ultimately, the most basic, fundamental answer is that we need to increase training for detention officers, and also increase the level of mental health care that is provided within the jail. The Sheriff's Office may not have the budget for additional people or programs. We must open a discussion with county commissioners and appeal for help. If we can't place the mentally ill in proper care, we can do a better job of caring for them while they are in our custody.

Q: 5. What issues within your County need the most attention? What solutions will you pursue?

A: The most pressing issues are unnecessary arrests and lack of oversight and accountability within the sheriff's office. I want to create an oversight committee made up of individuals from the public, ideally representing groups who most often experience inappropriate behavior from officers. I have a zero-tolerance policy for bad behavior. I want to increase the number of cameras for monitoring activities and personnel at DCSO, specifically in break rooms and supervisor offices. I will work with legislators to end prosecution of victimless crimes. This will reduce both the number of arrests and the financial burden on the county. Reducing arrests also has the benefit of reducing police brutality. If officers are trained to rely on resolving situations with calmness, compassion, and respect, we can avoid the problems around resisting arrest. Often, solutions are dependent upon budgets and money. I am ready to propose innovative ways to manage a budget to help provide these solutions.

County Commissioner

Denton County Commissioner, Precinct 1

Description:

<https://www.county.org/About-Texas-Counties/%E2%80%8BAbout-Texas-County-Officials/%E2%80%8BTexas-County-Commissioner>

Maps

https://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Commish_1.pdf

Candidates (choose 1):

Sandy Swan



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: 111 E University Dr Ste 105-166 Denton, TX 76209

Website: <http://www.sandy4denton.com>

Education: Masters of Public Health, Masters of Library Science, Bachelors of Science Health Sciences

Experience : Wide range of experience including project management, budgeting and effective allocation of resources, strategic planning, data analysis, grant writing, organizational communication, staff hiring and supervision, community outreach, records management, in fields of health care, education, and community based organizations. Experience with election procedures.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Sandy4Denton>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. How would you use the County's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

A: Each development project should be thoughtfully evaluated with consideration given as to how it fits into the overall community as a whole. The needs of our residents should be taken into account when reviewing projects. The Commissioners should give greater opportunity for community input into the permitting and planning processes, including notification of project consideration by the Denton County Development Support Committee and by the Commissioners itself so that the public has adequate notification and can provide comments. The county has several tools to manage development such as transportation planning, platting decisions, tax rates and tax abatement policies, our Greenbelt Plan, and floodplain management authority to balance interests. The county should also strengthen its work with our cities and the Council of Governments to ensure the promotion of an overall vision for the region.

Q: 2. Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.

A: Denton County should be a leader in encouraging our municipalities, businesses, education, community organizations, and our neighboring counties to work together to insure that services are operated efficiently and effectively. I would meet with county departments and seek their input about their needs and where they might see better effectiveness and efficiency. I would look at increasing our grant funding and the possibility of a dedicated staff member to write grants. Countywide discussions with a wide range of representatives from all parts of our communities should regularly meet on a variety of issues to ensure that services are provided efficiently and effectively. The County should conduct an annual review of County services and how they fit with other services provided in our communities.

Q: 3. What actions, if any, should be taken regarding Confederate monuments in Denton County?

A: Additional community discussion needs to take place so the viewpoints of a wider range of residents are heard with additional ideas considered. The County Commissioners should take the lead to engage in more community conversations about these monuments, their history, purpose, and their future.

Q: 4. What do you perceive to be the most important countywide issues and how would you address them?

A: Measures to combat COVID are currently of paramount importance. I would promote more public education about COVID as well as other public health issues and advocate for more widespread access to testing. All levels of government were underprepared for this pandemic. I would work for greater coordination between all levels of government and community based organizations to prepare

for and respond to this and other disasters. Another issue is our county's rapid growth. Denton County was designated a "Boomtown" by Smart Asset. We are projected to reach 3 million people in 30 years. While growth has benefits, all systems are impacted including infrastructure, education, housing, health care, and social services. Traffic is awful and housing prices have soared with 43% of households cost burdened. The County must act proactively with our cities, the State, businesses, education, and community organizations along with increasing involvement of our residents to address these effects.

Q: 5. Denton County is projected to grow over 350% in the next 30 years. How would you plan to ensure our community is developed in a way to prepare for growth?

A: Denton County must take a comprehensive and future oriented approach to managing our rapid growth. The Dallas Morning News recently noted that our region's current rate of growth is reaching its limits. Community input is critical to developing our County in a way that meets a wide range of needs. The County should provide more opportunities for greater community involvement in planning decisions. To manage growth effectively, the County must also continue working in conjunction with other governmental entities, businesses, education, and community organizations and make full use of a wide range of tools such as budging, tax rates, transportation planning, platting decisions, tax abatement policies, our Greenbelt Plan, and floodplain management authority.

Q: 6. COVID-19: What actions can the county take to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

A: The weekly reports from the Public Health department are very helpful to decision making in response to the pandemic. I would also meet directly with the Public Health Department to better understand our current levels of infection and public health response. I would advocate for more widespread and easier access to testing. I would promote more education about COVID and other health issues. All levels of government were underprepared for this pandemic. I would work for greater coordination between all levels of government and community organizations to prepare for and respond to this and other disasters. I would meet with small businesses to determine their needs and solicit ideas for how the Commissioners can help. I would encourage more partnerships between our colleges and universities and businesses to address health and economic impacts related to COVID and other disasters. I would look for ways to encourage greater local production of PPE.

Q: 7. Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?

A: I would work at continuing our virtual meetings during this emergency. Several people have mentioned to me that it is currently difficult to make public comments at the Commissioners meetings and I would work with technology services and the public to find ways to make it easier for the public to comment. I would increase publicity about the meetings of the Commissioners as well meetings of the County boards, committees, and commissions. I would look at accessibility of electronic records of meetings and ways of making this information easier to find.

Q: 8. Budget: How will you address any budget deficit caused by COVID-19?

A: If there is a budget deficit, I would advocate a reduction in the Commissioners' salaries and allowances and personally forego any salary or allowances. I would meet with county departments and seek their input about their needs and where they might see better effectiveness and efficiency. I would look at increasing our grant funding and the possibility of a dedicated staff member to write grants.

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: https://www.youtube.com/v/_pzL1gJiv870

Ryan Williams

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/RyanWilliamsforDenton>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. How would you use the County's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

A: - no response -

Q: 2. Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.

A: - no response -

Q: 3. What actions, if any, should be taken regarding Confederate monuments in Denton County?

A: - no response -

Q: 4. What do you perceive to be the most important countywide issues and how would you address them?

A: - no response -

Q: 5. Denton County is projected to grow over 350% in the next 30 years. How would you plan to ensure our community is developed in a way to prepare for growth?

A: - no response -

Q: 6. COVID-19: What actions can the county take to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

A: - no response -

Q: 7. Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?

A: - no response -

Q: 8. Budget: How will you address any budget deficit caused by COVID-19?

A: - no response -

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: - no response -

Denton County Commissioner, Precinct 3

Description:

<https://www.county.org/About-Texas-Counties/%E2%80%8BAbout-Texas-County-Officials/%E2%80%8BTexas-County-Commissioner>

Maps

https://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Commish_3.pdf

<https://dentoncounty.com/-/media/Departments/Technology-Services/PDFs/Commissioner-Precincts.pdf?la=en>

Candidates (choose 1):

Bobbie Mitchell

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: P. O Box 292534 Lewisville , T x 75067

Campaign Phone: (214) 770-8440

Website: <http://votecommissionermitchell.com>

Education: 42 hours of college and over 320 hours of training for this job as well as training with GTE and the City of Lewisville

Experience : 20 years as County Commissioner 10 years on the Lewisville City Council(7 as Mayor) 20 yrs at GTE in various management positions.

Facebook: <http://BobbiejMitchell3@gmail.com>

Twitter: <http://Bobbiemitchell2019@gmail.com>

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. How would you use the County's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?

A: • Texas Local Government Code 232, details the County's authority to regulate development. I will continue to work with our Planning and Engineering to insure all development applications are reviewed to insure they conform to the County's regulations. I will also work with our municipalities and neighboring counties to find a solution that is beneficial to all that is affected.

Q: 2. Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.

A: • 2. Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain • We continue to look for ways to consolidate services but we have to be sensitive to our smaller and rural areas so that they are not disenfranchised. When we opened the New Precinct Government Center and added a County Office, the City of Lewisville transferred their records to Denton County so we would not have overlapping services. 911 services is consolidated so member cities throughout the County can use this service for their emergencies calls.

Q: 3. What actions, if any, should be taken regarding Confederate monuments in Denton County?

A: This statue was removed earlier this year.

Q: 4. What do you perceive to be the most important countywide issues and how would you address them?

A: • Mental Health is one of our largest challenges at this time since it impacts so many other family issues such as crime rates, social services, homelessness, etc. Denton County and the United Way are working together to address these issues through committees that include all areas of the County to address the needs of mental health issues. The Community Health Improvement Plan by Denton County Public Health addresses goals through 2020 to help residents receive treatment for mental health disorders. In a high growth area such as Denton County, Human Trafficking, Affordable Housing/Homelessness continues to be issues. All these issues requires partnerships with other elected officials and our regional partners that are also experiencing these problems. We have to combine our resources and work together for the best plan for all of Denton County and the Region. Transportation continues t

Q: 5. Denton County is projected to grow over 350% in the next 30 years. How would you plan to ensure our community is developed in a way to prepare for growth?

A: • Growing counties of healthy and successful metropolitan area are constantly challenged to accommodate emerging growth in economic and development activity. We continue to collaborate with our partners, TXDOT, our municipalities, NCTCOG, NTTA, Upper Trinity Water District to develop policies that provide for regional and countywide conveyance of traffic and development to assess the needs and work to develop strategic plans to ensure we address all needs in a methodical manner.. As Counties continue to grow they are faced with homeless populations, affordable housing and mental health issues. We partner with our cities/town, the United Way and our nonprofit agencies to provide the services that are needed.

Q: 6. COVID-19: What actions can the county take to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

A: • From the beginning of COVID-19 we contracted with United Way to implement a CARE portal that addresses housing issues, utilities issue, food issues and money for our nonprofit to continue to serve citizens that need service. We've provided \$35.1 million dollars in small business grants, \$2.5 million to

our nonprofits, which includes \$1.4 million for food, \$2 million to ensure our citizens have plenty fruit and vegetables, \$2 plus million for an eviction prevention program.\$30 million to implement Operation Connecting Lives Program for our Mental Health citizens who are housed in Long Term Facilities who have not had regular service since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic . •

Q: 7. *Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?*

A: We are governed by the Texas Open Meeting Act and we will continue to abide by it along with the Disaster Act declared by the Governor. •

Q: 8. *Budget: How will you address any budget deficit caused by COVID-19?*

A: • We have already completed our Budget and at this time have not experienced any budget deficit. Denton County continues to live within our means while providing quality service to our citizens with the lowest tax rate since 1986. As we do every year, if this happens, we would continue to evaluate all services that are being provided to see if there are areas that need to be trimmed.

Q: *Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)*

A: - no response -

Delia Parker-Mims



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Mailing Address: 1079 W Roundgrove Rd., Ste. 300-214 Lewisville, TX 75067

Campaign Phone: (469) 464-9427

Website: <http://votedeliaparkermims.com>

Education: Bachelor of Arts Economics, Southern Methodist University; Bachelor of Arts Journalism, Southern Methodist University; Doctor of Jurisprudence, SMU School of Law

Experience : As an attorney, Delia Parker-Mims has spent more than two decades in Denton County's corner. A specialist in family and juvenile law, Delia has dedicated her life to working on behalf of those who need it most. Now, she wants to take the lessons she's learned from her career and bring them to the county level. Delia knows that meeting our community's needs requires passion, professionalism, and a proactive approach to problem-solving.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/deliaparkermims/>

Twitter: http://twitter.com/delia_mims

Other Address: Instagram

Filing: <http://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

Questions:

Q: 1. *How would you use the County's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests?*

A: Businesses receiving county support through tax incentives should be required to do more than undergo scrutiny from Development Services, Fire Marshal, and Environmental Services. I would like the County to implement a new requirement for potential businesses — that of paying their employees a living wage. If new businesses' employees don't earn enough, those employees may need assistance from County services and that situation means that those cost are transferred primarily to homeowners. Another aspect to balance competing interest is developing a tax abatement process that protects the viability of existing small businesses and does not unfairly burden homeowners with the cost of development. (<https://votedeliaparkermims.com/blog/tax-abatements>) Additionally, I believe that the County's environmental health regulations should be strengthened since the County's air quality is rated among the worst in the state.

Q: 2. *Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain.*

A: As a lawyer, trained in economics, I relish the idea of digging into all the details of Denton County's budget and discovering exactly where services provided by governmental entities can be consolidated. I suspect that it may be possible to consolidate the Public Health, the Indigent Health, and the Health

Care Relief Funds for more efficiency and therefore, greater effectiveness and reduced cost for the citizens of Denton County.

Q: 3. What actions, if any, should be taken regarding Confederate monuments in Denton County?

A: All Confederate monuments in Denton County should be removed from County property as they pay homage to slavery, an illegal institution that was abolished in 1863 in the United States and in Texas in 1865. I travel to other counties representing clients. When I travel to counties where the confederate statue or other symbols of the confederacy are flown in the halls of justice or on public grounds, I am immediately filled with fear. I believe I am unsafe and wonder if my client will receive justice. That is what those symbols mean to me, and I am a southerner. Those symbols represent sedition and should not be on public grounds. A better location would be in museums where discussions can take place about their meaning to different individuals and families. If we are to move forward, we cannot continue to fight about institutions and symbols of the past that are only divisive.

Q: 4. What do you perceive to be the most important countywide issues and how would you address them?

A: Lack of access to voting is an issue. In Precinct 3 we have "voting deserts". The voting locations continually change. This results in people being confused as to where they can vote on Election Day. Establishing Voting Centers in Denton County would enable all residents to vote at any location on election day, just as they do during early voting. Lack of health care for the uninsured or underinsured is another issue. The County has the most restrictive qualifying standards for Indigent Health Care. This results in 90% of residents who are indigent not qualifying for indigent health care. Part of the indigent health care is providing immunizations. With COVID, immunizations are going to become more important and access to these services. I would expand the eligibility requirements for access to the Indigent Health Care program.

Q: 5. Denton County is projected to grow over 350% in the next 30 years. How would you plan to ensure our community is developed in a way to prepare for growth?

A: Leaders need to be smart and responsive by being proactive, engaging and forward thinking. I would advocate the development of a green economic growth plan. A well-developed plan would map out how we attract business, methods we use to promote the sustainability of existing small businesses, our abatement process, the healthcare and impact on the environment. Developing a long-range economic growth plan will create a vision for the future, document those plans, and adopt a plan of action allowing planned movement. It will also bring a layer of transparency to the operations of the County. Instead of reacting to circumstances, we would be proactive. One aspect I would include is developing a well thought out abatement process. The abatement process impacts county revenues, existing small businesses and the burden transferred to homeowners. All of which are important as we develop and prepare for continued growth. (<https://votedeliaparkermims.com/blog/tax-abatements>)

Q: 6. COVID-19: What actions can the county take to address the health and economic impact caused by COVID-19?

A: Actions Denton County can take to address health and economic impact of COVID are 1) to use all means to enforce the mask mandate, 2) increase eligibility standards for Indigent Health Care, 3) use federal funds to provide free masks and 4) work with the community to help minimize the impact on families. COVID-19 will have a comprehensive impact not only on health but an economic impact. To lessen economic impact, the County can reduce the extreme restrictive eligibility standards for indigent health care. Part of the health care is providing immunizations. Currently more than 90% of indigent county residents do not qualify for indigent health care. Further, providing free masks reduces non-compliance. I have personally provided free masks to residents in Precinct 3 and have found that every single person I offered a mask to accepted. Finally, the County can ensure that the federal funds allocated to families economically impacted from this crisis actually reaches those families.

Q: 7. Open Government: How will you ensure government transparency (open records, open meetings) is maintained during a state of emergency?

A: I would support the availability of both open records and open meetings to ensure government transparency. Unfortunately, sometimes decisions affecting the County are made behind closed doors. I would raise my voice in support of open meetings so citizens could hear how decisions are made and by whom. Also, I would advocate that any records of those decisions should always be easily accessible to citizens, but especially so during this state of emergency COVID-19 caused.

Q: 8. Budget: How will you address any budget deficit caused by COVID-19?

A: Budget deficits could be addressed by finding services which could be consolidated and thereby increasing economies of scale in efficiencies. Additionally, more funds could be realized by decreasing the number, size, or length of property tax abatements for new businesses and corporations. (<https://votedeliaparkermims.com/blog/tax-abatements>)

Q: Two Minute Video Option: Comment on the recent civil rights demonstrations. (Video cannot be more than two minutes. If the video is not hosted on YouTube include the full URL to the video in the Text Response box. Do not include any other comments in the Text Response box.)

A: <https://www.youtube.com/v/TTaaDnpWIWE>

Precinct

Denton County Elections

Description:

The current election is the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 - Uniform Election Date

Last Day to Register to Vote - Monday, October 5, 2020

[First Day of Early Voting - Tuesday, October 13, 2020](#)

Last Day of Early Voting - Friday, October 30, 2020

Municipal Runoff Election – December 8, 2020 ** if needed**

[Voting and the Coronavirus](#) from LWV TX

Where available LWV Denton links the application for a place on the ballot for each candidate for city/town councils and school boards. Some jurisdictions do not post this information. Some jurisdictions redact content of the form, such as an email address.

Limited candidate information for county, district and state elections is at the Texas Secretary of State using search criteria: <https://candidate.texas-election.com/Elections/getQualifiedCandidatesInfo.do>

The only way the League invites candidates to answer questions is through an email invitation. No email, no invitation. The League encourages voters to examine applications for a place on the ballot for other methods of contacting candidates. The League further encourages voters to contact the jurisdiction asking the jurisdiction to better comply with [HB 305 \(2019\)](#).

Texas' even year November ballot is determined by a nomination process either by election or convention. In 2020 the Democratic and Republican parties were required to nominate by election. The election day was March 3, 2020. The Green and Libertarian parties may nominate by convention. The convention day was March 10, 2020. Voters may participate in only one party's nomination process.

[Introductory Note Concerning Conventions of Parties Holding Primary Elections](#)

VOTETEXAS.GOV

[Texas Secretary of State Elections Division](#)



LWV Texas: [Find Your County Election Website!](#)

LWV Texas: [Election Information](#)

League of Women Voters of Denton

<http://www.lwvdenton.org/>

Upcoming Elections:

May 2, 2020 - Local Political Jurisdictions (cities, towns, school districts, special districts) Postponed until November 3, 2020

Saturday, May 2, 2020 - Uniform Election Date (Limited)

POSTPONED UNTIL NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Denton County Notices:

[Notice of Voting Order Priority](#) PDF

[Notice of Elections – Postponed May 2nd Elections](#)

[Candidates Unopposed Declared Elected – May 2, 2020 Elections](#)

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 - Uniform Election Date

Last Day to Register to Vote - Monday, October 5, 2020

[First Day of Early Voting - Tuesday, October 13, 2020](#)

Last Day of Early Voting - Friday, October 30, 2020

Active Contest List: https://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/1120_Verity_Active_Contest_v5.pdf

Early Voting Locations: https://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/1120_EV_Locations_final.pdf

Election Day Locations: https://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/1120_Unconsolidated_ED_Locations_final.pdf

Municipal Runoff Election – December 8, 2020 ** if needed**

Candidates (choose 1):

Denton County Elections



Biographical Info:

Election Date and Type: 2020 November General Election – November 3, 2020

Early Voting Begins: First Day of Early Voting - Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Early Voting Ends: Last Day of Early Voting - Friday, October 30, 2020

Map: <http://www.votedenton.com/voting-precincts-maps/>

Active Contest List: http://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/1120_Verity_Active_Contest_v5.pdf

Denton County Elections: <http://www.votedenton.com/upcoming-election-information/>

Denton County Voter Lookup: <http://www.votedenton.com/voter-lookup/#VoterEligibilitySearch>

Denton County Precinct Lookup by Address: <http://www.votedenton.com/precinct-lookup-by-address/#Search>

Early Voting Locations: http://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/1120_EV_Locations_final.pdf

Election Day Polling Locations: http://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/1120_Unconsolidated_ED_Locations_final.pdf

Texas Voter Lookup: <http://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>

Questions: