

# 2026 Voters Guide

Early Voting: February 17 – 27

Election Day: March 3

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE SAN ANTONIO AREA

PRIMARY ELECTIONS

★ 2026 ★

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

A Guide to help voters make informed choices  
in the Primary Elections

The League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area is a strictly nonpartisan organization.

The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

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## LETTER TO VOTERS

Thank you for opening the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area’s Voters Guide. LWVSA is proud to carry on the tradition of providing non-partisan election information to the community.

Primaries are very important elections for many reasons. First, almost every level of government has races on the ballot. For example, on the federal level, voters will be selecting the candidates for the general election held in November for such critical elected positions as U.S. Senator and Representative. On the state level, the parties’ candidate for Governor will be decided, among other positions, including Texas House and Senate members and statewide officials. And, on the local level, the primary ballot will include District Attorney, judges and County Judge. Voting in this election gives you an opportunity to help select the elected officials who will be making decisions about issues that you care deeply about, such as health care, education and public safety.

Additionally, primary elections are important because in many races those who vote in the primary are choosing the candidate that will ultimately win in November because the race is non-competitive.

To make democracy work for everyone, everyone eligible needs to vote. Please share this guide with others and remember that all the information contained in this guide and more is available at [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

Make voting a habit!



Jill Torbert

President of the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

## VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Vice President of Voter Services** – Glenda Wolin

**Committee Members** – Barbara Baruch, Kim Cauthorn, Maria Cabaniss, Sharon Charlip, Sela Chavez, Christine Chemell, Bill Dobbs, Mary Escobedo, Audrey Fisher, Nicole Hardin, Mary Kubany, Stephanie Meyer, Molly Neck, Jan Olsen, Claire Oxley, Ruth Peterson, Teresa Rendon, Toni Romero, Diane Sapphire, Kate Solis, David Sharon, Meredith Sterling, Harry Thomas, Ann Winer, Rebecca Yost

## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Voters Guide is put together by the League of Women Voters, a strictly nonpartisan organization, to fulfill its longstanding commitment to promote an active and informed electorate. The League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. This public service effort is designed to provide voters with the information they need to help them make informed choices about races and issues in the March 3, 2026 election.

To ensure that voters are aware of their voting rights at the polls and are empowered, this Guide also includes the Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights. It lists 15 voters’ rights in simple language and includes voter identification requirements, provisional balloting, the complaint process to address grievances and much more.



### SAVE THIS GUIDE

Keep this guide until the May 26, 2026 runoffs (early voting is May 18-22). We do not publish a separate Voters Guide for the runoffs. Our [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) online guide will be adjusted to show only candidates in runoffs.

## HOW THE LEAGUE GATHERED THE DATA

In compiling information for this Voters Guide, the League of Women Voters sent questionnaires to all candidates in contested races. To follow up when necessary, candidates were contacted by email or phone.

The League formulated all questions asked of the candidates. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates were given a limit to the amount they could write. The software prevents the candidate from going beyond the limit. All candidates were informed of this process.

## ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots all-volunteer organization that promotes the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is strictly nonpartisan and does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters has its roots in the national suffrage movement. Since its inception in 1920, the League has continued to encourage political responsibility, help build inclusive democracy and remove barriers to voting. It operates at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues in all 50 states.

## ALSO ON THE BALLOT

Elections for the parties' county chair and your precinct chair, as well as non-binding propositions, are also on the ballot. Because these races are not government positions, we do not include them in our Voters Guide. Contact the relevant Bexar County party for more information. Bexar County Democratic party: 210-504-0507, Bexar County Republican party: 210-824-9445.

## VOTING INFORMATION

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Primary election

- **Last day to register to vote:** February 2 (postmarked) in order to vote in the March 3 election.
- **Last day to apply for a Ballot by Mail:** February 20 (received by the Bexar County Elections Department).
- **Early Voting:** February 17-27. Polling places and hours are on the back page of this Guide.

#### Runoff election

- **Last day to register to vote:** April 27
- **Last day to apply for a Ballot by Mail:** May 15 (received by the Bexar County Elections Department).
- **Early Voting:** May 18-22

### MAKE A PLAN

Make a list of your choices on paper ahead of time and take it with you to speed the voting process. You must turn off your phone at the polling place and cannot use your phone there.

Plan for when and where you will vote.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- More voting information is on our website, [lwusa.org](http://lwusa.org). For other questions, call us at 210-657-2206.

- Candidate responses submitted after the print deadline can be found at [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org), the League's online resource for upcoming elections. Enter your address to get your customized ballot, compare the candidates and mark your choices. Print out your list and bring it to the polls.

### VOTE CENTERS

- Voters registered in Bexar County can cast their ballots at any open voting site in the county on Election Day, as in early voting.
- Early voting locations will also be open on Election Day, along with other locations. Early voting sites and times are on the back page of this Voters Guide. Election Day polling sites will be listed on the Bexar Elections Department website, [elections.bexar.org](http://elections.bexar.org), after early voting ends, and in the Express-News right before Election Day.
- When you enter the polling place and reach the front of the line, hand your required identification to the poll worker at the check-in station. You will be asked to point to either the Republican or the Democratic sign there so you will get the correct ballot. A poll worker will direct you to a voting machine. If you need assistance, you can ask the poll worker at any time.
- Make sure you follow the instructions to finalize your vote and deposit your ballot card in the tabulator. Once you have done that, you may leave. (See instructions under Voting Machines below).
- If you make a mistake on your ballot, you can return it to a poll worker and ask for a new one.

## SHOWING IDENTIFICATION

- All voters must show identification before voting.
- The preferred method is to show one of the seven acceptable forms of photo identification. They are listed on the second page of the Texas Voters' Bill of Rights inside this Voters Guide. If you possess an ID but did not bring it and you cannot return to the polls with it before the end of Election Day, you can vote a provisional ballot. You will have six days to go in person to the Elections Department and present an acceptable form of photo identification to the county voter registrar.
- If you do not possess one of the acceptable IDs and cannot reasonably obtain one, you can fill out a Reasonable Impediment Declaration explaining why and show a document from the secondary identification list, which is also on the second page of the Texas Voters' Bill of Rights.

## SELECTING YOUR BALLOT

The March 3, 2026 election is actually two separate primary elections with separate ballots – the Democratic primary and the Republican primary. You will be given the opportunity to select only one of the two ballots. You need not have an affiliation with the party whose ballot you select. The winners of the primaries from each party face off in November, along with third-party and independent candidates. For races in which no candidate receives a majority of the votes, runoffs for each party will be held on May 26, 2026. You may vote only in the runoff of the party in which you voted in the March election.

## VOTING MACHINES

### HOW TO USE THE MACHINES

- Feed the card given to you by the poll worker into the machine. The machine, which lets you select English or Spanish, will display your ballot. Make your selections.
- If the machine detects no activity, such as clicking a button, for 5 minutes, it will time out. If this happens, you will have to start over. Nothing you have selected on the ballot is saved. Call over a poll worker to get you started again. You can prevent the timeout by selecting and then unselecting a candidate, or by hitting Next and then Back.
- Once you have made all your choices and reviewed them, press the “print” button. The card will be ejected most of the way. When it stops, pull it out.
- Check your card carefully to make sure what is printed is what you selected. If it is not, let a poll worker know immediately so you can get a new ballot.
- Take the card to the tabulator, which looks like a large bin with a laptop computer on top.
- Feed the card into the marked slot. This is VERY IMPORTANT – you have not voted until that is done. Once the tabulator has registered your vote, the card drops into the locked bin underneath.

### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- You can use the screen as it is, make the type larger or adjust the contrast for comfortable viewing.
- You can select a ballot in English or Spanish and switch between English and Spanish at any time.
- You can always ask a poll worker for help.

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

- **Go to the front of the line:** Voters with disabilities are allowed by law to go directly to the front of the line. The voter and their assistant, if needed, will be directed to a voting machine as soon as one is available.
- **Curbside voting:** Voters with disabilities may also choose to have an election judge bring a voting machine to their car. Each polling place is required by law to designate a parking space for curbside voting. The space will be clearly marked with a sign that indicates that the space is reserved for that purpose and will display a phone number that the voter may call or text to request that a poll worker bring the voting machine. You can also ask someone nearby to alert a poll worker.
- **Audio and Braille enabled machines:** Every polling place will have at least one voting machine that can provide an audio ballot and Braille touchpad for visually impaired voters. When checking in, ask the poll worker to direct you to an appropriate voting machine, and ask for headphones.
- **American Sign Language translation:** All polling sites have the ability to connect with DeafLink ASL interpreters.
- **Assistance:** A person who is physically unable to mark the ballot or read it may ask for assistance from anyone who is not the voter’s employer, an agent of the voter’s employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs. The assistant must take the Oath of Assistance. Two poll workers can also assist.

## LANGUAGES

Ballots on the voting machine are available in English and Spanish. People who are not proficient in either language may select as an interpreter anyone who is not the voter’s employer, an agent of the voter’s employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs. The interpreter must take the Oath of Assistance and the Oath of Interpreter.

## PROVISIONAL BALLOTING

In most circumstances, anyone who comes to a polling site to vote and does not appear to meet the requirements – because of lack of identification, not being on the rolls or any other circumstance – can vote a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot is sealed in an envelope with a signed affidavit by the voter swearing that they are eligible to vote. After the election, a panel reviews each provisional ballot and rules on whether it should be counted. Each provisional voter is notified of the final status.

If you cast a provisional ballot because of lack of identification, you must present in person one of the acceptable forms of photo identification or one of the supporting documents to the county voter registrar’s office within six calendar days after Election Day. The list of acceptable and supporting documents is on the second page of the Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights in this guide.

More information about your voting rights is in the Texas Voters’ Bill of Rights.

## VOTING BY MAIL

In Texas, you can request a mail-in ballot if you are:

- Going to be away from your county during early voting and on Election Day
- Sick or disabled
- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Confined in jail, but eligible to vote
- Expect to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day.

### HOW TO APPLY FOR A MAIL-IN BALLOT

To request a mail-in ballot you must mail or hand carry a hard copy of your Application for a Ballot by Mail (ABBM) to the Bexar County Elections Department so it is received no later than February 20, 2026.

You may download the application at [bitly.com/mailball](https://bitly.com/mailball), request one from the Bexar County Elections Department at 210-335-8683 or go in person to the Elections Department. You may fill out the downloaded application online but you must print a hard copy to submit, and it must be signed by hand.

You must provide either your driver’s license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number on both your ballot application and your ballot envelope. It is recommended that you include both numbers.

If you are disabled or are 65 or older, you can choose to get an annual ballot, which lets you receive ballots for every election in the year, by checking “annual application” on the form. Voters applying for other reasons must select the elections for which they want a mail ballot.

All voters who meet the requirements to vote by mail must apply every year, beginning January 1 of that year.

## HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR MAIL-IN BALLOT

Once you have received your ballot, you must complete it, seal it in the white envelope and then seal that in the self-addressed carrier envelope. Sign the envelope as instructed – that signature will be compared with your signature on your application for the ballot and possibly with any known signature on file with the Elections Department. Mail the ballot back as soon as possible. If your ballot is one page, one stamp is sufficient. If it is two pages, it may take two stamps. It must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day March 3, 2026, or by 5 p.m. March 4 if the carrier envelope is postmarked locally by 7 p.m. on March 3.

## TRACKING YOUR BALLOT

Track your mail ballot application and your completed mail ballot on the Secretary of State website at <http://bit.ly/4qX2oau>



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The consolidation of 200 of Postal Service regional processing centers into just 60 might cause mail ballots to be postmarked a day or more after mailing. Mailed Texas ballots must be postmarked by Election Day (Tuesday, March 3, 2026) and received by the next day to be counted, so it's important to get your ballot mailed well before the deadline. An alternative is to take it to a local post office and ask them to hand-stamp it.

## RESOURCES

### Bexar County Elections Department

1103 S. Frio  
 San Antonio, TX 78207  
 Walk-In Open: 8 AM – 5 PM  
 Phone: 210-335-8683  
 Website: [bexar.org/elections](http://bexar.org/elections), or Google “Bexar elections”

### Texas Elections Department

Website: [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov)

## ACCESS MORE INFORMATION

On our website, [lvusa.org](http://lvusa.org) – click on Voter Information/Voters Guide and Voter Education to see these brochures:

- **Local Elections Affect You:** the importance of voting in the primary elections
- **How to Pick a Candidate:** recognize possible biases and question accuracy of the source of information.
- **How to Register and Vote When You Are in College:** voting options available to college students in Bexar County
- **Ways to Participate in the Election Process:** engaging students and the community at large
- **VOTE411 – A Digital Voters Guide:** Step-by-step instructions for using the online guide, shows only races that will be on the user’s ballot, and lets user select candidates and print the list to use when voting

## REPUBLICAN PARTY CANDIDATES

### U.S. SENATOR

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

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Economy:** What specific policies would you support to address the growing wealth gap between the highest and lowest earners, and what do you see as the appropriate role of the federal government in this issue?
- **Immigration:** What policy changes would you propose to make the U.S. immigration system more effective and humane?
- **Balance of Power:** The Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government. As a Senator, what specific actions would you take to preserve the system so that the federal government can serve the people?
- **Healthcare:** What role should the federal government play in promoting a healthy American population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Americans?

**Gulrez ‘Gus’ Khan**

Website: [gkhanforsenate.com](http://gkhanforsenate.com)



- **Qualifications:** Healthcare entrepreneur, author, former pro athlete, philanthropist. Fighting for Texas—reviving 25 closed rural hospitals, economy, secure borders, term limits, Energy Dominance, Election Integrity.
- **Economy:** I support pro-growth policies: fair reciprocal tariffs, American manufacturing incentives, and deregulation to create jobs and lift wages. The federal government’s role is to protect free markets, ensure opportunity, and remove barriers, not punish success, so all Texans—especially low – and middle-income families—can prosper.
- **Immigration:** I support secure borders, strong enforcement of immigration laws, and ending chain migration abuses. At the same time, we should streamline legal immigration for skilled workers and families, improve processing efficiency, and ensure the system is fair, orderly, and humane—protecting Texans while rewarding those who follow the rules.
- **Balance of Power:** I will fight to uphold the Constitution, support term limits, and hold the executive and judiciary accountable to the law. I will oppose federal overreach, ensure Congress enacts laws that serve the people—not bureaucrats—and restore power to states, communities, and citizens while protecting individual freedoms.
- **Healthcare:** The federal government should remove barriers, reduce bureaucracy, and empower patients and providers, not control care. I will expand access to primary care, home based and palliative care, and revive the 25 rural Texas hospitals closed

in the last 20 years, ensuring affordable, accessible healthcare while letting Texans make their own decisions.

**Did not respond:** Ken Paxton, Anna Bender, John Cornyn, Wesley Hunt, Virgil John Bierschwale, John O. Adefope, Sara Canady

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE**

2-year term. Writing bills and resolutions, offering amendments and serving on committees. Answer directly to the relatively small group of people they represent as opposed to senators, who represent an entire state and have 6-year terms.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Priorities:** What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?
- **Healthcare:** What do you see is the best way to provide access to affordable health care for Americans?
- **Balance of Power:** What do you see as Congress' role in maintaining the checks and balances among the three branches of government?
- **Immigration:** What immigration reform legislation, if any, would you support?
- **Energy:** How would you ensure America has reliable affordable energy while protecting the environment?

**DISTRICT 20**

**Edgardo Rafael Baez**  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 23**

**Tony Gonzales**

**Website:** [tonygonzalesfortexas.com](http://tonygonzalesfortexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** As a 20-year Navy veteran, Tony Gonzales is deeply committed to fighting for America and defending the values that make it the greatest nation in the world. As a father of six, Tony Gonzales is personally invested in creating a brighter, safer and more prosperous future for the next generation. And as the successful incumbent for the previous three terms, Tony Gonzales knows what it's like to continuously deliver tangible results for one of the largest districts in the nation.
- **Priorities:** Making our communities safer, more prosperous, and more affordable so that everyday families can enjoy the results.
- **Healthcare:** In South and West Texas, healthcare is still inaccessible to many families. In some cases, this even applies to our veterans who sacrificed so much for our nation and yet can't receive timely care. Part of this is due to a lack of adequate facilities, but it's just as important to create a more transparent, efficient, and simplified healthcare system that eliminates unnecessary expenses or surprise costs.
- **Balance of Power:** Under our Constitution, Congress has the "power of the purse", and upholding that duty is a key pillar of our democracy. The American people entrust its representatives to maintain balance within our government by ensuring that no single branch can overshadow the other. This is the only way to preserve the many freedoms that we enjoy as Americans.
- **Immigration:** The American Dream must always be within reach for those who are willing to work hard, follow our laws, and contribute positively to our great nation. We need to fix the bro-

ken bureaucracy that defines our legal immigration system while ensuring that border security is strong and that our immigration laws cannot be exploited.

- **Energy:** In Texas, we are blessed with many natural resources and some of the lowest energy prices in the world. In order to keep it that way, we need to protect the energy economy and ensure it remains healthy on a long-term basis. Not only does this benefit American families—it keeps us independent from foreign energy sources.

**Keith Barton**

**Website:** [bartonfortexas.com](http://bartonfortexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am a Marine Corps combat veteran with experience in reconnaissance, as a winged Naval Aviator, and later as a logistics officer and foreign advisor. I have over 25 years of real leadership experience. After service, I managed logistics for Walmart Distribution, supported Airbus, and now oversee logistics operations for Holt CAT in San Antonio. I bring extensive business and logistics expertise to federal service.
  - **Priorities:** My top priorities are strengthening border security, supporting families, and improving outcomes for veterans. Our district needs a secure and orderly border to ensure community safety. Strong families create strong communities, and government should support them with transparency and stability. Building American families back will have a positive upward effect on the country. As a veteran, I want to streamline care and reduce delays for those who served.
  - **Healthcare:** I believe the best way to provide affordable health care is to reduce the regulations that limit competition and drive costs above world averages, especially for prescription drugs. Government should focus on controlling prices through transparency and fair market reforms, not by dictating medical decisions. When we open the market, increase supply chain efficiency, and let doctors and patients make the decisions instead of bureaucracies, costs will come down and access will improve.
  - **Balance of Power:** Congress has a duty to uphold the Constitution by acting as an independent check on both the executive and judicial branches. Writing clear laws, holding hearings, demanding accountability, and ensuring that no branch exceeds its authority. Congress should represent the people, not political parties or bureaucratic pressures. By exercising oversight, controlling the budget, and insisting on transparency, Congress can restore balance and keep government operating within its constitutional limits.
  - **Immigration:** I support legislation that maintains secure borders and builds on the progress already made. A secure border is the foundation for any serious immigration reform. I also support expanding the use of technology to improve trade processing, strengthen vetting, and make legal immigration more efficient. We should welcome those who follow the law while ensuring safety, order, and accountability at every step of the process.
  - **Energy:** America needs reliable energy using in country sources. Natural gas and hydrogen are abundant, cleaner, and under-utilized. I will continue to support our hardworking oil and gas workers while reducing dependence on coal. there are emerging energy sources that need research and technology to fully develop; Texas is the perfect place for those new industries. The goal is a balanced energy mix that keeps costs low, strengthens our grid, and protects the environment through innovation, not mandates
- Did not respond:** Francisco 'Quico' Canseco, Brandon Herrera

The League of Women Voters, strictly nonpartisan, does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

## DISTRICT 35

### John Lujan

Website: [votelujan.com](http://votelujan.com)



■ **Qualifications:** I'm a lifelong San Antonio native and South Side resident with a proven record of public service. As a State Representative, I serve on key committees overseeing appropriations, workforce, economic development, and international trade – including chair the Subcommittee on International Relations. As a husband of 40+ years and father of five, I bring steady, principled leadership ready to serve on day one.

■ **Priorities:** My top priorities are border security and public safety, economic opportunity, and accountability in government. Securing the border and stopping fentanyl protects our families and communities. Growing jobs, workforce training, and manufacturing strengthens South Texas and raises wages. Restoring accountability ensures taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and government works for the people—not itself.

■ **Healthcare:** No response

■ **Balance of Power:** No response

■ **Immigration:** I support immigration reform that secures the border first, enforces existing law, and stops drug and human trafficking. Congress must strengthen border infrastructure, fully support Border Patrol, and end policies that incentivize illegal crossings. A lawful, orderly system is essential for public safety, national security, and restoring trust in our immigration system.

■ **Energy:** No response

### Mark Eberwine

Website: [e4c2026.com](http://e4c2026.com)



■ **Qualifications:** I am a small business owner. For decades, the challenges I faced are mirrored in the lives of small business owners across America. My experience lies in years of seeing the American worker who was discarded in favor of the low wage immigrant, our Nation's schools' teachers underpaid in overcrowded classrooms, and where sexual exploitation of children is perpetrated right before our eyes. I have spent countless hours in arbitration and the court system as an Expert in Construction Defects.

■ **Priorities:** Education. Our children are our only hope for our Nation. The ways we prepare our Nation's children is the genesis for failure or prosperity. Importing people from other countries because we have failed to educate and prepare our children is so wrong. Increase the Statute of Limitations to 12 years, for crimes committed while in political office and after serving in political office. Term Limits. I have prepared a document that is available on my website that will achieve term limits.

■ **Healthcare:** The key here is health care for Americans. Affordable health care for Americans is achieved by eliminating the burden on our health care system brought on by the illegal immigrants. Economics 101 teaches the laws of supply and demand. Open some of the shuttered health care facilities for those that are here illegally. Provide emergency services for those in need and provide transportation to their country of origin. Prepare an AI based algorithm for the need for additional medical tests.

■ **Balance of Power:** Congress' role in maintaining checks and balances among the three branches of government, should be firmly in the hands of voters. There is a plurality of members of

Congress, on both sides of the political aisle, that spend more time defending their political party's turf than they do working to strengthen America. Our Nation's Founding Fathers, having just endured the tyranny of government knew, all too well, what government becomes. The greed of corporate america has hijacked the U.S.

■ **Immigration:** Immigration reform legislation, in many circles, in many arenas, is code for Amnesty. How'd that work out for American Citizens the last time we did that? Social programs that enable and disable undereducated Americans, while importing immigrants has provided a system that steals from our children while allowing cheap labor for corporations and mega businesses. Every immigrant hired drives down wages for Americans. My vision includes programs that promote self deportation and targeting crime

■ **Energy:** Affordable energy begins with supply, Period. I would fast-track multiple new refineries to produce enough refined fuels to supply Americans with an overabundance of inexpensive gasoline, diesel, propane and natural gas. Understanding economics 101, I would simultaneously reduce demand by incentivizing hybrid vehicles over all others. This would ensure America has multiple separate fuel sources across our country. With this, our Nation is positioned to sell our surplus fuels to the world.

### Larry La Rose

Website: [larrylaroseforcongress.com](http://larrylaroseforcongress.com)



■ **Qualifications:** U, S, coast Guard Veteran served with distinguished service. Work hard all my life and many areas of the retail trade shared the same issues as my neighbors' I'm book smart and street smart I have listened to the people's concerns and plan to solve them to the best of my abilities'

■ **Priorities:** I want changes the VA process of the veterans benefit application for entitlements and benefits due to the Vets and streamline the process from years to days It can be done. also reduce taxes for the elderly and reduce the cost of electric and water utility's and address the homeless and also an agreeable immigration policy for green card application's and a path so person can become tax paying citizens also process and the "COLA" the present process doesn't give a proper increase

■ **Healthcare:** very big issue on health care I believe it should be the people's employer to provide health care this why we good paying career jobs

■ **Balance of Power:** None 'In God We Trust' To the president of the United States of America

■ **Immigration:** the process of a person coming to united sates we must uphold to the policies of the law of the land you must follow the guild lines for a green card application like our grand-parents did. not just walk across and do nothing I have neighbor's that have been here for years and never stated the process to become documented this must change

■ **Energy:** many ways to develop clean energy at a reasonable cost but cannot be done until we reduce all the regulations preventing to make it possible

**Rod Lingsch**

**Website:** [www.Lingsch.US](http://www.Lingsch.US)



- **Qualifications:** I am an USAF combat veteran/fighter pilot with proven leadership as a military officer. I owned/operated a small business. Former Texas peace officer and sheriff's deputy. I worked with U.S. Border Patrol in both Arizona and Texas. I held a TS clearance flying ISR missions for the U.S. military and State Department in Iraq and Afghanistan, including support to the 777 Special Mission Wing in Kabul until 2021. I am a published author and was a 2024 Texas GOP convention delegate.
- **Priorities:** My top priorities are welfare reform, healthcare reform, and paying off the federal debt. Over 25 years of traveling the country as a pilot, I have spoken with people from all walks of life about solutions to America's challenges. I support replacing the federal government's 83 welfare programs with a single system designed to lift people out of poverty while saving trillions in taxpayer dollars and reducing debt. I also support healthcare reform to lower costs and make care affordable for all.
- **Healthcare:** Affordable healthcare is best achieved by replacing government-funded programs with a streamlined system that lowers costs and expands access. Millions of uninsured individuals, including undocumented migrants, generate \$500 billion in unpaid medical costs each year passed on to consumers. My reform replaces Medicaid, CHIP, and the ACA with seven healthcare programs funded by a 1% payroll contribution per program, with higher earners subsidizing lower-income workers. Medicare remains unchanged.
- **Balance of Power:** Congress must actively uphold the Constitution by serving as a co-equal branch of government. Its role is to write clear laws, control the power of the purse, conduct oversight of the executive branch, and confirm or reject appointments. Congress must also reassert its authority by limiting unelected bureaucracies and ensuring that no branch exceeds its constitutional role, preserving accountability and the separation of powers.
- **Immigration:** I support enforcing existing laws as written. Congress established clear asylum, immigration, and naturalization laws that are not enforced. People in the U.S. illegally may not be granted asylum or immigration status domestically and must apply through a U.S. embassy in their home country. Foreigners with criminal records must be deported. Those who entered illegally after 1980 w/o residence or job, or after 5 Nov 2020, must self-depart or be deported. Only voluntary departures may reapply.
- **Energy:** America can ensure reliable, affordable energy by expanding domestic production while encouraging innovation and environmental stewardship. I support an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes oil, natural gas, nuclear, and renewables, paired with modernized infrastructure and advanced emissions reduction technologies. Protecting the environment and keeping energy affordable are not mutually exclusive when policy is driven by science, efficiency, and responsible resource management.

**Randy Adams**

**Website:** [randyadamsforcongress.com](http://randyadamsforcongress.com)

- **Qualifications:** As a lifelong Texan, a devoted father, a successful business entrepreneur, and community leader, I am committed to giving back to my community and the constituents of the Texas 35th.

- **Priorities:** Immigration and Border Security: to have our border secure protect our citizens. Jobs and Economy: broaden economic opportunities for Americans and make the necessities of everyday life more accessible and affordable. Crime and Public Safety: continue to support our law enforcement at all levels and hold criminals accountable.
- **Healthcare:** To improve our healthcare system, we need to repeal and replace the ACA, allow for personal unlimited HSA's for all, and examine big pharmaceutical companies to insure medication is more affordable for all.
- **Balance of Power:** The three chambers should work in concert for the benefit of all Americans. The legislative branch should be unified to focus on helping American citizens over their respective party.
- **Immigration:** We should monitor the entrance and vetting process to benefit the country as a whole by assimilating immigrants desiring to become US Citizens, and implementing a work visa that allows individuals to work and pay taxes toward citizenship.
- **Energy:** Continue to drill and explore the Continental United States, create local jobs, and maintain the cleanest exploration technology in the world that benefits our environment.

**Ryan Krause**

**Website:** [ryankrauseforcongress.com](http://ryankrauseforcongress.com)

- **Qualifications:** 40 years in Entrepreneur/leadership/management roles. Working with organizations and government entities to create dynamic, highly productive, and sustainable cultures. Thorough understanding of what makes people and organizations successful.
- **Priorities:** 1. Border Security – we must solidify strong borders and immigration policy to extend beyond the current administration 2. Reduce the size and scope of the Federal Government – This over-inflated, reck-less spending is unsustainable and downright wrong. Our government is a poor steward of our resources. 3. Fix Healthcare – Repeal the Affordable care Act. recreate competition in the market place. Give citizens freedom of choice in medical providers. Boost Health Savings Accounts.
- **Healthcare:** Government free competition! Stop funding the insurance companies, allow people to keep more of their hard earned money, incentivize health savings accounts, allow people to make their won decisions about care.
- **Balance of Power:** The House's role is to speak/fight on behalf of the people. There should be no better exchange of ideas and fighting for individual rights than in the chamber of the House. The Senate should be fighting for states rights and to maintain the power and influence of the state – keeping the Fed at bay. The Executive Branch should be running operations as defined by Congress and the Judicial branch should be interpreting and upholding the law as defined by Congress.
- **Immigration:** Secure the Border; Vet every person coming across; Resource the Border Patrol; Resource the immigration court; Stick to clearly defined immigration laws
- **Energy:** Nuclear Energy, the biggest initial drawback is expense, but if the funds that have been extorted toward the green new (scam) deal were redirected to nuclear energy, the excessive cost wouldn't be nearly the issue we think it is.

**Steven Wright**

**Website:** [stevewrightfortx35.com](http://stevewrightfortx35.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have been a public servant through Law Enforcement for over 30-years and I have been committed to serving our citizens and keeping our communities safe. I was honored to have been an elected representative for over 15-years representing over 600 deputies and I understand what serving and representing a body as an elected representative means. I became a candidate for congress in 2024 and as the returning Republican nominee I am committed to representation and my platform.
- **Priorities:** Every issue on my platform is deserving of someone fighting for permanent solutions to each. Taxation is a huge issue that I see needing many fixes from the sunset clauses in the BBB that expire in 2028 like Social Security, Tax on Tips and tax on overtime. We as well need to build our middle class and the shortages we are facing in trade labor. Small businesses will be important in completing my goals. We also need to further support our Veterans and Law Enforcement for the work they do.
- **Healthcare:** Replacing the ACA 'Obamacare' is long overdue but needs to have a competitive market solution implemented. Congress is currently working on this as it has many areas needing reform like opening up the free market competition of benefits. Tax credits might be a viable alternative instead of providing taxpayer funds directly to healthcare providers or a combination of each suggestion.
- **Balance of Power:** Congress is the people's branch. Its role is to write laws, control spending, and provide oversight so the executive enforces the law and the courts interpret—not make—it. Through hearings, budgeting authority, and constitutional limits, Congress preserves balance and accountability.
- **Immigration:** I would support new policies that promote legal paths to citizenship and obtaining work visas that benefit American values. I would as well introduce legislation to help expedite paths to legal citizenship and especially those in our country who have been here legally and married to a US citizen for a substantial period of time who pay taxes, create families, start businesses and continue to keep their immigration status current that is easy to navigate without an attorney.
- **Energy:** Infrastructure is a critical component I know America needs in every state. The most important issue people have that I have talked to is the affordable cost of utilities. Texas needs critical improvements to its electrical grid, and the development of small micro nuclear power is the cleanest form of reliable power that would benefit Texas the most.

**Vanessa Hicks-Callaway**

**Website:** [CallawayForCongress.com](http://CallawayForCongress.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am qualified to be the TX 35th Congressional District Representative. I am a former TX governor appointee and retired US Army military intelligence Lt. Col with 26 years of service with 2 combat tours. I worked for TX 27th Congressional District as a constituent liaison and field representative. I have 3 degrees: BA-Political Science, MS-HR MGMT and an AS-Christian Psychology. I was a precinct chair, GOP county secretary, delegate and state delegate. I was US Sen Cruz' re-election field rep.

- **Priorities:** If elected, my top three issues are: (1) Redistricting adjustment by working with voters, key governmental district leaders, stakeholders, business owners, education leaders K-12 and higher learning for efficiency and to avoid 'woke,' liberal, failed policies. (2) Guadalupe River flood management, mitigation, public early warning improvement and flood prevention (3) Ensure America First, Texas Now! Trump administration policy integration to make TX 35th richer, safer, stronger and healthier.
- **Healthcare:** The best way to access affordable healthcare is to continue to modernize healthcare technology for more telehealth options for patients and their doctors. Also, costs can be reduced with a robust effort for preventative care with cost-cutting incentives like lowering premiums for participants with excellent lab results. Adopt Dr. Ben Carson's 'healthcare passport' concept to create individual tax shelters—from a young age, to better prepare for future healthcare expenses. Fix health insurance!
- **Balance of Power:** First and foremost, Congress' role to maintain checks and balances among the three branches of government: judicial, executive and legislative branches is to ensure it operates in accordance with the US Constitution. Congress must also empower committee selections and take the execution of their oversight duties very seriously. Congress can also not shy away from its power to declare war, fund the government, and or its presidential impeachment powers to maintain the checks and balance of power.
- **Immigration:** I would support merit-based immigration strategies and policies to ensure we only receive the best people who are independent-minded and capable. I would support President Trump's 'Gold Card' immigration visa for well-vetted rich, productive migrants. I would also support enhanced assimilation requirements for immigrants who come to America. I would also support continued ICE efforts—especially in TX 35 to remove all illegals to make our communities safer. I would also promote self-deportation
- **Energy:** I would ensure America has reliable, affordable energy while protecting the environment by promoting healthy energy competition by between American energy companies. I would also support electric grid infrastructure improvements. I would also work with energy companies and communities with energy business stake holders to generate ideas for reliable, affordable energy strategy. I would also ensure I find a way to maintain a healthy balance by doing what can be done to protect the environment.

**Did not respond:** Jay Furman, Josh Cortez, Carlos De La Cruz

**DISTRICT 21**

**NOTE: CANDIDATES WERE ASKED DIFFERENT QUESTIONS.**

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Congressional Issues:** What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of Congress?
- **Priorities:** What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?
- **Healthcare:** What do you see is the best way to provide access to affordable health care for Americans?
- **District Issues:** What legislation would you support or introduce that would address the top concerns of voters in your district?

**Kyle Sinclair**

**Website:** [kylefortex.com](http://kylefortex.com)



- **Qualifications:** I bring over 20 years of leadership in healthcare, military service, and small business—fields directly shaped by federal policy. I have served as a healthcare CEO overseeing multi-site operations and large budgets, and as an officer in the U.S. Army National Guard Medical Service Corps supporting emergency and disaster response. As a small business owner and civic leader, I understand regulation, workforce challenges, and accountability firsthand. These experiences prepare me to legislate responsibly, conduct serious oversight, and protect taxpayers while ensuring essential services work when Texans need them most.
- **Congressional Issues:** The next Congress must confront three urgent challenges: restoring fiscal discipline, securing the border, and strengthening national security while maintaining constitutional limits. Federal debt and deficits threaten economic stability and crowd out critical priorities. Border failures strain communities, public safety, and humanitarian systems—especially in Texas. Globally, rising threats from China, Iran, and Russia require credible deterrence without endless wars. Congress must also address healthcare workforce shortages and infrastructure resilience in disaster-prone regions. These challenges require serious oversight, measurable outcomes, and responsible governance.
- **Priorities:** My top priorities are restoring fiscal discipline, securing the border while enforcing the rule of law, and protecting critical infrastructure and emergency services. Congress must rein in spending through serious oversight, measurable outcomes, and real accountability to stop passing debt to future generations. We must secure the border with effective enforcement and lawful immigration policies that reduce chaos and human trafficking. Finally, I will prioritize infrastructure that protects lives and property—such as flood mitigation, emergency response capacity, and rural hospital access—while rejecting waste, earmarks, and federal dependency.
- **Healthcare:** Congress should focus healthcare reform on three pillars: cost, access, and outcomes. Costs are lowered through price transparency, reduced administrative burden, and competition that rewards value. Access is expanded by protecting emergency and rural care and strengthening the healthcare workforce through targeted training and licensing reform. Outcomes improve when payment models reward quality rather than volume—standards I have enforced in healthcare leadership roles. Reforms must preserve patient choice, encourage innovation, and ensure federal programs are sustainable so care remains affordable without sacrificing quality or fiscal responsibility.
- **District Issues:** I would introduce legislation to eliminate federal taxes on health insurance premiums for individuals and small businesses, immediately lowering out-of-pocket costs. I would also lead a targeted overhaul of rural healthcare by preventing rural hospital closures, making telehealth permanent, reforming Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements to reflect rural costs, and expanding incentives for doctors and nurses to serve underserved communities. The bill would require transparency and measurable outcomes—access, wait times, and quality—while protecting patient choice. This approach delivers affordable coverage and reliable local care for families, seniors, and rural Texans without new mandates or expanding federal dependency.

**James “Trey” Trainor III**

**Website:** [Trey4TX.com](http://Trey4TX.com)



- **Qualifications:** As a longtime Republican lawyer and former Federal Election Commission commissioner (2020–2025, including as chair), I bring extensive experience in election law, campaign finance, and ethics. I served as general counsel to the Texas Secretary of State, counsel to the Texas House Committee on Regulated Industries, and represented the Texas Republican Party and presidential campaigns. Nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the Senate, I’ve defended conservative principles and election integrity nationwide. Living in Hays County within TX-21, I’m prepared to fight for border security, fiscal responsibility, and constitutional rights in Congress.
- **Congressional Issues:** The most pressing issues facing the next session of Congress are securing our southern border, reining in wasteful federal spending to combat inflation and the national debt, and defending constitutional rights including Second Amendment freedoms and the sanctity of life. As a Trump-aligned conservative, I will prioritize these to restore fiscal responsibility, protect American families, and uphold our Republic’s founding principles against radical agendas.
- **Priorities:** My three top priorities for the next session of Congress are 1) secure the southern border – finish the wall, enforce existing laws, and end catch-and-release to stop illegal immigration, drugs, and human trafficking, 2) restore fiscal responsibility – cut wasteful spending, reduce the national debt, and fight inflation to protect hardworking Texas families, and 3) defend constitutional freedoms – uphold Second Amendment rights, protect religious liberty, and defend the sanctity of life. As a conservative from TX-21, I will fight for these priorities to strengthen our communities and our nation
- **Healthcare:** Congress should take these steps to make healthcare effective, affordable, and accessible: 1) promote competition – allow insurance sales across state lines, expand HSAs, and support price transparency to drive down costs, 2) reform regulations – reduce red tape for doctors, encourage telemedicine, and support tort reform to lower malpractice costs, and 3) empower patients – expand options like direct primary care and association health plans, focusing on market-driven solutions rather than government control. These conservative reforms will increase choice, lower costs, and improve care without expanding federal bureaucracy.
- **District Issues:** I would support and introduce legislation addressing the following: 1) Reimbursement for Operation Lone Star – Texas is due approximately \$11 billion in the One Big Beautiful Bill but we need to ensure we receive rapid reimbursement for border security costs, 2) SAVE Act – I will push for final passage of the pending SAVE Act to require proof of citizenship for federal voter registration, and 3) Support July 4th Flooding recovery – needed to provide swift federal aid to communities devastated by the July 4th floods for rebuilding infrastructure and supporting families.

**Mark Teixeira**

**Website:** [teixeiraforcongress.com](http://teixeiraforcongress.com)



- **Qualifications:** My upbringing as the son of a Navy pilot and school teacher taught me the value of service, teamwork, and perseverance – qualities that have guided my life on and off the field. My career in Major League Baseball and my years of community and philanthropic work have prepared me to listen, unite people, and tackle challenges head-on. I am running to bring those same steady, disciplined qualities to Congress on behalf of Texas families.
- **Congressional Issues:** The most pressing issue facing the next congressional session is continuing to deliver on President Trump's America First policies to strengthen the economy and grow jobs. The next session of Congress must also pass legislation that guarantees secure elections including the requirement that only US Citizens are allowed to vote.
- **Priorities:** First, we must secure our southern border and restore law and order, because Texans are bearing the consequences of federal failure. Second, Washington's reckless spending must be brought under control to stop inflation and protect hardworking families. Third, Congress must unleash American energy by cutting burdensome regulations and empowering Texas oil, gas, and nuclear production. Energy dominance strengthens our economy and our national security. These challenges demand decisive, America First leadership focused on protecting our communities, restoring stability, and putting the needs of American citizens above the interests of Washington bureaucrats.
- **Healthcare:** The rampant fraud in Minnesota has exposed the need for more vigilance. I will work to track down the fraud in Medicare and Medicaid to protect taxpayers. I will ensure that Texas citizens are the only ones receiving care from those programs and will root out the waste, fraud, and abuse, which should be the primary function of every government.
- **District Issues:** My focus is to protect water resources for the residences and businesses who have been established in the Hill Country and to secure the funding to expand those resources.

**Jason Cahill**

- **Qualifications:** I am a Navy Intelligence Veteran, Oil & Gas business owner, and father of four young children. I served in the first battlegroup deployed to the Middle East after the 9/11 terror attacks. I was there on day one for Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom. After several deployments in the military and as a civilian Intelligence contractor, I came home to Texas and built a successful Oil & Gas exploration company. My background has given me a balanced perspective, the mindset to lead, the experience to manage, and the personal motivation to build a stronger future.
- **Congressional Issues:** The next session of Congress faces urgent fiscal challenges, with federal spending, the deficit, and the national debt at the forefront. Overspending drives growing deficits, while interest on the national debt limits resources for critical priorities. Congress must take decisive action to rein in spending, eliminate waste, and stabilize the budget to prevent long-term economic strain. Nearly every other major issue from healthcare costs, to infrastructure, and national security stems from unchecked government spending. Addressing these core fiscal problems is essential to restore economic stability, protect



taxpayers, and ensure future generations are not burdened by today's unsustainable financial choices.

- **Priorities:** My top three priorities focus on restoring fiscal responsibility and making smart, practical investments. First, reducing federal spending is essential to control waste, improve efficiency, and protect taxpayers. Second, I prioritize investing in reliable water infrastructure. Such as desalination plants, because clean dependable water is critical to public health and economic growth. Unlike costly green energy programs that fail to deliver results. Third, reducing the national debt is vital to strengthening our economy, lower interest costs, and ensure future generations are not burdened by today's overspending.
- **Healthcare:** The Affordable Care Act has led to lasting problems, including higher costs, limited choices, and inefficiencies that strain families and providers. I support legislation that introduces greater free market competition in healthcare to expand options, lower prices, and encourage innovation. Congress should also focus on strengthening the patient-physician relationship by reducing bureaucratic interference. Cutting back on unnecessary middlemen such as complex administrative layers and third-party managers can lower costs, simplify care, and ensure medical decisions are driven by patients and doctors, not government mandates or corporate interests.
- **District Issues:** Congress' greatest legislative authority is its power over federal spending. I would work to amend the federal budget to defund inefficient and unreliable green energy projects, including large scale solar farms and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). I would also reduce foreign spending and redirect resources toward water infrastructure. I additionally support legislation affirming that U.S. law and the Constitution govern American courts and public policy, not foreign or religious legal systems such as sharia law. I would also prioritize combating cartels and the fentanyl crisis through stronger border security, law enforcement coordination, and accountability.

**Jacques DuBose**

**Website:** [votedubose.com](http://votedubose.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am a 20-year U.S. Navy veteran with leadership experience in high-pressure, mission-driven environments. I have served locally as a Boerne City Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem, where I worked on budgets, infrastructure, and community growth. As a businessman and nonprofit professional, I've created jobs, balanced budgets, and built coalitions across government, private sector, and faith-based organizations. I understand service, accountability, and leadership—and I've lived in TX-21 for over 21 years. I'm prepared to serve with integrity and resolve.
- **Congressional Issues:** The most pressing issues are border security, inflation, national security, healthcare access, and restoring constitutional governance. Congress must address the fentanyl crisis, illegal immigration, energy independence, and reckless federal spending. We must also confront China's aggression, support our military and veterans, and stop unelected bureaucrats from undermining states' rights. The American people want safety, affordability, and accountability—not endless spending, globalism, or government overreach.
- **Priorities:** First, secure the southern border and remove violent criminal illegals. Second, restore American energy independence to lower costs and strengthen national security. Third, rein in federal spending and bureaucracy to protect taxpayers and future generations. These priorities reflect Texas values: law and order,

self-reliance, and freedom. Everything Congress does should put Texas First and America First.

■ **Healthcare:** Congress must move away from one-size-fits-all government healthcare and return control to patients and doctors. I support expanding Health Savings Accounts, allowing insurance to be sold across state lines, increasing price transparency, and encouraging competition. We must improve access to mental health care—especially for veterans—without federal micromanagement. Healthcare should be affordable, personal, and market-driven, not dictated by Washington.

■ **District Issues:** I would support legislation to secure the border, stop fentanyl trafficking, protect Texas energy producers, and cut federal regulations harming small businesses and farmers. I would introduce bills to expand vocational training, protect parental rights in education, support veterans' mental health, and restore fiscal responsibility. Texans want safety, affordability, and freedom—and I will fight for policies that reflect those values.

□ **Daniel W. Betts**

**Website:** [bettsfortexas.com](http://bettsfortexas.com)



■ **Qualifications:** I am a UT Law educated trial attorney with over 50 jury trials, small business owner, former Texas Convention delegate, University of Chicago educated chemist, former candidate for Travis County District Attorney, former Editor-in-Chief of the Texas Intellectual Property Law Journal, and President of my church, Hope Lutheran (LCMS). As a proven leader and the father of three boys we homeschool in Dripping, I am invested in the Hill Country and ready to take the skills God has given me to the next level in service to you and this community. I humbly ask for your trust, support, and vote.

■ **Congressional Issues:** Congress must restore Americans' trust by eliminating stock trading and Representatives getting rich off of our secrets. Congress must balance the budget and tame the national debt before President Trump's second term is up. Congress must invest more in defense spending so that we will have peace through strength and not need to use our military might. Congress must take back its legislative authority and curb the excesses of the unelected officials of the deep and administrative state. We must ban Sharia law throughout our nation and repudiate radical Islam.

■ **Priorities:** Regulate the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects out of existence to protect our agricultural land, specifically by requiring reclamation bonds to be in place before breaking ground, mandatory setbacks, and training and funding for local fire departments under the NFPA 855 standard. We must fix healthcare (see answer below for specifics), and we must remove regulatory burdens to nuclear energy paired with desalination so that CD-21's water issues can be solved quickly and safely.

■ **Healthcare:** Congress needs to remove middlemen and put the patient back in charge of their healthcare to allow competition to drive prices lower and market dynamics to fix our system. To that end, I am endorsed by Senator Rick Santorum, who will be advising me on a plan to institute HSA/MSA's for all Americans with seed funding for lower income Americans, paired with catastrophic insurance that also covers well visits and preventative care. I also will fight to regulate Pharmacy Benefits Managers and make them treat independent pharmacies fairly to keep our medication costs down.

■ **District Issues:** I will introduce legislation to eliminate the income tax and move our country to a consumption tax where all, including criminals and illegal aliens pay their fair share, based on what new goods they consume. I will support the Restore Trust in Congress Act to ban stock trading. I will support the PAUSE Act to stop all immigration until we can revamp and fix our immigration system. I will introduce legislation to make BESS safe and incentivize safer methods of energy storage that cannot be used as bombs.

□ **Zeke Enriquez**

**Email:** [vote4zeke@gmail.com](mailto:vote4zeke@gmail.com)



■ **Qualifications:** Texas 21 isn't just a district, it's HOME for me. My 7th great-grandmother settled in Fredericksburg. I was born and raised in Hays County. I'm a husband, father, and Christian conservative. I'm a decorated Marine Corps combat vet, firefighter, rancher, and businessman. I also served as a precinct chair in Harris County. My combined humble servant leadership and my faith have prepared me for this path that God has called me to serve in. I understand that elected officials are servants first. Always putting the constituency's priorities over my own or those of lobbyists and special interest groups.

■ **Congressional Issues:** Affordability. We need to make America affordable again. Lowering housing and healthcare costs. Reigning in the rampant fraud, waste, and abuse. We shouldn't squander tax payer dollars. Supporting President Trump. We need to codify his progress into law. Keeping our border secure. Finish the wall and expedite mass deportations. Unleashing American energy dominance and ending the new green scams. Fully restoring our 2A rights – ending the NFA and abolishing the ATF. Protecting the sanctity of life and promoting the traditional nuclear family. Fighting for our veterans!

■ **Priorities:** #1: Codifying President Trump's Executive Orders. #2: Carrying forward Rep. Roy's legislation: Election Integrity, Banning Congressional Stock Trading, and Fighting Against the Islamification of America. #3: Making America affordable again by lowering costs that impact your wallet.

■ **Healthcare:** To ensure healthcare is effective and affordable, Congress should focus on market-based competition and transparency: Price Transparency: Mandate that hospitals and insurers disclose actual costs upfront, allowing patients to shop for value. Expand HSAs: Increase flexibility for Health Savings Accounts to put patients in control of their spending. Cross-State Competition: Allow insurance sales across state lines to break up regional monopolies. Cut Red Tape: Streamline FDA approvals for generic drugs to lower costs. Decentralize Power: Shift authority from federal bureaucracies back to the states and the doctor-patient relationship. Repeal the ACA (Obamacare).

■ **District Issues:** SAVE Act, Restore Trust In Congress Act, Preserving a Sharia-Free America Act, Repeal the NFA Act, Abolish the ATF Act, Life at Conception Act, Heartbeat Protection Act, FairTax Act, Make DOGE Permanent Act, Border Safety and Security Act, Returning Education to Our States Act. Aside from introducing and co-sponsoring new legislation, I believe that the number of laws on the books is already excessive and we should also be repealing useless or liberty-robbing legislation. We need less government and more liberty!

**Paul Rojas**

**Website:** [rojas4texas.com](http://rojas4texas.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am an engineer, program manager, and small business owner with experience at Microsoft, Cisco, and NASA affiliated research programs. I hold degrees in physics, software engineering, and business. I have led complex technical initiatives, managed budgets, and worked in highly regulated environments where accountability and outcomes matter. This background gives me a practical understanding of how federal policy affects innovation, infrastructure, healthcare costs, and job creation for families and businesses in Texas Congressional District 21.
- **Congressional Issues:** The next Congress must address rising costs of living, federal spending and debt, healthcare affordability, and workforce challenges. Rapid growth in artificial intelligence and data centers is placing new demands on water, energy, and infrastructure, particularly in Central Texas. At the same time, many recent college graduates are underemployed while employment based visa programs continue to expand. Congress must better align technology policy, workforce development, and infrastructure planning to ensure sustainable growth.
- **Priorities:** My top priorities are restoring fiscal discipline to reduce inflationary pressure on families, ensuring responsible artificial intelligence and data center growth that accounts for water and energy constraints, and strengthening workforce development while protecting American jobs and wages. These priorities are interconnected. Sound fiscal policy, sustainable infrastructure, and a strong domestic workforce are essential to long term economic stability and opportunity in Texas Congressional District 21.
- **Healthcare:** Congress should focus on lowering costs through competition and transparency, expanding access to primary care and mental health services and reducing administrative waste. Patients need clearer pricing, more provider options, and better access in rural and underserved areas. Federal policy should support innovation and efficiency while preserving choice, improving outcomes, and ensuring mental health care is treated as an essential part of healthcare.
- **District Issues:** I would support legislation that strengthens workforce training and apprenticeships, improves water and energy infrastructure, and establishes accountability for data center water and power use. I would push reforms to employment based visa programs to ensure they address true labor shortages without undercutting wages. I would also support policies that expand mental health access, improve healthcare affordability, and enforce fiscal responsibility.

**Did not respond:** Weston Martinez, Peggy McCormick Wardlaw, Mike Wheeler, Heather Tessmer

**GOVERNOR**

Four-year term. The governor is chief executive of the state, which means that they carry out the law. They appoint members to boards and commissions; appoint statewide executive officials, state judges and district attorneys when vacancies occur; deliver the State of the State address; provide guidance to the Legislature; call special sessions of the legislature and set the agenda. The governor can veto legislation (including a line-item veto on appropriations), sign legislation, or allow it to become law without their signature.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Healthcare:** What changes need to be made to Texas abortion laws to ensure women have access to proper medical care in the event of pregnancy complications?
- **Education:** Share your thoughts on the role of state and local government in public education.
- **Immigration:** How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while ensuring all individuals within our borders have access to due process protections?
- **National Guard:** Share your position on when it is appropriate for the Federal government to deploy the National Guard in Texas cities.

**R.F. 'Bob' Achgill**

**Website:** [hishandsreader.org/bob.html](http://hishandsreader.org/bob.html)



- **Qualifications:** 67-year-old Texas A&M mechanical engineer with experience in chem. plants and the Space Shuttle program. I focus on protecting Texas water, power, and self-governance from long-term financial pressure
- **Healthcare:** Watching the birth of our first daughter, I could not see the doctor's fear as he skillfully balanced life and death as both mother and child faltered. I owe him 38 years of blessing! I cannot imagine a world without my daughter—or my daughter without her mother. Over half of maternal deaths occur after birth, often postpartum, when care fades but risk remains. Thyroid, Thyroid, Thyroid.
- **Education:** We assume earlier generations lacked wisdom, writing by candlelight. That illusion breaks when reading the U.S. Constitution—an unprecedented document that still endures. The family once grounded education, because more is caught than taught. As moral foundations faded, have our outcomes improved—or declined? And will early adoption of AI hasten that decline?
- **Immigration:** Texas should enforce worker-verification laws consistently and lawfully, removing incentives for illegal hiring and increase enforcement through whistleblowing. I have seen legal labor work: employers who recruit seasonal workers on visas, train and house them, and send them home to their families. This approach respects due process, protects families, and avoids shifting social costs onto Texas.
- **National Guard:** Texas has a long history of guarding its resources from excessive federal control. Today, federal pushes for massive data centers, untested nuclear projects, and space privatization are accelerating the depletion of Texas water security and straining power and governance. These efforts should pause until risks are understood and economic fairness for all Texans.

**Evelyn Brooks**

**Website:** [brooksfortexasgovernor.com](http://brooksfortexasgovernor.com)

- **Qualifications:** I have experience teaching and service on the Texas SBOE delivering Texans with the results they deserve. I have a strong moral compass with vision, effective communication, and people skills.
- **Healthcare:** Protecting women is crucial and they should be kept safe with life-saving care in event of pregnancy complications. Texas abortion laws must require simplification to ensure this care is provided without legal ambiguity for doctors and patients. Medical ethics recognizes a woman's fundamental right to life,

which means her well-being is not secondary to the baby when faced with severe risks.

- **Education:** The state’s role should be limited as seen in provisions like (TEC) Section 7.003, which reserves powers to districts. Texas public education has shifted away from local control and community-driven schools and universities to state centralization through unconstitutional mandates. Public education must be restored back to traditional teaching and pedagogy practices where the focus is academics.
- **Immigration:** I would limit state cooperation with federal enforcement that threatens to take away the Constitutional rights, liberty, and privacy from Texans and state sovereignty. Due Process must be given to all within our borders. I would support clear and reasonable enforcement actions and assess our state’s vulnerabilities to make swift solutions to restore and maintain our statewide security.
- **National Guard:** My position is to follow U.S. and Texas State Constitutions for the deployment of the National Guard in Texas cities. By using this dual system I hope to avoid the federal Posse Comitatus Act to limit federal military involvement in domestic law enforcement. My goal would be to keep the Federal government separate from policing duties in Texas cities unless a clear legal exception applies.

**Mark V. Goloby**

**Website:** [goodgovernance.today](http://goodgovernance.today)



- **Qualifications:** Have been active in activism all my life. I founded and run TC Technologies that delivers the Internet of Things wireless solutions.
- **Healthcare:** Key in my campaign is adoption and foster care. Here is a link to my website. <https://markgolobyfortexas.com/adoption%2Ffoster-care> IT would be more appropriate for women’s health to be directed to the medical procedures as outlined as complications. Most complications do not require aborting the pregnancy. In the case of miscarriages, there are prescribed DNC procedures going back decades.
- **Education:** Going back to Texas 2nd President of Texas, Lamar Texas has declared the importance of an educated electorate. Texas has a significant role, unfortunately the current Governor and his appointed Commissioner has let our public education decline. First step is to have the Texas Public Education Commissioner elected not appointed. It is time to put the I back in Independent School District
- **Immigration:** Governors have the Constitutional authority to enforce the state’s borders to protect the citizens, their livelihoods and property. That the Texas border and the US border are the same is a matter of geography not sovereignty. Because someone inhabits Texas does not avail them the same protections as natural born or naturalized US Citizens. Justice requires their rights not be disregarded.
- **National Guard:** The national guards are state functions. The Federalization of these troops was wrong. If an overwhelming need to bring force to bear, it is the Governor’s role to be first to respond, then determine adequacy. But local cities have a responsibility to maintain safe healthy communities. Too many cities are doing anything but serve the law abiding citizens creating a situation in need of force.

**Stephen Samuelson**

**Website:** [texanresilience.net](http://texanresilience.net)

- **Qualifications:** Military service, leadership experience, policy research, and hands-on work translating complex laws into plain English. Independent thinker focused on accountability, problem-solving, and serving Tex
- **Healthcare:** Texas should clarify medical exceptions so doctors can act immediately in emergencies, protect physician judgment, and ensure timely care. At the same time, address root causes of abortion through better prenatal care, maternal health access, economic support, and family stability so fewer women face those choices.
- **Education:** State government should set clear academic standards, protect funding fairness, and ensure transparency. Local control matters, but it must stay focused on education, not political or ideological agendas. Parents and communities deserve schools centered on learning, skills, and student success.
- **Immigration:** Texas should secure the border by restoring order, verifying identities, and reducing trafficking and cartel influence, while ensuring due process through clear screening, lawful procedures, and cooperation with federal authorities. Safety, fairness, and the rule of law must apply to everyone in Texas.
- **National Guard:** Federal deployment of the National Guard should be limited to true emergencies, natural disasters, or when state and local authorities request support. Texas should lead its own response, with federal involvement as a last resort.

**Ronnie Tullos**

**Website:** [ronnietullosfortexas.com](http://ronnietullosfortexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** Police captain, project manager, State Guard member, and Shriners Chief of Staff with proven leadership over large teams and strong service to Texans.
- **Healthcare:** I am pro-life but believe women must receive emergency care. I support clear laws and better education so doctors confidently treat complications while protecting both mother and unborn life.
- **Education:** I believe parents not politicians or activists should direct their children’s education. State & local government should support schools, ensure transparency, & keep politics, DEI agendas, & ideological content out of the classroom. I support returning to traditional, biblically grounded values, strong academics, & empowering parents to make decisions for their children.
- **Immigration:** I believe prior federal policies strengthened border security and that immigration enforcement is first a federal responsibility: secure the border and enforce laws on the books. Texas should cooperate to locate and process those here illegally, while every person is treated humanely and given due process. If you broke the law, you broke the law—but it must be applied fairly.
- **National Guard:** I believe the Governor, not Washington, should deploy the National Guard to protect Texas communities. Federal involvement should be rare and only at the state’s request. If the federal government must step in without Texas asking, it means the Governor failed to lead and did not fulfill his duty to keep Texans safe.

**Charles Andrew Crouch**



- **Qualifications:** A bible believing son of God. Ex-Navy SEAL who understands the threat of Islam. A Business owner who understand the economy. An Author on the subject of Godly Leadership which is what Texas needs.
- **Healthcare:** No changes to the law need to be made. Our current healthcare system does a great job keeping women safe in the event of pregnancy complications.
- **Education:** This issue is one of my top 3 issues. Our current education system is a joke and viewed by most a simply a daycare system for parents to hold full time jobs. Our current education system does not prepare kids for life. And when people throw more money at the problem, the problems only grow. That's because it's not a money problem, its a culture problem. Please view my stance on education!!!
- **Immigration:** Immigration legally is a celebrated event. I love our state and I love it when people who love those same values come here as well. Due process is reserved for those who follow the law. People here illegally will be deported... and deported quickly. At the same time, I know what it's like to be on the front lines. As governor, I am prepared to allow our BP to enforce strict laws.
- **National Guard:** It is appropriate under the Insurrection Act of . This usually requires the governor to declared that help is needed. As your future Governor, we need all the help we can get and I will be accepting all the help offered for the time being. Long term, my leadership will develop a self sufficient Texas without any help needed.

**Arturo Espinosa**

- **Qualifications:** The true statement begins with either verb intransitive or verb transitive in the present tense. Am Father Arturo Espinosa Professional Chemical Engineer (CH 5954). Am a truthful man: Am homosexual
  - **Healthcare:** Equate English adjective true to Greek adjective αληθής. Change, and define the Greek word αληθής: Utter the truth to each woman and to each man at every site. Ask the doctor to be one hundred percent truthful in every part of the pregnancy to ensure every woman has safe medical care.
  - **Education:** Teach to state and local government personnel that partial or complete money dependence and partial or complete money reliance is evil, wrong, abusive, and destructive: Know complete woman and complete man dependence and reliance is good and healthy, is necessary to exist and live in happiness, is necessary to live and exist in joy, and is necessary to live and exist in complete freedom.
  - **Immigration:** Announce one earth, one nation, one people, one constitution one truthful woman or one truthful man leading and teaching 8.2 billion people.
  - **National Guard:** Reject the National Guard in any Texas city.
- Did not respond:** Pete "Doc" Chambers, Nathaniel Welch, Kenneth Hyde, Greg Abbott

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

Four-year term. The lieutenant governor is powerful because of their position as president of the Texas Senate, where they appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of committees; appoint senators to committees; assign bills to committees; and control the Senate's agenda.

They are also a member of several commissions and boards, and serve as governor in the governor's absence.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Women's Health:** What changes need to be made to Texas abortion laws to ensure women have access to proper medical care in the event of pregnancy complications?
- **Healthcare:** What role should the state government play in promoting a healthy Texas population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Texans?
- **Cannabis Legislation:** What legislation would you support regarding cannabis?
- **Water:** What legislation would you recommend to ensure that Texans and Texas businesses have enough water for the future?

**Esala Wueschner**



**Website:** [wueuniversal.com](http://wueuniversal.com)

- **Qualifications:** 1: I helped uncover the Investigation into ActBlue democratic money laundering scheme 2023. 2: Defended Free Speech and exercised my Freedom of Speech as a Pro-Se against the Judo-Christian Zionist.
- **Women's Health:** This scientific evidence proves that life begins at the moment of conception according to Buddhism. When a sperm enters an egg at the moment of conception, it produces a 'Light' called 'zinc spark,'. This Biochemical event release creates a visible burst of light resembling tiny fireworks. I will look into the existing bill proposals and do my best to protect women's pregnancy complications.
- **Healthcare:** I will look into making Texas Hospitals and Insurance companies 'non-profit' in order to reduce healthcare costs.
- **Cannabis Legislation:** Legalize cannabis in order to help Texans to be able to grow their spirituality and help point them in the direction of their spiritual growth that we need in order to compete with A.I like we used to be over 6,000 years ago based on Buddhism and Hellenistic Paganism before Monotheism, before Abraham.
- **Water:** I will look into sanctioning California and the northern states that are diverting their rain water which runs down the Colorado river to the ocean instead of the proper aquifers.

**Timothy Mabry**



**Website:** [mabryfortexas.com](http://mabryfortexas.com)

- **Qualifications:** Former fire lieutenant, Navy veteran, and small business owner. Proven under pressure, mission-focused, and skilled at bringing people with different views together to solve complex problems.
- **Women's Health:** I believe life begins at conception. Medical treatment for ectopic pregnancies or non-viable pregnancies should never be classified as abortion or delayed, as it can endanger a woman's life. Elective abortion is not a right.
- **Healthcare:** Texas must lower healthcare costs through price transparency and reasonable caps on hospital charges. ER visits should result in one clear, fair bill, not layers of inflated fees so care is affordable and accessible.
- **Cannabis Legislation:** I support regulating, not criminalizing cannabis. Industrial, medical, and recreational uses must be clearly separated. Medical access should allow low-potency products

without excessive barriers. Recreational use should be treated like alcohol, with strict age limits and impairment testing, not mere presence.

- **Water:** Water policy must prioritize people, agriculture, then business. We should limit excessive water use by data centers, require recycling, expand rain capture, reservoirs, and explore desalination and infrastructure to protect Texas' future supply.

**Perla Muñoz Hopkins**

**Website:** [perlahopkins.com](http://perlahopkins.com)



- **Qualifications:** Perla serves as policy & ed advocate. She's a USAF Veteran. In 2010 Gen Rice presented her the Inaugural AETC Key Spouse of the Year Award, San Antonio. Perla has collaborated w/legislators since '19.
- **Women's Health:** Perla protects women and children. She is a mother of 3 adult children. More education, funding, and services (ultrasounds) need to be allocated to women pregnancy centers to ensure that every woman, unborn child, and family has the opportunity to thrive and achieve the American Dream. It is a detriment to witness any efforts to deny a mother-to-be, the joy of God's most precious gift, a child.
- **Healthcare:** We must ensure that TX Families have the best access to nutritious foods and real beef. Perla promotes improved measures for TX farmers and ranchers. She plans to begin the ban on bio-engineered foods, such as meat. Make Texas Healthy Again is a priority for Perla. TX is served by some of the world's most renowned professionals & she's proposed a med LT Gov Task Force(s) for improved healthcare.
- **Cannabis Legislation:** Many populations rely on medicinal products, including our U.S. veterans and patients with chronic pain. Texas should consider medical subject matter experts, studies, research, findings, and the most recent schedule policy, as well as federal regulations when drafting and/or implementing this form of legislation.
- **Water:** The LT Gov & Texas Senate must do everything possible to continue working w/everyday Texans on Water Conservation legislation and measures. We must be forward thinking and tackle Data Center water consumption implications and improve water recycling and irrigation. Citizens are concerned, and with good reason, over well limitations or lack there of. NO Texan should be forced to leave their home.

**Did not respond:** Dan Patrick

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Four-year term. The attorney general is the chief law enforcement officer of the state; represents the state and state officials in legal matters; issues opinions; oversees collection of child support; administers the crime victims compensation fund; enforces the open records/open meetings acts; approves public bond issues; and enforces consumer regulations.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Elections:** How would you protect Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?
- **Immigration:** How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while ensuring all individuals within our borders have access to due process protections?
- **Priorities:** How would you identify, evaluate, and prioritize which state legal cases to pursue?

The League of Women Voters, strictly nonpartisan, does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

- **Leadership:** What specific improvements or reforms do you envision for the Texas Attorney General's office in the coming years?

**Aaron Reitz**

**Website:** [AaronReitz.com](http://AaronReitz.com)



- **Qualifications:** Endorsed successor to AG Ken Paxton. U.S. Marine officer. Senior Trump DOJ official. Deputy Texas AG. Chief of Staff to Sen. Ted Cruz. Texas Supreme Court law clerk. Winning legal record.
- **Elections:** Secure elections are essential to liberty and self-government. As AG, I will aggressively enforce the Texas Election Code, protect lawful voters, prosecute fraud, and stop Left-wing efforts to weaken and steal elections, enhance ballot security, and restore public confidence in election outcomes.
- **Immigration:** I will work hand-in-glove with President Trump and Texas law enforcement to reverse the Biden-era invasion of aliens and remove those here illegally. The rule of law and sovereignty must be restored. Illegal aliens are entitled only to swift identification, detention, and deportation—not endless delays and meddling by anti-American, pro-alien leftist organizations.
- **Priorities:** I will prioritize cases by fidelity to the U.S. and Texas Constitutions and the law as written. I will aggressively litigate, investigate, sue, defend, and appeal to protect Texans' sovereignty, liberty, and public safety, and to defeat the forces of the Left that threaten everything we hold dear—just as my record shows I've done throughout my career.
- **Leadership:** I will build on AG Paxton's legacy with even greater speed, strength, and resolve. With senior Trump DOJ experience, I will fully align Texas with the Administration to deliver uncompromising law enforcement, border security, and an America First Law and Order Agenda without apology.

**Chip Roy**

**Website:** [chiproy.com](http://chiproy.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have courtroom and prosecutorial experience as a US Attorney, a nationally recognized conservative voting record in Congress, and senior leadership experience as First Assistant Attorney General.
- **Elections:** As Attorney General, I will rigorously enforce Texas election law so that every eligible voter is protected and every unlawful ballot is prevented. This includes prosecuting election fraud, defending voter ID and citizenship verification requirements, and resisting federal attempts to undermine Texas's election safeguards.
- **Immigration:** Texas must use every lawful tool available to defend itself: litigation against unlawful federal policies, support for state and local enforcement efforts, aggressive action against cartel networks, and NGOs that facilitate illegal activity, and prosecution of crimes tied to human trafficking. As Attorney General, I will treat border security as a top priority and have a record of doing so.
- **Priorities:** As a former First Assistant Attorney General, I understand how the office functions day to day and how to align its work with clear strategic priorities. I would prioritize defending Texas sovereignty against federal overreach, aggressively prosecuting human trafficking, cartel activity, election fraud, and corporate cronyism and misconduct; and protecting Texans' constitutional liberties.

■ **Leadership:** As First Assistant Attorney General, I effectively served as the chief operating officer of the office overseeing daily operations, coordinating across divisions, managing personnel, and ensuring the Attorney General’s priorities were executed. My goal is an office that is feared by criminals, respected by the courts, trusted by law enforcement, and dedicated to serving the people of Texas.

**Did not respond:** Mayes Middleton, Joan Huffman

## COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Four-year term. The comptroller is the chief financial officer of the state; collects state taxes and fees; pays the state’s bills; provides revenue estimates to the legislature; certifies the budget; reports the condition of the state’s finances; and provides economic development assistance to local governments and private businesses.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Rainy Day Fund:** How do you think Texas should use its Rainy Day Fund?
- **Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs):** What oversight measures will you support to ensure that ESAs are funded and administered transparently?
- **Budget Management:** How will you ensure budget transparency so taxpayers can easily see how their money is allocated and spent?
- **Priorities:** What do you see as your greatest challenge as Comptroller over the next four years, and how will you address it?

**Michael Berlanga**

**Email:** [mike@asktv.com](mailto:mike@asktv.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am the only certified public accountant on the ballot and would make Texas history as such if elected. In addition, I am also licensed as a senior property tax consultant and real estate broker.
- **Rainy Day Fund:** The Texas Rainy Day Fund should be used for one-time emergencies, like natural disasters or sudden revenue drops, to prevent service cuts, fund major one-time projects (water, education), and stabilize the budget during downturns. It should not be used for chronic underfunding or ongoing programs. I understand prioritizing prudence while allowing investment for growth while funding efficiently.
- **Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs):** As a CPA I am uniquely trained and committed to ensure transparency and accountability, Annual audits, programmatic reporting, defined qualifying expenses, account suspension/fund recovery procedures, digital wallet technology are legislated measures that will only safeguard taxpayer dollars ensuring that funds are used strictly for their intended purposes when quality oversight is my authority.
- **Budget Management:** Implementing user-friendly online tools like ‘Where the Money Goes,’ data charts, graphs on spending by agency/category, citizen-centric reports, and the Transparency Stars program for local governments, designed to make complex state finances accessible and understandable for taxpayers. Simplifying state finances, foster greater trust and more participation in fiscal oversight unlike before.
- **Priorities:** Achieving the Governor’s goal of eliminating school property tax 3 years & 10 sessions ago. My God given talents to calculate and communicate will influence the Legislature to do what Texas has ever done before. The Constitutional Duty of the Legislature is to fund education efficiently. My priority will make

property more affordable for every Texan and achieve universal choice truly universal

**Christi Craddick**

**Website:** [christicraddickforcomptroller.com](http://christicraddickforcomptroller.com)



- **Qualifications:** Having served and managed a large state agency as Commissioner of the Railroad Commission since 2012; Bachelor’s Degree as Plan II graduate and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from UT Austin.
- **Rainy Day Fund:** The Comptroller doesn’t pass laws, but plays a key role in how we budget. Priorities change all the time. I would partner with legislators to protect conservative priorities, ensure accurate revenue forecasts, and keep Texas a low-tax, pro-growth state.
- **Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs):** Real-time auditing and verification systems to prevent misuse or double-billing; Vendor and provider audits to confirm compliance and quality in approved services; Public transparency dashboards so taxpayers can see exactly how ESA dollars are being spent; Close coordination with the TEA and the Legislature; Swift penalties and clawbacks for any individual or vendor found abusing the program.
- **Budget Management:** Audit everything, launch a local government efficiency task force, and upgrade outdated technology. Texas taxpayers deserve to know where their money is going. I will launch a top-to-bottom audit to ensure every dollar is tracked, every program is reviewed, and no waste goes unchecked. From city budgets to special districts, there should be reviews of local budgets to help communities cut waste
- **Priorities:** Ensuring that the office is responsive to taxpayers. At the Railroad Commission I led efforts to cut permitting delays from months to 48 hours. I’ll bring that same approach to the Comptroller’s Office to bring faster refunds for Texas businesses. When small businesses overpay their taxes, they shouldn’t have to wait months to get their money back.

**Don Huffines**

**Website:** [donhuffines.com](http://donhuffines.com)



- **Qualifications:** I exposed a multi-million-dollar corruption scandal that sent six to prison and saved taxpayers millions. As senator, I refused salary and perks. As Comptroller, I’ll audit spending and fight fraud.
- **Rainy Day Fund:** The Rainy Day Fund belongs to taxpayers, not the government. I’ll examine how the ESF is invested to maximize benefits for its rightful owners, Texas taxpayers. It should be reserved for true emergencies so Texas can pay its bills on time. As a lifelong businessman, fiscal discipline matters to me, and I earned a 99% scorecard as a Texas Senator from Texans for Fiscal Responsibility.
- **Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs):** I’ve always fought for education freedom and real competition, because competition lowers costs and raises the quality. As Comptroller, I’ll manage Texas’ new Education Savings Account program so parents can choose the best school for their child. I’ll ensure it’s transparent and empowers parents with no strings attached.
- **Budget Management:** We need a budget that’s simple, transparent, and easy to understand, not just for the Legislature, but for every Texas taxpayer. Too many in government forget whose money they spend. Every dollar belongs to taxpayers, not govern-

ment. The Comptroller must do more than track revenue, it must ensure dollars are spent wisely, efficiently, and transparently.

- **Priorities:** The greatest challenge is ending the culture where bureaucrats treat taxpayer money like it's theirs. As Comptroller, I'll make the office a watchdog: audit government, expose fraud, waste, and corruption, and work with law enforcement to put thieves in jail. Then I'll fight to return the savings to Texans.

**Did not respond:** Kelly Hancock

### COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Four-year term. As head of the General Land Office, the commissioner manages state lands, including oil and gas properties (which supply funds to the Permanent School Fund) and the Alamo. The commissioner chairs the Veterans Land Board, which administers programs for Texas veterans, and is responsible for environmental protection of Texas' coast. Other state boards chaired include the School Land Board and the Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee.

- Dawn Buckingham**

Unopposed

### COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Four-year term. The agriculture commissioner's principal job is promoting Texas' agricultural products. In that capacity, the commissioner facilitates trade and marketing of agricultural products; regulates weights and measures; regulates pesticide use and application; certifies organically produced products; administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs; provides financial help to farmers; and helps solve issues related to natural disasters.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Food Assistance for Children and Schools:** How would you ensure the nutritional needs of Texas children are met year-round?
- **Tariffs:** How would you protect Texas farmers from potentially higher costs or lost sales due to tariffs?
- **Rural Development:** What is the greatest challenge facing rural communities, and how would you address it?
- **Water:** What policies would you support to balance water usage between farming and other uses?

- Sid Miller**

**Website:** [sidmiller.com](http://sidmiller.com)

- **Qualifications:** With decades in Texas agriculture and years serving as Ag Commissioner, I bring proven leadership, real-world experience, and a Texas-strong commitment to serving the people of this great state.
- **Food Assistance for Children and Schools:** Under my leadership, Texas ranks first in delivering healthy meals to schoolchildren. By expanding year-round nutrition programs, supporting community efforts like the MAHA movement, collaborating with leaders such as Robert F. Kennedy, and serving on Governor Abbott's newly created Texas Food Nutrition Committee, I work to ensure every Texas child receives the nutritious meals they deserve.
- **Tariffs:** I work hard every day to protect Texas farmers by advocating for fair trade policies, standing with President Trump on strengthening American agriculture, and pushing for relief tools



that offset higher costs or lost sales. By promoting Texas-grown products, expanding new markets, and fighting for producers at every level, my focus always remains on keeping Texas farmers strong and competitive.

- **Rural Development:** The greatest challenge facing rural communities is access to healthcare, markets, infrastructure, and opportunity. I work every day to expand broadband, strengthen local economies, support rural schools and hospitals, protect our water, and ensure state resources reach small towns. By championing rural voices and cutting red tape, I stay focused on keeping rural Texas strong and thriving.
- **Water:** I support protecting farmers' water rights while promoting long-term conservation through rainwater harvesting, desalinating brackish supplies, recycling fracking & oilfield produced water for irrigation, tapping newly discovered deep-water sources, improving storage, and offering incentives for efficiency. My focus is ensuring Texas agriculture and communities have reliable water for the future.

- Nate Sheets**

**Website:** [NateSheets.com](http://NateSheets.com)



- **Qualifications:** Lifelong conservative Republican, Navy veteran, Christian w/ a decade in full-time ministry. Built the nation's #1 honey brand from one backyard hive by championing transparency & purity for consumers.
- **Food Assistance for Children and Schools:** How would you ensure the nutritional needs of Texas children are met year-round? Texas ranks 44th in school lunches under current leadership. I'll re-prioritize state food dollars toward Texas-grown produce and meat to improve nutrition, support farmers, and get better results for kids.
- **Tariffs:** How would you protect Texas farmers from potentially higher costs or lost sales due to tariffs? Farmers once earned over 40¢ of every food dollar—today it's about 14¢. I'll reform outdated, inefficient programs to help producers sell directly to consumers, keep more profit, and strengthen Texas agriculture.
- **Rural Development:** What is the greatest challenge facing rural communities, and how would you address it? The biggest challenge in rural Texas is losing jobs and opportunity. Instead of subsidizing multinational processed food companies, I'll use the state's buying power to buy from Texas farmers and ranchers—keeping dollars local.
- **Water:** What policies would you support to balance water usage between farming and other uses? I'll protect landowners' water rights, support common-sense conservation, and ensure agriculture isn't pushed aside by urban growth—balancing Texas water needs without mandates or overregulation.

### RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

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

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Environmental and public safety:** What steps would you take to eliminate the backlog of uncapped abandoned oil, gas, and injection wells across the state?

- **Public Participation:** How would you improve transparency and public participation in the Commission's rulemaking and permitting process?
- **Monitoring and Enforcement:** How would you ensure that the Commission is able to provide adequate monitoring and enforcement to the oil, gas, and mining sectors?
- **Challenges:** What do you see as the two greatest challenges to the office, and how would you address them?

**James 'Jim' Matlock**

**Website:** [matlockfortexas.com](http://matlockfortexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have twenty years in field experience in many areas of the oil and gas industry. I have worked with the service companies, SWD's, leasing, pipelines, and right of ways.
- **Environmental and Public Safety:** I have a plan to address this by working with the independent producers of the state. Plugging is not the right answer for most of the wells. Due to the high salinity and other corrosive properties under extreme pressure, the metal casing deteriorates over time which will cause subsurface damage long before it reaches the surface. We need to repurpose these wells for geothermal or lithium mining.
- **Public Participation:** Since most people can't take the time to drive to Austin, I plan to host district meetings monthly. That will give everyone the opportunity to come out and voice their concerns. I understand that there are a lot of concerns we need to address.
- **Monitoring and Enforcement:** We need more inspectors. Or inspectors are overloaded with the territory they are expected to cover.
- **Challenges:** Everyone has a vested interest in the industry they were elected to regulate. I have no vested interest in the industry. I do love the industry, but we need regulators, no more corporate self governance. We need representatives who are not afraid to have difficult conversations and take responsibility for issues such as lake Boehmer.

**Jim Wright**

**Website:** [wrightfortexas.com](http://wrightfortexas.com)

- **Qualifications:** Currently Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission. Started working in energy industry at age 19. Later created a group of environmental management companies that service the energy sector.
- **Environmental and Public Safety:** The RRC is currently working with the U.S. Department of the Interior to streamline and improve the federal Orphaned Wells Grant Program. That and recent legislative initiatives in the state legislature make it easier to cut through red tape and allow the RRC to utilize its world-renowned well plugging expertise and save taxpayers money.
- **Public Participation:** We engage with the public through open meetings and the RRC website, making information available on proposed rules. We have sector based advisory groups and remote listening sessions, hosted by the Office of Public Engagement. Those allow energy experts to answer questions on rulemaking and permitting processes. As chairman, I know transparency in what we do as a government agency is critical.
- **Monitoring and Enforcement:** RRC has been hard at work to improve our efficiency in staffing and the use of new data tools to flag potential potential issues or questionable recordings. That commitment results in better follow up to serious complaints

by the general public and ensures consistency in the reporting. Improved data results in improved monitoring and enforcement.

- **Challenges:** 1. Support the best use of our natural resources to benefit Texans, while maintaining stewardship of the environment. 2. Balancing the needs and wants of the various sectors and sizes of energy related businesses from small businesses to multi-million dollar interests so that decisions are fair to all stakeholders.

**Hawk Dunlap**

**Website:** [Hawk4texas.com](http://Hawk4texas.com)



- **Qualifications:** Fourth generation oil and gas. Grew up around men who taught me to do it the right way. 30 years operational field experience from fighting oil well fires to excavating over 150 'plugged' wells.
- **Environmental and Public Safety:** Texas has over 10,000 documented orphaned wells with at least 100,000 that will likely be orphaned in the next few years. We also have an over abundance of produced water. I propose a \$.10 per barrel tariff on each barrel of produced water that is injected. At 30 million barrels per day, we'll have \$1 billion in new annual revenue to plug the riskiest wells the right way.
- **Public Participation:** First, allow remote electronic participation by the public. Second, actually ask questions during the monthly public meetings the Commission currently has that goes through 600+ agenda items in 30 minutes. Third, I would have factually informative social media posts as opposed to the current propaganda. The regulators need to regulate, not brag about how many wells they issued drilling permits for
- **Monitoring and Enforcement:** I'll be in the field, not in the office. I intend to travel the state to each of the districts, and help ensure experienced oil and gas men and women are leading with integrity. Treating everyone equally. That means consistent and fair application of the rules. I will also help create a portal for the public to more readily report and check on the status of their complaints.
- **Challenges:** 1. Lack of accountability to the public. I have experienced firsthand how Commissioners treat those making public comments at the open meetings. They are condescending. It's unacceptable. 2. Getting oil and gas money out of the political arena. Not just in this race, but in politics generally. Operationally – see above for water injection and orphaned wells.

**Katherine Culbert**

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



- **Qualifications:** I am a Process Safety Engineer who helps Oil & Gas companies operate safely to protect communities and workers and follow regulations. I care about my fellow Texans and want everyone to thrive here.
- **Environmental and Public Safety:** RRC received added funds in the last budget to plug orphan wells. This funding level needs to continue, and yearly plugging targets need to continue to be exceeded. New plugging requirement laws will help keep new wells from being added to the list. We need better oversight during the well-plugging activities to ensure our dollars are being spent effectively and wells are being properly plugged.
- **Public Participation:** Texans deserve clear oversight, responsible stewardship of natural resources, and a Commission that is open about how decisions are made and how public input is used. Monthly RRC meetings are streamed, and we need to allow

remote public input to the meetings. Communication about upcoming rulemaking and permitting needs to be improved to allow for increased public participation.

- **Monitoring and Enforcement:** The annual monitoring and enforcement plan defines strategic priorities. It is necessary to work with impacted community members and the professionals in the agency to develop a comprehensive plan. Adequate staffing levels and expertise are necessary for proper implementation.
- **Challenges:** Texans need access to reliable and cost-conscious energy. I will pursue policies that help prevent unnecessary rate burdens and ensure that families, businesses and communities benefit from a stable and efficient energy market. Texas must be prepared for a rapidly changing energy landscape. From new tech to shifting

**Did not respond:** Bo French

## TEXAS SUPREME COURT

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

### CHIEF JUSTICE

- Jimmy Blacklock**  
Unopposed

### PLACE 2

- James P. Sullivan**  
Unopposed

### PLACE 7

- Kyle Hawkins**  
Unopposed

### PLACE 8

- Brett Busby**  
Unopposed

## JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

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

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Ethics:** How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?
- **Issues:** What do you see as the most pressing challenge facing the courts today, and how would you propose addressing it?
- **Philosophy:** What is your judicial philosophy?

### PLACE 3

- Alison Fox**

**Website:** [foxforjudge.com](http://foxforjudge.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have almost 20 years in criminal appellate law, drafting opinions, reviewing records, and litigating writs. I am known for my rigor, neutrality, and fidelity to the Constitution.
- **Ethics:** I will decide every case based solely on the law and the record. Ethical rules, precedent and judicial restraint – not politics or donors – govern my rulings.
- **Issues:** I believe the greatest challenge is applying the law consistently and impartially while resisting political pressure, misinformation, and demands for results over justice. I can address these problems by applying the law consistently, writing clear opinions, respecting precedent, and maintaining independence from politics — courts build trust through fairness, transparency, and restraint.
- **Philosophy:** My judicial philosophy is grounded in fidelity to the Constitution, respect for precedent, and judicial restraint. Judges must apply the law as written, decide cases on the record, and remain independent from politics or personal views.

**Did not respond:** Thomas Smith, Lesli Fitzpatrick, Brent Coffee

### PLACE 4

- Kevin Patrick Yeary**  
Unopposed

### PLACE 9

- Jennifer Balido**

**Website:** [judgebalido.com](http://judgebalido.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have over 33 years of criminal law experience as a district judge, prosecutor, public defender, and criminal defense attorney, trying cases and arguing appeals, including death penalty cases.
- **Ethics:** Transparency is key to the public's trust in the judiciary. Aside from accurate and timely reporting to the Ethics Commission, a judge should make the parties aware of any potential conflicts of interest, either personal or professional, however slight, and let the parties decide if they wish to ask the judge to recuse herself. As a district judge, I have recused myself when necessary.
- **Issues:** The most pressing challenge facing appellate courts is the length of time it takes for a case to go through the appellate process. Delays occur at every turn, and victims of crime and defendants deserve a swift but thorough examination of the trial record and applicable law and a thoughtful appellate opinion addressing the issues raised in the case. Panel opinions could clear more cases quickly.
- **Philosophy:** As a sitting district judge, people come before me facing the most difficult situations of their lives. Crime victims, defendants, their families, and their attorneys are looking to me to set the tone. I treat everyone with respect, I allow everyone to have their say, and I fully consider the arguments of both sides. You may not agree with my decision, but you will know that you were heard.

**John Messinger**

**Website:** [messingerforjustice.com](http://messingerforjustice.com)



- **Qualifications:** Representing Texas in this court has been my job for 15 years. Few people have comparable experience: over 125 petitions for review, over 100 briefs, and 26 oral arguments in this court alone.
- **Ethics:** We're blessed to be able to elect (and un-elect) judges. I have a long record of advocating for what the law requires, not what I would prefer. The voters will ensure that I keep my promise to continue enforcing the law as written.
- **Issues:** Although the court has found many novel ways to reverse convictions in the last few years, the biggest problem is the time it takes. The average time it took the court to review a decision and issue an opinion was over 500 days last year. It used to be under 200. You fix this by electing people who've spent their careers analyzing complex legal issues in 30 days or less. That's me.
- **Philosophy:** Justice through law enforcement. In a system of law, judges are not empowered to do whatever they think is fair or right in a given case. They must apply the law as written. If the law is properly interpreted and the result is not what the legislature intended, it is the legislature's job to rewrite the law. Judges should have the humility to accept their limited roles and limited wisdom.

**TEXAS STATE SENATOR**

4-year term. Responsibilities include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Priorities:** What are the top three issues facing people in your district? How will you address those issues?
- **Energy:** How would you ensure Texas has reliable, affordable energy while protecting the environment?
- **Business:** What, if any, regulation is needed for Data Centers?
- **Hunger:** How do we ensure that no child goes hungry in the State of Texas?
- **Education:** What policies would you support to ensure all Texas students have access to quality education?

**DISTRICT 19**

**Marcus Cardenas**

**Website:** [marcusfortexas.com](http://marcusfortexas.com)

- **Qualifications:** A lifelong South San Antonio resident, I led my family's business and built my own small business contributing to regional job creation and economic growth. I'm also a parent devoted to upholding family values and excellence in education and workforce development. Heavily engaged professionally and civically, public service and safety remain a critical priority for families, business, and the district. My experience, integrity, and commitment equip me to effectively advocate for all Texans.
- **Priorities:** Jobs & cost of living: attract employers, cut red tape, and keep taxes low so paychecks go further. Public safety: fully support law enforcement, target violent crime, and fund proven prevention programs. Education & opportunity: support educators, increase educational investments, and empower parents ensuring every child and student succeeds.

- **Energy:** Increased power demands require effective resource and infrastructure management. I'll fight for diversified disputable power generation of dependable resources balanced with reliable cost-effective renewables and storage lowering costs; modernizing permitting, connectivity, maintenance, and weatherization systems; market/policy reforms encouraging free-market approaches, block costly mandates; and assigned costs for higher technological demands and development to keep bills low and affordable.
- **Business:** Texas is seeing rising demand and doubled grid connections due to data centers. Policies should assign reliability costs to responsible sources, not families or businesses; enforce generator reliability standards; and promote a mix of reliable power generation, cost-effective renewables, energy innovation, market-driven approaches, and transparent PPPs.
- **Hunger:** No child should ever go hungry. I'll ensure the most vulnerable are not overlooked by government and cut red tape so food reaches kids faster through school and summer meals and support local and innovative programs and partnerships with food banks, churches, nonprofits, and private sector. Spurring economic development contributes to the vitality of communities and I will be focused on job creation, better paychecks, workforce training, and affordability so parents can provide basic needs.
- **Education:** Quality education is the foundation of opportunity and every student deserves an education that prepares them for college, careers, trades, or military service. That means funding classrooms, not bureaucracy, supporting and increasing teacher pay, expanding career & technical education, empowering parents/protecting parental rights, implementing smart accountable systems, and ensuring safe schools. Every District 19 child deserves access to excellent community supported schools.

**Adam Ernest Salyer**

**Website:** [Adamsalyer.us](http://Adamsalyer.us)



- **Qualifications:** I served 14 years in the United States Army, supporting missions from Korea to Kentucky and managing budgets for Engineering Battalions. My life has been shaped by service, discipline, and responsibility. I've also faced adversity head-on. After enduring 20 surgeries and going from a wheelchair to walking again, I learned what true resilience looks like. Those challenges didn't break me — they built me. The strength I needed to rebuild my life is the same strength I will bring to the fight for
- **Priorities:** 1. Border Security and Public Safety – Strengthen coordination between local, state, and federal law enforcement so rural counties aren't left behind. 2. Economic Development and Job Growth – Support small businesses, ranchers, and farmers with grants, training, and access to capital. 3. Veteran Issues and Community Services – Expand access to VA services, mobile clinics, and rural healthcare options. Improve mental health resources, including counseling, crisis support, and peer programs.
- **Energy:** I support an all-of-the-above energy strategy that strengthens the grid, keeps power affordable, protects our land and water, and ensures Texas remains an energy leader for generations to come
- **Business:** Senate District 19 is going to have to address data center regulations which should focus on protecting our power grid, water resources, rural communities, and local taxpayers while still welcoming responsible investment.
- **Hunger:** In all of SD 19 – No child in Texas should go hungry, and we can achieve that by strengthening school meals, expand-

ing summer and after-school nutrition, supporting rural food access, and partnering with the community to ensure every family has the resources they need

- **Education:** All the children of Texas deserve a strong public school, and that means supporting teachers, investing in early learning, strengthening rural and border-area schools, expanding career pathways, and ensuring safe, well-resourced classrooms for all students. The future resides in the Brilliant minds of these young future leaders. It is our responsibility to enhance all opportunities to thrive for tomorrow.

**Did not respond:** Robert Marks, Jr

**DISTRICT 21**

**Julie Dahlberg**  
Unopposed

**TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

2-year term. Legislative authority and responsibilities for the 150 representatives include passing bills on public policy matters, originating spending bills, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Business:** What, if any, regulation is needed for Data Centers?
- **Education:** What role do you think the State Legislature should have in school district policies?
- **Water:** What are your ideas for ensuring that Texans have affordable and safe water, while balancing the desire for economic development?
- **Hunger:** How do we ensure no child goes hungry in the State of Texas?
- **Voter Rights:** Would you support legislation that requires documented proof of citizenship when registering to vote? Please explain your answer.

**DISTRICT 116**

**Rhett Rosenquest Smith**  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 117**

**Ben Mostyn**  
Unopposed

**DISTRICT 118**

**Joe Shellhart**

**Website:** [voteshellhart.com](http://voteshellhart.com)

- **Qualifications:** I have over eight years of military service, five in EMS, I'm a small business owner, substitute teacher, and dad here in San Antonio. I am pursuing a doctorate in early childhood education, which helps me connect real-world experience with informed decision-making. I don't have all the answers, but I listen, I learn, and I'm willing to do the work. Running for the Texas House is simply the next step in continuing to serve my neighbors and community.
- **Business:** Data centers are important for our economy, but they need to grow responsibly. I support common-sense rules that protect our power grid, water resources, and nearby communities without driving business out of Texas. That means transparency

about their impact, responsible planning for energy use, and basic standards on things like heat, noise, and water, especially near neighborhoods. We should welcome investment, but not at the expense of Texans' quality of life or the reliability of our grid.

- **Education:** The Legislature should set strong foundations and clear expectations, but not try to run every classroom from Austin. The state's role is to ensure fair funding, safety, and accountability, and to protect parents' rights to be involved in their child's education. I believe more of our resources should go to teachers and classrooms, not growing administration. We should empower parents, support educators, and let local districts focus on teaching kids, not on bureaucracy or politics.
- **Water:** We have to treat water as a basic necessity first and an economic asset second. Texans should never have to question if their tap water is safe. The state must enforce clear safety standards and hold bad actors accountable when they put communities at risk. At the same time, we know Texas is growing, so we need to plan ahead instead of reacting to crises, supporting long-term projects like conservation, reuse, and better storage so our water supply can keep up with people and businesses.
- **Hunger:** I take this issue personally because I grew up in a low-income household on a fixed income. I remember not knowing if my lunch money went through, getting a brown bag while others had a full tray. No child should feel singled out, embarrassed, or unsure if they'll eat that day, especially at school. We have to put kids first and figure out the funding second. If a child shows up hungry, we feed them. Period. Schools should make breakfast and lunch easily accessible.
- **Voter Rights:** Voting is a right for U.S. citizens, and asking for proof of citizenship or a valid ID is a reasonable safeguard to protect election integrity and keep things honest at the polls. At the same time, any requirements should be clear and fair, making it straightforward for eligible citizens, including seniors, veterans, rural Texans, and low-income families, to get the documents they need without unnecessary costs or hurdles.

**Desi Martinez**  
[desifortexas.net](http://desifortexas.net)

- **Qualifications:** I built my career on a steadfast commitment to justice and service for the people of San Antonio and Texas. As the founder of Martinez & Associates—honored by the San Antonio Express-News as Best Law Firm in San Antonio four of the past five years—I humbly earned a reputation for representing clients with integrity, passion, and unwavering dedication.
- **Business:** I am committed to lowering the tax burden on hard-working Texans. That means cutting wasteful government spending and ensuring that Texas families are protected from rising costs. Every dollar matters, and I will work to keep more money in your pocket where it belongs so that you have the opportunity to invest in your family's future.
- **Education:** I am proud to support and will advocate for the great school districts in Texas that serve our children and show their commitment to providing students with the best opportunities possible.
- **Water:** Maintaining access to clean and affordable water is essential for Texans. I will advocate for smart investments in water infrastructure that keeps our safety and economic development at the forefront.
- **Hunger:** A thriving economy creates stability and empowers Texas families. Removing economic limitations and supporting small businesses, the backbone of our community, makes room for

families to take care of themselves and our community members in need.

- **Voter Rights:** Maintaining public confidence in the election process is crucial in upholding our constitutional rights. I will listen to Texas families and fight for a fair and transparent election process.

**Did not respond:** Jorge Borrego

**DISTRICT 119**

**Melva Perez**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 121**

**David McArthur**

**Website:** [mcarthurfortexas.com](http://mcarthurfortexas.com)

- **Qualifications:** I am a lifelong conservative and am uniquely qualified through my experience in public service, business, and charity. I started my career with Governor George W. Bush and later worked in the White House with President Bush. My career has been in the energy sector ever since, and I have built my own small business. I concurrently serve on the board of the Texas Department of Public Safety and serve as the executive director for a local foundation.



- **Business:** Local governments, the business community, and the affected industries should work together to determine the best way that data centers can operate and help our communities prosper. I am opposed to red tape regulations that only exist to hinder our economy.
- **Education:** I trust parents to be the best decision makers for their children's education. The state should work to empower parents, not bureaucrats.
- **Water:** I support efforts to properly maintain and upgrade our water infrastructure to secure the future of Texas, including working with local governments and the business community, as well as through state efforts like the recently approved Texas Water Fund, and ensuring those funds are responsibly and effectively spent.
- **Hunger:** As a State Representative, I will work with local governments, the business community, and nonprofits to determine how we can best assist those in need. That includes reducing unnecessary barriers and red tape as well as securing reliable and responsible funding sources.
- **Voter Rights:** Yes, I would support legislation that requires documented proof of citizenship when registering to vote. I believe every voter should be a verified US citizen.

**Did not respond:** Marc LaHood

**DISTRICT 122**

**Willie Ng**

**Website:** [williefortexas.com](http://williefortexas.com)

- **Qualifications:** I bring over 30 years of experience in law enforcement, public safety, and leadership, including service as a police officer, chief investigator, educator, and small business owner. I have enforced the law, managed complex operations, and made tough decisions under pressure. I believe government works best when



leaders are accountable, experienced, and focused on public safety and results.

- **Business:** Texas should welcome data centers and job creation, but not at the expense of our communities. Regulations should ensure transparency, responsible water and energy use, and respect for local infrastructure. Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize unchecked growth, and development must be planned responsibly to protect long-term economic stability.
- **Education:** The Legislature has a responsibility to set strong standards, protect students, and ensure accountability in public education. Parents deserve transparency, academic excellence, and safe learning environments. While local districts manage daily operations, the state must step in when schools fail students or misuse taxpayer dollars.
- **Water:** Water security is critical to Texas' future. We must invest in infrastructure, conservation, and long-term planning while holding developers accountable for their impact. Economic growth should never compromise water quality or affordability. Responsible development and smart resource management can support growth without risking our most essential resource.
- **Hunger:** No child should go hungry in Texas. We should strengthen proven nutrition programs, support local food banks, and partner with schools and community organizations. Assistance programs must be efficient, accountable, and focused on helping families in need while encouraging long-term stability and self-sufficiency.
- **Voter Rights:** Yes. Secure elections are fundamental to our democracy. Requiring proof of citizenship when registering to vote helps protect election integrity and public confidence. Any system should be clear and accessible for eligible voters while preventing fraud and ensuring that only citizens participate in our elections.

**Did not respond:** Mark Dorazio

**DISTRICT 124**

**Sylvia Soto**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 125**

**Chuck Mercer IV**

**Website:** [mercerfortexas.com](http://mercerfortexas.com)

- **Qualifications:** My qualifications for Texas House District 125 combine finance, education, and community roots. As a financial advisor for 10 years, I've helped families with budgeting and planning—skills key for state fiscal responsibility and tax relief. I taught for 2 years and have earned a Master's in Instructional Design and Technology, giving me direct insight into classrooms and reform needs related to the needs of our state's children.
- **Business:** Data centers fuel Texas jobs and growth, so I favor minimal regulation to stay business-friendly, but the 'Twitter Files' revealed big tech-government censorship collusion. I'd support targeted rules: transparency in content moderation, free speech protections against viewpoint bias, and bans on foreign adversaries owning infrastructure.
- **Education:** Local school districts should select from State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved materials, adapt to community values, and incorporate supplements, with accountability via parental input and elections to preserve educator professionalism and local flexibility. This parent-prioritizing framework



safeguards against the biases you describe through state rigor and community choice.

- **Water:** To secure affordable, safe water for Texans while fueling economic growth, I'd maximize the \$20B Texas Water Fund for desalination (brackish/seawater) and reuse projects—drought-proof supplies without tax hikes. Prioritize low-interest loans for leak repairs, conservation incentives to cut bills, and streamlined permits for private innovation. Enforce strict TCEQ safety standards and rural aid.
- **Hunger:** I advocate robust promotion of the Summer Meal Programs (via TDA sites, non-congregate options in rural areas) and incentives for faith-based groups, nonprofits, and food banks like Feeding Texas to distribute meals—leveraging private donations and volunteers. In light of some emergencies, using state bonds to supplement year-round food programs would ensure we may appropriately budget and assist children in need.
- **Voter Rights:** I do support such legislation. This is in line with every member of the OECD nations that are our economic and political partners. This would be in line with every developed nation which has rigorous same day voting and counting. We have known from Romania, Moldova, and now here in the United States, that if there is no proof; local counters and officiators are free to commit rampant voting fraud.

**Ricardo 'Rick' Martinez**

**Website:** [voterickfortexas.com](http://voterickfortexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** I bring over 20 years of experience building and managing successful businesses, creating jobs, and navigating real-world regulations and budgets. As a business owner, community advocate, and family man, I understand the challenges working families and small businesses face. My experience has taught me accountability, problem-solving, and leadership rooted in service—not politics.
- **Business:** Data centers should follow reasonable regulations that protect local infrastructure, water resources, and the power grid without discouraging investment. Transparency on energy and water use, coordination with local utilities, and fair taxation are important, but Texas should remain business-friendly and avoid overregulation that drives jobs elsewhere.
- **Education:** The Legislature should set basic standards for accountability and transparency, but decisions about education should remain as close to parents and local school districts as possible. Local communities know their students best, and the state's role should be limited to supporting strong academics—not micromanaging classrooms or imposing one-size-fits-all mandates.
- **Water:** Texas must invest in infrastructure upgrades, conservation, and long-term planning to protect water supplies. Economic development should not come at the expense of residents' access to clean, affordable water. Responsible growth means planning ahead, protecting resources, and holding polluters accountable.
- **Hunger:** No child should go hungry in a state as prosperous as Texas. We must strengthen school meal programs, support local food banks, and partner with nonprofits and faith-based organizations to reach families in need—while ensuring programs are efficient, accountable, and focused on children.
- **Voter Rights:** Yes. I support requiring documented proof of citizenship when registering to vote. Voting is a fundamental right of U.S. citizens, and clear safeguards help protect the integrity and confidence of our elections. Any requirements should be applied

fairly, securely, and without unnecessary barriers for eligible voters, ensuring lawful elections while maintaining access for all qualified citizens.

### TEXAS 15TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT

Six-year term. The Texas 15th Court of Appeals District has jurisdiction over civil matters brought against the state. The court also has jurisdiction over appeals brought by Texas Business Court over more than \$10 million.

#### CHIEF JUSTICE, 15TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT

**Scott Brister**  
Unopposed

#### JUSTICE, 15TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 2

**Scott K. Field**  
Unopposed

#### JUSTICE, 15TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 3

**April Farris**  
Unopposed

### TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS

The 4th Court of Appeals is the intermediate court of appeals, comprised of seven Justices who hear both civil and criminal cases from thirty-two counties located in South Texas and the Texas Hill Country.

#### CHIEF JUSTICE, 4TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT

**Bert Richardson**  
Unopposed

### BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT - CIVIL

Civil District Courts have original jurisdiction in cases where more than \$200 are in dispute, family law matters, title to land and contested elections.

#### 225TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT

**Benjamin Robertson**  
Unopposed

### BEXAR COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

4-year term. Works with law enforcement in the investigation of criminal cases, presents cases to the grand jury, represents victims of violence in protective orders, represents the state in prosecuting felony criminal cases and in removing children from abusive households.

**Ashley Foster**  
Unopposed

### BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE

4-year term. Presiding officer of the Bexar County Commissioners Court, voting member of court, spokesperson and ceremonial head of the county government, head of emergency management, sets agenda for meetings.

**Patrick Von Dohlen**  
Unopposed

### BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW

4-year term. Civil and criminal courts at law handle many cases similar to those in district courts, though jail sentences and fines are less; they also accept appeals from Justice of the Peace and Municipal courts.

#### COURT 1

**Bob Behrens**  
Unopposed

#### COURT 4

**Jason Roland Garrahan**  
Unopposed

#### COURT 8

**Celeste Brown**  
Unopposed

#### COURT 9

**Daphne Previti Austin**  
Unopposed

#### COURT 12

**Deborah Dietzmann**  
Unopposed

### BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

4-year term. Each commissioner represents ¼ of the county's population. Commissioners Court adopts county budgets and tax rates, sets salaries and benefits, has exclusive authority to authorize contracts and maintains county buildings and facilities.

#### PRECINCT 2

**David Sherwood Hill**  
Unopposed

### BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

4-year term. JPs preside over justice courts, which hear cases for traffic violations and Class C misdemeanors. They can also hear minor civil cases, truancy cases, tenant disputes and small claims cases and issue search or arrest warrants.

#### PRECINCT 3

**Julie Bray Patterson**  
Unopposed

### ELECTION PROTECTION HOTLINES

- **English:** 866-687-8683
- **Spanish:** 888-839-8692
- **Arabic:** 844-925-5287
- **Asian languages:** 888-274-8683
- **ASL (video call):** 301-818-8683
- **Disability Rights:** 888-796-8683



## DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES

### U.S. SENATOR

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

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Economy:** What specific policies would you support to address the growing wealth gap between the highest and lowest earners, and what do you see as the appropriate role of the federal government in this issue?
- **Immigration:** What policy changes would you propose to make the U.S. immigration system more effective and humane?
- **Balance of Power:** The Constitution establishes a system of checks and balances among the three branches of government. As a Senator, what specific actions would you take to preserve the system so that the federal government can serve the people?
- **Healthcare:** What role should the federal government play in promoting a healthy American population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Americans?

**James Talarico**

**Website:** [jamestalarico.com](http://jamestalarico.com)



- **Qualifications:** I'm a former middle school teacher, and I've served in the Texas House for eight years. As a Democrat in the Republican-controlled House, I've proven that I can fight back and win for working people.
- **Economy:** We need a government that serves working people instead of giant corporations by: closing tax loopholes that billionaires exploit, raising the corporate tax, raising the tax on corporate stock buybacks, raising the minimum wage to \$15, and incentivizing CEOs to raise wages by creating a special tax on corporations that pay their top executives more than 250 times their median worker's salary.
- **Immigration:** Our border should be like a front porch — a giant welcome mat out front and a lock on the door. I'd propose modernizing ports of entry to detect threats before they enter the country, hiring more asylum judges to process cases quickly, stopping ICE abuses so they focus on deporting criminals instead of community members, passing the DREAM Act, and creating clear pathways to citizenship.
- **Balance of Power:** I will support legislation to ban super PACs, cap campaign contributions, ban partisan gerrymandering and Congressional stock trading, expand voter access by passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and impose term limits on Supreme Court justices and hold them to higher ethical standards.
- **Healthcare:** In the legislature, I passed laws capping insulin at \$25 and importing cheaper drugs into the US. As Senator, I'll ensure every American can access a federal healthcare option like

Medicare, cap copays for additional prescription drugs, protect reproductive care, and save rural hospitals. I'll protect Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act and fully fund the VA.

**Jasmine Crockett**

**Website:** [jasmineforus.com](http://jasmineforus.com)



- **Qualifications:** I'm a civil rights & criminal defense multi-jurisdictional 20 year licensed attorney who served in the Texas House & in Congress as Vice Ranking Member on Oversight & a Ranker on Judiciary Committee.
- **Economy:** I'll repeal the Trump tariffs that are hurting American consumers and reform our tax structure to ensure the ultra-wealthy pay their fair share. This will allow us to deliver relief to the middle and working class and assistance for first-time home buyers and small businesses. Costs have gone up but wages haven't, which is why I'm co-sponsoring the Raise the Wage Act to increase the minimum wage.
- **Immigration:** I support comprehensive immigration reform that prioritizes a pathway to citizenship that's secure, timely, and easy to navigate. In Congress, I introduced the CLEAR ID Act requiring ICE agents to identify themselves and co-lead the Protecting Sensitive Locations Act to limit immigration enforcement at healthcare facilities, schools, courthouses, and houses of worship.
- **Balance of Power:** I serve on the Judiciary Committee, the Supreme Court Task Force & am a multi-jurisdictionally licensed attorney of 20 years. We need to expand the court, which has been done 7 times before, and also need ethics reform as this group of justices has revealed itself to be compromised; i.e. Presidential Immunity.
- **Healthcare:** I'm a proud cosponsor of Medicare For All. We must fully cover preventative health care, cap out-of-pocket costs, and eliminate premiums, deductibles, and co-pays. In Congress, I've cosponsored bills to: lower drug costs, allow Medicare coverage for cancer early detection screening, and address the mental health crisis by training providers. Our health care system must center patients, not profits

**Did not respond:** Ahmad R. Hassan

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVE**

2-year term. Writing bills and resolutions, offering amendments and serving on committees. Answer directly to the relatively small group of people they represent as opposed to senators, who represent an entire state and have 6-year terms.

**DISTRICT 20**

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Priorities:** What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?
- **Healthcare:** What do you see is the best way to provide access to affordable health care for Americans?
- **Balance of Power:** What do you see as Congress' role in maintaining the checks and balances among the three branches of government?
- **Immigration:** What immigration reform legislation, if any, would you support?
- **Energy:** How would you ensure America has reliable affordable energy while protecting the environment?

The League of Women Voters, strictly nonpartisan, does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

**Kendra Elizabeth Wilkerson**



- **Qualifications:** I graduated from Texas A&M in San Antonio with a Bachelor's of Arts in Communication & Master of Business Administration. I've also completed studies in Computer Science and Doctoral Business Administration from Atlanta College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Getting a quality education is very important & making sure that college graduates are ready to make better careers for themselves is something that I have gotten experience within. My experience in educational policy and business qualifies.
- **Priorities:** Higher income careers, Healthcare policy and Quality education. The financial gap needs to be addressed. These issues have to be addressed by someone, like my self with experience to make legislative decisions that make sense of everyone. I am qualified to be elected.
- **Healthcare:** Offering healthcare within public and private policies. With health insurance premiums rising it's important that you get the right healthcare policy coverage.
- **Balance of Power:** Congress legislates to control spending, regulate commerce and pay tax policy. It is importantly imperative that someone with experience is elected that knows what the economy needs to ensure the three branches of government maintain the Constitution.
- **Immigration:** Immigration reform should allow new citizenship education that prepares citizens, which I've supported.
- **Energy:** The environment is very important and ensuring that the renewable energy is clean and renewable. With fossil fuels being used and carbon energy emissions with the environment, the potential energy efficiency is effectively protecting the environment and global warming interests.

**Joaquin Castro**



**Website:** [castroforcongress.com](http://castroforcongress.com)

- **Qualifications:** I have been honored to represent San Antonio in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2013. I was proud to be named the most effective Democratic House member in the 118th Congress by the non-partisan Center for Effective Lawmaking.
- **Priorities:** Now in my seventh term, my work in Congress focuses on building what I call the 'Infrastructure of Opportunity,' the good public schools, high-quality health care system, and well-paying jobs that allow folks to pursue their American dream.
- **Healthcare:** Every American should be able to receive the care they need without fear of financial ruin. We need a system that guarantees access for everyone, no matter where they live, how much they earn, or whether they have a pre-existing condition. That means protecting and strengthening the Affordable Care Act, fighting to extend the health care tax credits that lower costs for working families, and expanding Medicaid in Texas, where millions remain uninsured because the state has refused to act.
- **Balance of Power:** The current Congress has weakened itself by surrendering core constitutional powers to the President instead of exercising its legislative responsibilities. On the budget, immigration, trade, and war powers, Congress has failed to assert its role or meaningfully constrain the executive, leaving it less able to address urgent concerns such as the high cost of living. Congress serves the American people, not the President, and must reclaim its authority through legislation and oversight.

■ **Immigration:** Immigration and the border are among the thorniest issues in American politics. Too often, Republicans resort to fearmongering, turning immigrants into political scarecrows. I support comprehensive immigration reform that balances fairness and security and reflects our values. The United States is strong because of immigration, not despite it, and most Americans support a comprehensive solution.

■ **Energy:** Americans expect energy policies that balance reliable, affordable power with sustainability. That means investing in a diverse energy mix, including wind, solar, and energy efficiency, to lower costs and reduce pollution. Texans remember the 2021 Winter Storm Uri grid failure, which exposed the vulnerability of our infrastructure. Modernizing the grid and investing in storage and transmission are essential to prevent future disasters and keep energy affordable.

**Did not respond:** John Atwood

**DISTRICT 23**

□ **Katy Padilla Stout**

**Website:** [katyforcongress.com](http://katyforcongress.com)



■ **Qualifications:** I am a former public school teacher of almost a decade. I have taught kinder, 2nd, 4th, GT, and special ed inclusion. I have worked at Disability Rights Texas and interned at the White House Initiative for Excellence in Education for Hispanics, Civil Rights Division, in Washington, D.C. I am currently a practicing attorney who focuses on children in foster care and helping families in custody situations. I have spent the last 20 years either educating or protecting children.

■ **Priorities:** I believe happy, healthy families are the bedrock of our society. The most fundamental challenge facing families today is the affordability of everyday life. I would focus on supporting working families by regulating reckless tariffs which drive inflation, reforming student loan repayment, and expanding access to Pre-K to help families pay the high costs of childcare.

■ **Healthcare:** At a minimum, Congress should continue to fund and support the ACA. I believe strengthening and expanding the ACA and allowing it to achieve its full potential is the best way to provide affordable health care to all Americans.

■ **Balance of Power:** I believe Congress needs to use the mechanisms it has in place to make sure that there is a balance in power. I believe Congress has broad discretion in creating laws and holding the executive branch accountable when they step outside the bounds of the law. Congress also has the spending power to be able to decide which programs are implemented and which will not receive funding. I believe they should use these powers for the benefit of the American people.

■ **Immigration:** The system is in desperate need of reform. I believe we should establish laws which allow established individuals who have worked hard and followed the law a realistic path to citizenship. I would support bipartisan legislation which secures our borders without sacrificing our national identity as a beacon of freedom.

■ **Energy:** I believe expanding solar and wind energy infrastructure is the key to a sustainable future. The tax code should more greatly incentivize the purchase or lease of both new and pre-owned electric vehicles.

□ **Santos Limon**

**Website:** [santoslimon4uscongress@gmail.com](mailto:santoslimon4uscongress@gmail.com)



■ **Qualifications:** His International business and Political experience have enabled him to make significant contributions to global communities while remaining actively engaged in local efforts. Santos Limon's involvement in railway organizations around the world, highlights his dedication to advancing the transportation sector. In addition to his professional pursuits, Santos Limon is deeply involved in philanthropic causes and community service.

■ **Priorities:** Lowering & Controlling Deficit & Interest Rates = Driving Down Cost of Living 2). Nationalize Florida 2018 Gun Bill = Prioritize School Safety and Communities. 3). Reform IRS = Protect Social Security and Medicare

■ **Healthcare:** Reform, Affordable Care Act will improve healthcare Access for all.

■ **Balance of Power:** To protect and uphold the Constitution of The United States of America, At all costs.

■ **Immigration:** A legal and fair pathway to enter and citizenship.

■ **Energy:** By investing in innovation, scale up renewable and diversify in clean and safe energy sources. We must also protect & reform EPA agency.

□ **Bruce Richardson**

■ **Qualifications:** I hold an MBA in Accounting. My career has focused on financial reporting and financial management. I routinely walk into new and sometimes troubled situations, learn what has happened, and formulate solutions. I will put my legs under the desk to execute the difficult work of Congressional oversight. Elon Musk likes to solve perceived problems with a chainsaw, I use a pencil and simple A-R-I-T-H-M-E-T-I-C.

■ **Priorities:** Affordability and reform of Congress. For forty years, elites of both parties have pandered to corporate greed, hollowing out our middle class and warping American society. On Congressional reform, I advocate term limits – 4 6-year terms for Senators, 12 2-year terms for Representatives. I advocate a ban on all stock trading by Senators, Representatives, and their staffs. I will push to return Congress to regular order, rather than letting leadership guide legislative policy.

■ **Healthcare:** The best access to affordable healthcare is to make Medicare available to all. If your union or employer has something better, keep it. If you don't want health insurance you don't have to join. In addition to ensuring access to healthcare, Medicare for all would free all employees to change jobs – or start their own companies – without fear of losing health insurance.

■ **Balance of Power:** Our Constitution did not envision coequal branches of government – Richard Nixon thought that up in the 1970's to resist Congressional oversight. Article I is first because the Founding Fathers wanted We The People to guide our nation via the House and Senate. Congress has long ceded its authority to the Executive; imposing term limits, banning stock trading, and returning to normal order would all increase public trust in Congress, enabling it to resume its constitutional role.

■ **Immigration:** Border security – at the border – requires additional investment in CBP Special Agents, judges and court staff, and detention facilities in order to adjudicate asylum claims fairly and quickly. Immigration policy – who comes and who stays – must reflect America's needs and be flexible as our needs change. Effective immigration policy must be fact-based and bipartisan.

■ **Energy:** America needs energy from all sources, renewables, nuclear, and – yes – hydrocarbons. Experience has shown that proactive regulation can reduce emissions from hydrocarbons. I advocate restoring regulation of hydrocarbons while aggressively expanding innovation and installation of renewables and nuclear energy to ensure America has the power we need to retain technological leadership.

□ **Gretel Enck**

**Website:** [gretelforcongress.com](http://gretelforcongress.com)



■ **Qualifications:** My values are courage, integrity, and service. I spent my career in public service for 25 years with the National Park Service. I worked across the West protecting public lands, preserving history, and supporting families in telling vital American stories. I have spent my life standing up for people: leading a group in my town to save a formerly segregated Mexican American schoolhouse, working with orphans in the Peace Corps to expand educational opportunities, and donating a kidney to stranger.

■ **Priorities:** Our DEMOCRACY is under attack. I will fight to protect our shared values, and restore accountable, humane leadership. Most of us want the same things, even when we disagree on how to achieve them. By listening and treating everyone with respect and dignity, we can find COMMON GROUND and move forward together. Advancing the COMMON GOOD for working Americans means creating policies that make life more affordable for families, seniors, children, and the most vulnerable in our communities.

■ **Healthcare:** I believe health care is a basic right for every person. In the short term, I support reinstating the ACA tax credits; expanding Medicaid so more Texans can receive care; and protecting and strengthening Medicare so seniors can access the doctors and treatments they depend on. In the long term, we need a universal system of healthcare so everyone has access to primary care, mental health care, reproductive health care, and preventive services. I support a Medicare For All type of program.

■ **Balance of Power:** Congress makes and changes laws. Executive regulations are made only under the authority of these laws. Congress controls the budget and uses the GAO to ensure spending is ethical and effective. Congressional oversight of the Exec branch is an important check on the President's power and a balance against his discretion in implementing laws and making regulations. Congress approves Presidential nominations, and can impeach the President and remove him from office. Only Congress can declare war.

■ **Immigration:** I support Rep. Escobar's bipartisan Dignity Act. It secures our borders, fixes our visa backlog, and grants legal status to hardworking, law-abiding immigrants already living in the US. We're a country of immigrants. Data shows that immigrants commit less crime and provide more entrepreneurship than non-immigrants. So let's pull ICE out of our cities, stop the inhumane rhetoric, support Border Patrol to do the work we need and want at our borders, and fast-track citizenship for Dreamers.

■ **Energy:** Restore tax credits for wind and solar, invest in geothermal, and complete our transition from coal to natural gas. We need oil and gas in the short term, but we should invest in non-fuel uses for abundant coal reserves. Restore credits for e-vehicles and end rhetoric that maligns new technology. Clean energy and EVs are the future; the federal govt needs to lead the transition. Emphasize job retraining and new ways for communities to feel pride outside of identities tied to old energy.

**DISTRICT 35**

□ **Whitney Masterson-Moyes**

**Website:** [WhitneyforTexas.com](http://WhitneyforTexas.com)



■ **Qualifications:** I earned a BA in Business Administration from the University of St. Thomas and an MEd from the University of Houston. I taught for nearly a decade, raised my children full-time, and co-founded a small business with my husband that celebrates its 6th anniversary this May—even surviving Covid. These experiences taught me the most important skill for Congress: listening. Listening is how we understand real challenges and find real solutions.

■ **Priorities:** I'm focused on affordability, opportunity, and education—lowering healthcare costs by fixing incentives while protecting Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA; reducing housing costs by building more homes and modernizing financing; expanding the SBA to invest in local entrepreneurs; and strengthening early intervention and career training, so every student leaves school with a clear path forward. These are the concerns most often highlighted by my fellow community members.

■ **Healthcare:** We can lower healthcare costs by fixing broken incentives, pushing decision-making back to doctors and patients, creating a universal coding system to cut errors and overhead, and modernizing patents to boost competition in drug manufacturing. Expanding access to preventive care is essential to lowering long-term costs, saving lives, and improving quality of life.

■ **Balance of Power:** Congress was meant by the Founding Fathers to be the strongest branch of our Federal Government because it answers directly to the people. For decades, it has surrendered that power to the executive branch—never more so than this year. Congress must reclaim its constitutional authority to stop reckless trade wars that raise prices and weaken alliances, end war crimes in waters off South America, and hold federal officials accountable when they break the law.

■ **Immigration:** Our immigration system needs a top-to-bottom overhaul. We must modernize and expand work visas to meet business needs, protect both foreign and American workers, and grow our economy. We also need a clear, fair path to citizenship for those who qualify—and firm, humane enforcement that respects dignity and due process as the Constitution demands for everyone in U.S. custody.

■ **Energy:** With AI driving a surge in energy demand, we must act fast. Green energy—solar and wind—is the most efficient and cost-effective solution. I'll work with local utilities to expand residential solar; grow the SBA to support wind and solar farms; and fund research into safe, innovative energy production to meet tomorrow's needs while protecting our planet.

□ **Johnny C. Garcia**

**Website:** [votejohnnygarcia.com](http://votejohnnygarcia.com)



■ **Qualifications:** As a lifelong San Antonian, I bring nearly two decades of public service in law enforcement with the Bexar County Sheriff's office. As a SWAT crisis negotiator, I learned to lead with calm and compassion in high-pressure situations. This moment needs leaders who can navigate a crisis with discipline and a no-labels approach—when we take a call at the Sheriff's office we don't ask

if that house is a Democratic or Republican house, we just go to help a family in crisis.

■ **Priorities:** My top priorities are affordability, law and order, and education. I am committed to lowering everyday costs for working families and rewarding hard work. With my law enforcement background, I know how important it is to support our public safety officials through accountability and community trust. Finally, as a product of perennially under-funded public schools, I believe every child deserves a world-class education regardless of their ZIP code.

■ **Healthcare:** No family should choose between their health and financial stability. I support strengthening the Affordable Care Act, expanding Medicaid, and lowering the costs of prescription drugs. My goal is to ensure every person in our community has access to high-quality, affordable care and that medical debt does not hold families back.

■ **Balance of Power:** Congress' role in maintaining checks and balances is foundational to protecting the rule of law. My career in law enforcement has centered on transparency and accountability, and I believe our duty is to protect the Constitution and hold the government accountable to the people. We must model leadership that takes needed steps to reduce division in our country and I will fight for policies that put Texans first over partisanship and executive overreach.

■ **Immigration:** I support a bipartisan approach to comprehensive immigration reform that includes border security and enforcement, a fair pathway to legal status or citizenship, and a visa and guest worker system that protects our local workforce and our economy.

■ **Energy:** I support an "all of the above" energy strategy to ensure reliability and affordability. Having seen the impact of extreme weather firsthand, I will invest in resilient infrastructure to protect families. I also aim to repeal disincentives on renewable energy sources while protecting Texas manufacturing jobs. This balanced approach ensures we address the climate crisis as a public safety issue while maintaining economic stability.

□ **Maureen Galindo**

**Website:** [maureenforuscongress.com](http://maureenforuscongress.com)

■ **Qualifications:** I'm a single mom of three, a liberation-based family therapist, and a housing justice organizer with years of experience translating community needs into policy demands. I've led campaigns, built coalitions, and worked across systems to deliver real results. I understand how institutions function and fail, and I bring ethics, accountability, and lived experience into governance and public decision-making.

■ **Priorities:** My top priorities are: 1, restoring democratic accountability, empowering people through participatory governance so communities shape decisions and resources; 2, ensuring the economy works for people, not profiteers, making housing, healthcare, energy, and food affordable; and 3, enforcing strict oversight of public spending so tax dollars serve communities, not millionaires, billionaires, or crony networks that hijack government and block economic justice.

■ **Healthcare:** Guarantee quality, accessible public healthcare alongside private options that compete on care, not exploitation. Remove all profit incentives that drive higher costs, over-treatment, or denial of care across hospitals, clinics, and administration. Invest in grassroots community-based clinics, include dental and vision as basic healthcare, and decentralize health data to protect privacy and serve patients and communities, not profit-driven systems.

■ **Balance of Power:** Congress must reclaim its constitutional authority to maintain checks and balances by enforcing oversight, limiting executive overreach, and holding agencies accountable. This includes guiding the budget, conducting thorough investigations, and ensuring laws are implemented with integrity, not twisted by corporate, private, or administrative interests. Congress must protect democracy and return power to the people it serves.

■ **Immigration:** Immigration reform must center human rights, dignity, and due process, addressing real harms of human trafficking by corrupt officials and criminal networks. Border policy should protect communities along the border, uphold constitutional and international human rights, and provide a clear path to legal status to prevent exploitation. ICE will be held accountable for the harm, terror, and abuses they've caused. What we allow to happen to the most vulnerable sets the standard for us all.

■ **Energy:** Congress must ensure reliable, affordable energy while protecting essential resources, especially water and local ecosystems. Communities should have clear authority to reject high-water or high-energy developments, like large data centers, that threaten their environment or well-being. Energy policy must prioritize sustainability, public control, and long-term resource protection, not override local decision-making for speculative or superficial economic development.

□ **John Lira**

■ **Qualifications:** Since enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps at 17, I have served on the front lines of public service. I deployed to Iraq at the start of the Global War on Terrorism as a military intelligence analyst, developing rigorous research and analytical skills. After service, I earned political science degrees at San Antonio College and UTSA and continued serving in federal leadership roles, including as a Presidential Biden appointee, at the U.S. Small Business Administration, and on Capitol Hill.



■ **Priorities:** My top priorities are affordability, small business growth, and supporting veterans. I will work to lower the cost of living by protecting family budgets, expanding affordable housing, reducing unnecessary cost drivers, and raising the minimum wage to a living wage. I will support small businesses and entrepreneurs to create jobs and grow the middle class. I will also fight to prevent veteran suicide and homelessness by fully supporting VA and mental health services.

■ **Healthcare:** America should guarantee affordable health care for every family, Texas has one of the highest uninsured rates in the country. Congress should make Affordable Care Act subsidies permanent, close the Medicaid coverage gap, and invest in community and rural health clinics, including VA services. I support a public option to expand choice and allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices to lower costs. These steps would expand coverage, reduce premiums, and prevent medical debt.

■ **Balance of Power:** Congress is a co equal branch of government with a constitutional duty to check abuses of power. It must actively use oversight, legislation, and appropriations to hold the executive accountable, enforce laws as written, and protect the independence of federal agencies. Congress must actively defend its oversight authority and protect the rule of law. As a veteran, I swore an oath to the Constitution, not a party, and I will work to restore balance and accountability in government.

- **Immigration:** We need to unmask ICE by ensuring immigration enforcement is transparent, lawful, and accountable to the Constitution. I support comprehensive immigration reform that modernizes legal pathways, strengthens worker visa programs, and protects due process in the asylum system. Enforcement should focus on traffickers and criminal networks, not families and workers contributing to our economy.
- **Energy:** Texas is a major energy producer, and those jobs matter. I support an all of the above energy strategy that keeps energy reliable and affordable while expanding renewables like wind and solar. Congress should work with energy producers to improve safety, environmental standards, and efficiency, while investing in infrastructure and grid reliability to protect families from rising electricity costs.

**DISTRICT 21**

**NOTE: CANDIDATES WERE ASKED DIFFERENT QUESTIONS.**

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Congressional Issues:** What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of Congress?
- **Priorities:** What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?
- **Healthcare:** What do you see is the best way to provide access to affordable health care for Americans?
- **District Issues:** What legislation would you support or introduce that would address the top concerns of voters in your district?

**Kristin Hook**

**Website:** [hookfortexas.com](http://hookfortexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** I'm a former middle school teacher with a PhD in animal behavior – so I'm well prepared for Congress! As a scientist, I'm trained to solve problems and get results. I've served the public as a science and technology expert in the federal government, helping shape evidence-based policy. At the Government Accountability Office, I advised Congress on issues like AI and protected taxpayer dollars. At the National Institutes of Health, I expanded access to healthcare. In the U.S. Senate, I drafted legislation and held Trump and corporate CEOs accountable. I know how to make government work for all of us.
- **Congressional Issues:** We have an affordability crisis and vast amounts of wealth inequality, and people in our district are struggling: young people can't afford housing or groceries, working families can't afford childcare or eldercare, and seniors are still at work because their social security is not enough. It's time to put working people back in charge to build an economy and democracy that works for everyone – not just billionaires. I would support legislation to lower everyday costs. I would also support progressive taxation policies so the wealthy pay their fair share, and consumer protections to prevent price gouging and hold corporations accountable.
- **Priorities:** My top priorities are affordability, accountability, and opportunity. As a former federal scientist from a working-class family, I know government can and should be a powerful force for good – not a weapon of oppression. I will fight to raise the federal minimum wage, lower everyday costs, and expand social safety nets like Social Security. I will demand accountability from politicians and corporations who put profits over people and are undermining our democracy. I will expand opportunity by de-

fending human rights, protecting public education, and expanding access to affordable healthcare so everyone in our district can live with dignity and thrive.

- **Healthcare:** To make healthcare more effective and affordable for working families, Congress should support a high-functioning primary care system that changes how we pay our PCPs, expand the healthcare workforce, reform healthcare pricing and Medicare physician payments, and mitigate anticompetitive incentives and practices that are driving up medical costs and debt for families. To improve access, Congress should protect and expand the ACA, CHIP, Medicare, Medicaid, and telehealth, and work to remove barriers that keep low-income, rural, and veteran communities uninsured and underserved. Most importantly, we must get profits out of healthcare, which I'm committed to doing if elected.
- **District Issues:** I would support legislation that directly lowers costs, strengthens healthcare access, and brings order to our immigration system. First, I would repeal the Trump tax cuts for corporations and the ultra-wealthy and reinvest those dollars into middle-class tax relief and deficit reduction. Second, I would extend the enhanced ACA premium tax credits so working families in CD21 can afford health insurance. Finally, I would advance bipartisan immigration reform that secures the border while creating a fair, legal, and humane pathway to work and citizenship that supports our economy and Texas communities.

**Regina Vanburg**

**Website:** [reginavanburg.com](http://reginavanburg.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am a VA-trained trauma psychologist, a former federal employee and union member, and I currently work as a data analyst monitoring recruit wellness for the United States Air Force — and I run a small business. I double-majored in Government and History at UT Austin, earned my M.A. in Counseling from St. Edward's University, and completed my doctorate at Our Lady of the Lake University. I understand how federal systems work — and where they fail the people they serve. Most importantly, I am a daughter of this district, shaped by its communities and deeply committed to serving them.
- **Congressional Issues:** The next Congress must confront a democracy being hollowed out while families are quietly stripped of power, wealth, and security. Our economy favors corporations and billionaires, while disaster capitalists come for our communities — buying land, housing, water rights, and even electricity capacity. Data centers and other high-demand projects threaten local resources without transparency. Meanwhile, healthcare costs force families to ration care. Corporate money, voter suppression, and rigged maps deepen distrust. Congress must build a system worthy of Texans' trust — one that protects our votes, our pocketbooks, and our shared resources, and puts people ahead of profit and political insiders.
- **Priorities:** Protect the vote. Free and fair elections are the foundation of every other fight. Without the vote, we can't defend our rights, our neighbors, or our future. We must expand ballot access, stop partisan gerrymandering, and limit corporate money. Protect working families. Tax wealth fairly, close loopholes that reward speculation over work, and reinvest in schools, healthcare, and infrastructure — so families see real affordability and access to care. Protect water and communities. Stop secret corporate deals over water, land, housing, and utilities, and support local watchdogs. We've been robbed of voice, wealth, and resources — and these priorities take them back.

■ **Healthcare:** Healthcare should be accessible, affordable, and built around patient needs — not corporate profits. Recent executive actions aim to lower drug prices, but Congress must act to ensure real relief for everyone, regardless of insurance. We should permanently extend ACA tax credits and empower Medicare to negotiate drug prices broadly. Congress must cap out-of-pocket costs, end surprise billing, and expand mental and primary care. We must strengthen rural healthcare, telehealth, and preventive care, and support the workforce that keeps communities healthy. Care should be a right, not a burden — and Congress must rewrite the system around patients, not profits.

■ **District Issues:** For TX-21, I would support legislation to expand voting access, end mid-decade redistricting, and curb corporate political spending. I would back pro-consumer laws like Right to Repair, stronger antitrust enforcement, and closing tax loopholes that reward Wall Street games instead of real work. I would introduce legislation banning NDAs that hide deals involving resources like water and utilities, and direct federal support to river authorities and groundwater districts. I would support permanently extending ACA tax credits, reducing drug prices, improving veterans' services, and investing in rural broadband, infrastructure, and public schools — so families can thrive here, not get by.

**Gary Frank Taylor**

**Website:** [garytaylorforcongress.com](http://garytaylorforcongress.com)



■ **Qualifications:** I have a master's degree in mathematics, and I have studied history just as extensively. I spent a total of 25 years as a public school and community college math teacher and 3 years in private schools, including a year at the university level. I am a father and grandfather. I care deeply about making this country work for everybody, and I care deeply about my generation leaving the world better than we found it. I am not entering politics as a career. I have had my career. I enter because I want to make a difference.

■ **Congressional Issues:** Making the economy work for everyone, and constantly working to end any kind of oppression or disadvantage for any one or group. On the economy, I believe saving and improving Social Security is the fastest thing we can do, and I am certain that it can be improved. Healthcare is just as important, but not as quick a fix. On the issues of oppression, my priorities are to work for humane treatment of all who wish to move to our country, and to continually work for civil rights, LGBTQ rights, and women's rights.

■ **Priorities:** Saving and improving Social Security, immediately ending inhumane treatment of immigrant applicants, and getting the work started on transforming our healthcare system. One reason Social Security is high on my list is because I think it is something that can be done immediately. Affordable, quality healthcare for all will take more work, but can be done, and we need to begin. Working to end the extreme divide in our country is a factor within all of these priorities, but ending the divide must never be achieved by abandoning any who suffer in this economy or society.

■ **Healthcare:** The first step is full recognition and acknowledgment that that is not currently the case. Part of that first step includes the recognition that way too many of our healthcare dollars are going to private, profit-driven insurance companies and to additional profit-driven spinoffs of this system. We need way more healthcare professionals and fewer people handling

confusing problems that result from this ultra-profit driven private system. But I also believe in Congress working to make an easy transition out of this system for those who work for a living within these industries.

■ **District Issues:** While the issues I have already listed are national issues, they are also top concerns for voters in Texas Congressional District 21. They are issues that can make an immediate improvement in the well-being of people throughout the district and the country. On issues that are more specific to the district, I will work with the state legislature to create better warning systems for flood and other natural disasters. And I will work with state and local leaders to determine what Congress can do to help in all issues concerning water supply.

## GOVERNOR

Four-year term. The governor is chief executive of the state, which means that they carry out the law. They appoint members to boards and commissions; appoint statewide executive officials, state judges and district attorneys when vacancies occur; deliver the State of the State address; provide guidance to the Legislature; call special sessions of the legislature and set the agenda. The governor can veto legislation (including a line-item veto on appropriations), sign legislation, or allow it to become law without their signature.

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

■ **Healthcare:** What changes need to be made to Texas abortion laws to ensure women have access to proper medical care in the event of pregnancy complications?

■ **Education:** Share your thoughts on the role of state and local government in public education.

■ **Immigration:** How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while ensuring all individuals within our borders have access to due process protections?

■ **National Guard:** Share your position on when it is appropriate for the Federal government to deploy the National Guard in Texas cities.

**Jose Navarro Balbuena**

**Website:** [tx22.net](http://tx22.net)

■ **Qualifications:** Tax Strategist, Engineer, Insurance agent Dad with the will and a plan to implement 'Early College' across the state of Texas, with will to feed our kids, Hot School Lunch with a Farm to School model.

■ **Healthcare:** Focus on clemency, directing state agencies, ensuring consistent standards across state laws, Promote (EMTALA)/SB-31, 1. Issue Pardons for Providers/Aids, directing agencies to clarify exceptions for life/health 2. Executive orders to interpret existing laws with leniency, EMTALA/SB-31 orders to weaken SB8/HB7 until full Full Repeal 3. Elevate Community Members as Legislatures 'To Move Needle'

■ **Education:** Education is the universal equalizer. States must have continual investments in software and infrastructure. Schools must adapt software that assists teachers in teaching for mastery of subjects, not grades. Texas will serve our kids Hot School Lunches, before any super intendants receives bonuses or raises. Create a registry for school HVAC repairs, no child should be wearing layered clothing

■ **Immigration:** Partner with 'consulados' to ensure everyone has registered address ID and Passport. Passports are tied to IRS Individual Tax Ident. Number (pay taxes). Paying taxes is what opens

the opportunity for my Texas 2 year ITIN ID – Pilot Program. IRS ITIN and Previous 2 years of Tax transcripts are the requirements for a Texas ITIN ID. Providing everyone with a proper Identity helps ensure habeas corpus

- **National Guard:** The national guard should focus on natural disasters and Oil Gas Post Seismic Response(Permian Basin/DFW) not to assist ICE in civil immigration enforcement. The Guard will provide crucial aid after quakes, offering rapid deployment for: Search and Rescue, Logistics(shelters/distribution), Security, Infrastructure, Damage Assessment, working with Bureau of Economic Geology and TX Railroad Comm.

**Chris Bell**

**Website:** [ChrisBellTexas.com](http://ChrisBellTexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** Served on Houston City Council and in the U.S. House. Worked on laws, oversight, and constituent services. Journalist-turned-lawyer who values careful judgment, ethics, and practical innovation.
- **Healthcare:** Texas abortion laws must be rewritten to give doctors clear authority to act when a patient's health is at risk — without fear of criminal or civil penalties. Vague laws interfere with medical judgment and delay care. The law should also clearly allow abortion early in pregnancy, typically the first trimester, when most issues are identified and treated.
- **Education:** Public education works best when the state provides stable funding and supports teachers, while local school boards make daily decisions and encourage parental engagement. Our schools are still structured for another century, so we need thoughtful modernization to better serve students beyond the classroom, support teachers professionally, and meet evolving community needs.
- **Immigration:** Community stability, economic health, due process for all, a secure border, and a fair, functional immigration system — all are essential. My administration's approach would pair enforcement with due process protections while working to provide clear, accessible pathways to legal status and citizenship.
- **National Guard:** Rarely if ever. Deployments should prioritize public safety and respect local authority during true emergencies. The National Guard is meant to assist, not to score political points.

**Bobby Cole**

**Website:** [colegforgovernor.com](http://colegforgovernor.com)

- **Qualifications:** I'm a retired firefighter and working rancher, trained to lead under pressure and serve others. I understand real Texas challenges because I live them, not because I study them.
- **Healthcare:** Texas needs clear protections so doctors can provide medically necessary care without fear of legal penalties, and women should be able to get appropriate treatment for pregnancy complications from their own doctors. As governor, I'll restore reproductive freedom so decisions are made by patients and doctors not politicians to ensure proper care in emergencies.
- **Education:** I believe state government must fully fund and support high-quality public education, set fair standards, and ensure resources go to students and teachers not diverted into vouchers that weaken public schools. Local communities and educators should have the flexibility to serve their students, with the state ensuring equity and accountability.
- **Immigration:** I believe immigration is primarily a federal issue, and Texas needs practical solutions that improve our legal system

rather than 'performative theatrics.' We should stop villainizing people and work to create a legal process that works for Texans and our economy, while ensuring due process protections for everyone in our borders.

- **National Guard:** I believe the National Guard should be used only when there is a real emergency that directly affects Texans such as natural disasters, public safety crises, or other disasters where military support is needed and state and local officials request help. Decisions about federal deployment should respect state autonomy and clear necessity, not be used for political theater.

**Patricia Abrego**

- **Qualifications:** Since I was six years old, I have been training for this position. I have been a Doctor (DC) for 15 years and retired for 13 years. I am honest, knowledgeable, and kind.



- **Healthcare:** In the event of pregnancy complications, we need to ensure that the mother is safe. Texas abortion laws need to change to ensure that the mother has a chance to live.
- **Education:** The Department of Education has been downsized to a point where state and local governments have to figure out public education on their own. I went to elementary, middle and high school at public schools. Families cannot afford to pay for their children's education, especially at the elementary level.
- **Immigration:** My mother was born in Mexico, and my father was born in San Antonio, Texas. I have the experience of making sure that my mother was protected. She became a US citizen, got her GED, and became a CNA nurse. Everyone in Texas should have the right to his/her own individual immigration protection.
- **National Guard:** The Texas governor can deploy the National Guard in Texas cities. The federal government should go through the Texas governor for this situation.

**Zach Vance**

**Website:** [4bettertexas.com](http://4bettertexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** My character, compassion, and my ability to relate to and understand people and their problems. I genuinely care about all people, and I just want to make their lives better.
- **Healthcare:** Texans should have the right to choose when to become a parent and that means we must repeal the heartbeat bill and the ban on mifepristone. If I am Governor, I will enact an executive order that allows doctors to provide abortions in any case where the mother's life has the potential to be at risk, not waiting until their life is actually at risk.
- **Education:** Texans deserve high quality public education and deserve a governor who cares more about public education than cares about private education. The state needs to take more of the cost of public education off of local governments than they do now. The state needs to not focus so much on test scores and figure out a way to rate students on different abilities than just being able to take a test.
- **Immigration:** I believe we should have a strong border but the accomplishment of that goal should not fall on the state itself. Texas has spent billions securing the border when we could have used that money to significantly improve the lives of Texans. Immigration is a very important issue, but it is a less significant issue

when people are losing their homes due to taxes and dying due to lack of healthcare.

- **National Guard:** Only when the state asks for it or when the state is failing significantly in protecting people or promoting the common good or welfare. The National Guard does not need to be an occupying force in the streets acting as police officers if the state has not specifically ask for it or had worked out an arrangement with the governor of the state. There should also be a time limit.

**Gina Hinojosa**

**Website:** [ginafortexas.com](http://ginafortexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have spent the last nine years serving in the Texas House, working tirelessly to advance bipartisan legislation and fight for working Texans on public education, health care, and affordability.
- **Healthcare:** Right now, Texas women are dying because they cannot obtain access to life-saving medical care. This status quo is intolerable. Texans deserve safe and legal access to abortion care when they need it, and Texas doctors should not fear that they will be thrown in prison for following basic standards of care.
- **Education:** Public education was so important to our founders that it's enshrined in the Texas Constitution. Attempts to sell off and privatize our kids' schools is a direct attack on their path to success. I fought hard against Greg Abbott's school voucher scam, and as governor, will route that money toward teacher pay raises and smaller classroom sizes to ensure every child has access to a good education.
- **Immigration:** Every Texan wants to live in a safe community. When border security presents a risk to keeping our communities safe, it's important we address that. But what is currently happening—deporting children and breaking up American families—is doing nothing to make us safer. We need an immigration system that provides a pathway to legal status for hard-working and tax-paying fixtures of our communities.
- **National Guard:** The Texas National Guard exists to serve our community and should only be deployed in times of genuine emergency. I do not believe sending National Guard troops to other states who have not asked for help when we have pressing needs at home is a good use of resources. Likewise, deploying the National Guard to local communities who do not need or want their help is ineffective and wasteful.

**Carlton Hart**

- **Qualifications:** For decades, I've worked in public service in the school system, and among other positions, as a minister, I've listened to Hope's fears and dreams empathy. God is my policy. My ordination reflects a
- **Healthcare:** I believe that women should have the right to make decisions about their own bodies, including an abortion. Laws should support the ability for women to make informed choices based on their circumstances, values and health without unnecessary government interference.
- **Education:** I believe we should focus on balancing state level, visions funding standards, accountability with local control, curriculum implementation, community needs, emphasize and workforce readiness, teacher support parental choice and equitable funding, while promoting innovation and career pathways



to meet economic goals, and let's not forget accountability for student outcomes.

- **Immigration:** The standard of the law foreign and domestic should be implemented by the law of the land.
- **National Guard:** In critical and unruly disturbance. The National Guard should be called in an extremely emergency weather. Weather related our crowd control not just for the standard of normal practice.

**Did not respond:** Angela 'Tia Angie' Villescza

**Withdrawn:** Andrew White

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

Four-year term. The lieutenant governor is powerful because of their position as president of the Texas Senate, where they appoint the chairs and vice-chairs of committees; appoint senators to committees; assign bills to committees; and control the Senate's agenda. They are also a member of several commissions and boards, and serve as governor in the governor's absence.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Women's Health:** What changes need to be made to Texas abortion laws to ensure women have access to proper medical care in the event of pregnancy complications?
- **Healthcare:** What role should the state government play in promoting a healthy Texas population, and what steps would you take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Texans?
- **Cannabis Legislation:** What legislation would you support regarding cannabis?
- **Water:** What legislation would you recommend to ensure that Texans and Texas businesses have enough water for the future?

**Courtney Head**

**Website:** [texas4alltexans.com](http://texas4alltexans.com)



- **Qualifications:** My legal expertise, negotiation experience, budget oversight, and policy analysis make me qualified to serve as Lt. Gov and effectively lead the Senate for Texas.
- **Women's Health:** Texas must repeal its abortion ban so doctors can provide urgent, evidence-based care during pregnancy complications without fear of prosecution. We must also expand healthcare access in minority and rural communities, where maternal mortality is highest. Every woman deserves timely, safe medical treatment when pregnancy becomes dangerous.
- **Healthcare:** The state must invest in public health if we want a thriving Texas. Affordable healthcare strengthens families, communities, and our economy. Expanding Medicaid is just the start, I support a Massachusetts-style model that ensures universal, affordable coverage so every Texan can access the care they need.
- **Cannabis Legislation:** I support full legalization and regulation of cannabis in Texas. Legalizing it would reduce black-market activity, strengthen public safety, generate new tax revenue, and create a sustainable, transparent economy for Texans. A regulated system also ensures product safety, supports farmers and small businesses, and allows law enforcement to focus on serious crime.
- **Water:** Texas must modernize its water laws to protect long-term supply. I support strict regulation of high-consumption industries, especially data centers, and stronger limits on corpo-

rate groundwater use. We need updated statewide conservation standards, incentives for recycling and reuse, and investment in sustainable infrastructure so Texans and Texas businesses have reliable water for generations.

**Vikki Goodwin**

**Website:** [Goodwin4Texas.com](http://Goodwin4Texas.com)



- **Qualifications:** I'm serving my 4th term in the TX Legislature; have been able to pass meaningful laws. I'm the owner of Goodwin & Goodwin Real Estate, involved community leader, graduate of UT & the LBJ School.
- **Women's Health:** We did not go far enough with the 'Life of the Mother Act' that passed in 2025. The way to guarantee the best health outcomes for pregnant women is to allow women to make their own personal, private health care decisions in consultation with their doctors. Women who have adverse health conditions should have all options available for putting their own health before that of the fetus.
- **Healthcare:** A healthy population is essential. The state should ensure no one falls through the cracks; focus on prevention and transparency. Programs that have proven records of success should be expanded, including Medicaid. Mobile health clinics that provide low-cost diagnostic tests and checkups can help reach areas where there is a lack of doctors. Keeping people out of emergency rooms will lower costs.
- **Cannabis Legislation:** I support treating cannabis like alcohol with regulations: must be 21 years of age to purchase, can't be sold next door to schools, can't be marketed to kids, labels must clearly indicate the contents and strength. We don't need a nanny state. People with cancer, PTSD, and all types of ailments should be able to continue buying a product that has helped them without the broken TCUP.
- **Water:** We should pass the TX Stewardship Amendment to ensure our water isn't polluted. We must update and improve our Texas Water Plan using the latest science. Now it includes plans for many reservoirs that aren't feasible, and not enough emphasis on re-use. We need to ensure we aren't developing the most expensive water. Desalination of ocean water is expensive, while storing rainwater is less costly.

**Did not respond:** Marcos Isaias Velez

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

Four-year term. The attorney general is the chief law enforcement officer of the state; represents the state and state officials in legal matters; issues opinions; oversees collection of child support; administers the crime victims compensation fund; enforces the open records/open meetings acts; approves public bond issues; and enforces consumer regulations.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Elections:** How would you protect Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?
- **Immigration:** How would you address immigration issues affecting our state while ensuring all individuals within our borders have access to due process protections?
- **Priorities:** How would you identify, evaluate, and prioritize which state legal cases to pursue?
- **Leadership:** What specific improvements or reforms do you envision for the Texas Attorney General's office in the coming years?

The League of Women Voters, strictly nonpartisan, does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

**Nathan Johnson**

**Website:** [nathanfortexas.com](http://nathanfortexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** Eight years as a state senator: passing > 100 bills, killing and shaping bills, building coalitions, making government work, exercising independence, leadership, and political judgment; law practice.
- **Elections:** We have good laws to keep elections secure, provided that enforcement and audits are fair and consistent. As AG, I will work with DAs around the state to ensure security. As a Senator, I filed bills to protect election workers from harassment (safe and secure), allow voter registration online and same-day, enable citizen ballot initiatives, and move redistricting to an independent commission.
- **Immigration:** Work with the federal government to speed processing of asylum claims and treat applicants humanely, intercept and deter trafficking of drugs and people, revise Texas' ill-conceived 287(g) agreement, vastly expand guest worker program, work with other nations to stem the flow of migrants. The U.S. Constitution grants due process to everyone in the United States, including undocumented immigrants.
- **Priorities:** I would ask three questions: whether there are actions that are harming Texans, whether the actions are illegal, and whether I can prove it. I would emphasize blocking federal overreach, promoting competition in markets, protecting people against violence and commercial scams, and rooting out political corruption. I would end the practice of using the office for personal and political purposes.
- **Leadership:** Better leadership is needed more than structural reform. I'll recruit great staff, including attorneys, who are committed to serving the public over serving an ideology. I'll devote resources to performing the work of the office rather than the work of a political machine. There may be administrative changes and laws yet to pass or change, which we'll address in concert with the Legislature.

**Joe Jaworski**

**Website:** [JaworskiForTexas.com](http://JaworskiForTexas.com)



- **Qualifications:** Courageous fighter in courtroom and public square. 8 years as Galveston mayor/councilmember; 35 years as Texas trial lawyer/mediator; loyal husband to Rebecca for 35 years; proud Dad to my two kids.
- **Elections:** I will staff a voter expansion division in the Texas OAG which will daily focus on removing the stain of voter suppression from Texas law. I will be known as the Attorney General who finally enforced the law which requires Principals to offer registration to all high school seniors. I, with local District Attorneys, will personally prosecute offenders who intentionally break our voting laws.
- **Immigration:** I will lead Texas on immigration issues by reminding voters that immigration and criminal justice are two very different American institutions. I will demand that Congress perform its Constitutional duty to reform our immigration laws. I will support asylum as a proper tool of legal immigration, I will support Texas Dreamers who seek in-state college tuition to better themselves and our state.
- **Priorities:** I will create/staff a Division of Affordability within the Texas OAG; it will use the power of government to reduce the cost of living in Texas for all 32 million residents of the state.

I will measure performance and announce results. The OAG will expressly focus on helping young adult Texans to achieve the American Dream – affordable home ownership, debt free education, and starting a family.

- **Leadership:** End persecution of vulnerable citizens. Reform Child Support Division: promptly collect/disburse child support and assist payor and payee to collect correct amounts. Assist school principals to register every 18 year old senior to vote. Remain widely accessible to the public, rather than reclusive or partisan only. Focus political and legal decisions on affordability for everyday working Texans.

**Did not respond:** Anthony ‘Tony’ Box

## COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Four-year term. The comptroller is the chief financial officer of the state; collects state taxes and fees; pays the state’s bills; provides revenue estimates to the legislature; certifies the budget; reports the condition of the state’s finances; and provides economic development assistance to local governments and private businesses.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Rainy Day Fund:** How do you think Texas should use its Rainy Day Fund?
- **Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs):** What oversight measures will you support to ensure that ESAs are funded and administered transparently?
- **Budget Management:** How will you ensure budget transparency so taxpayers can easily see how their money is allocated and spent?
- **Priorities:** What do you see as your greatest challenge as Comptroller over the next four years, and how will you address it?

**Savant Moore**

**Website:** [savantmoore.com](http://savantmoore.com)

- **Qualifications:** Howard University graduate, former Army Ranger and minister known for integrity, discipline, and service. Business owner and investor, elected HISD Trustee overseeing a \$2.5B budget and on boards.
- **Rainy Day Fund:** The Rainy Day Fund should be used quickly after disasters to help Texans recover while federal aid is delayed. It should also be used, when appropriate, to increase the basic student allotment for public education, focusing on real emergencies, protecting taxpayers, and maintaining long term fiscal stability.
- **Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs):** ESAs are school vouchers that use public dollars for private education costs. If used, they must have strict audits, full transparency, and an exit clause for companies that fail. Oversight should be Texas based or clearly qualified to protect taxpayers and students.
- **Budget Management:** I will require audits of all state agencies at the start of my term and modernize transparency tools using my experience in tech as a software engineer. Texans should be able to easily see where their money goes without needing to understand Austin politics.
- **Priorities:** The greatest challenge is restoring trust and making government work for everyday Texans. I will focus on restoring the Texas HUB program, expanding broadband statewide, influencing full funding for public education, and supporting policies that keep Texas affordable while protecting its economy.

**Sarah Eckhardt**

**Website:** [saraheckhardt.com](http://saraheckhardt.com)

- **Qualifications:** Lawyer; Master in Public Affairs; State Senator; Travis County Judge; etc – two decades of experience on and managing professional teams, budgets, tax rates, purchasing and contracts.
- **Rainy Day Fund:** The Rainy Day Fund is projected to hit \$28B. I would tap the fund immediately to assist low income Texans with health insurance costs in the first year after loss of ACA tax credits. I would also advise the Legislature on the cost avoidance and economic benefits of 1-time Fund investments in water infrastructure, statewide extreme weather communications, and rural public hospital capacity.
- **Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs):** I will honestly measure & report the distribution of benefits from the ESA subsidy by family type, educational entity type (public, private, or home school), and region. I will vigorously pursue performance data under the \$50M Odyssey contract to administer the program, and seek to rebid or break administration into smaller contracts if Odyssey fails to honestly measure and report.
- **Budget Management:** I will maintain a web-based dashboard providing easy-to-navigate categories of revenue and expenditures with textual and graphic explanations, linked to current and historic reports and analyses on how public funds are and have been invested, who is benefitting most/least today and in the past, and suggestions under discussion for investments to improve the economic outlook for all Texans.
- **Priorities:** As the 2nd richest state in the world’s richest nation, Texas can afford to meet its obligations to a growing population. The challenges will be honestly estimating the cost of its obligations & bravely pursuing funding to meet them, e.g. the cost of necessary water infrastructure is at least \$154B over the next 50 years but the state has pursued funding to meet less than half of this need.

**Michael Lange**

**Website:** [TexansforLange.com](http://TexansforLange.com)

- **Qualifications:** 40 Years experience as a Finance Professional. 30 years as a Senior Executive in Multi-Billion dollars companies in Texas, US and worldwide. 10 years in small business space. Ready Day One.
- **Rainy Day Fund:** State emergencies, weather emergencies, healthcare emergency shortages, water emergencies, education shortage emergencies
- **Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs):** Believe this money belongs to Texans. Will support 100% transparency not only on funds spent but also how expenses are incurred. Six month audits with results made public. End of Year Review of Impact with all results made public each year. Full Transparency.
- **Budget Management:** Show Texans the financial reports and extra-ordinary, ‘Emergency’ reports. Make information publicly available in a timely matter. Hold meetings in person around Texas at least 12 times per year to explain Texas Financial situation. Not Sit in Austin all year but travel around the state every month to ensure accuracy with strong audit back up. Make sure people are competent.
- **Priorities:** Ensuring Transparency of Financial information. Ensure the economy of Texas moves forward positively so Texans get value for their Hard-Earned Money. Make Texas financially more efficient but also get Texas economically Future-ready. Grow Small business, Rural and Urban. Deal now with Water, Electric-



ity and School Voucher issues. Botton Line is People of Texas are safer and better off.

## COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Four-year term. As head of the General Land Office, the commissioner manages state lands, including oil and gas properties (which supply funds to the Permanent School Fund) and the Alamo. The commissioner chairs the Veterans Land Board, which administers programs for Texas veterans, and is responsible for environmental protection of Texas' coast. Other state boards chaired include the School Land Board and the Coastal Coordination Advisory Committee.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Disaster Recovery:** What measures should the state take to respond quickly and effectively to disasters?
- **Veterans:** Explain how you will support veterans through programs and resources your office oversees?
- **Coastal Management:** What policies would you endorse regarding development in flood-prone areas?
- **Challenges:** What is the greatest challenge facing the General Land Office, and how would you address it?

### Jose Loya

Website: [joseloya.com](http://joseloya.com)



- **Qualifications:** Marine Corps war veteran, former oil refinery worker, and union staff rep with 8 yrs negotiating wages, safety, and benefits statewide. Lifelong Texan committed to accountability and working families.
- **Disaster Recovery:** Texas faces disasters too often, and recovery must be faster and more transparent. The state should use CDBG-DR funds to speed housing repairs and prioritize communities that are hit the hardest, especially rural and working-class areas. It must also invest CDBG-MIT funds in mitigation, coastal protection, and erosion control to reduce future damage and better protect families and infrastructure.
- **Veterans:** As a Marine Corps veteran who deployed twice to Iraq, I understand the challenges veterans face. The Veterans Land Board offers home, land, and renovation loans, veteran assisted living, and a dignified place to be laid to rest beside those who served. I will reach out to every veteran and increase transparency so they can access the resources they've earned.
- **Coastal Management:** Through permitting, enforcement, and endorsing responsible coastal policies, I will limit risky development in flood-prone areas, protect public safety, and preserve our coast. Developers must be held accountable so taxpayers aren't left paying the price for irresponsible building. Texas beaches belong to the people, not special interests.
- **Challenges:** The greatest challenge at the General Land Office is transparency. The GLO manages billions in public land, school funding, and disaster aid, yet too many Texans don't see how decisions are made. With my kids in public school and years spent helping veterans access earned benefits, I'll ensure this office puts schools, veterans, and working families first—not special interests.

### Benjamin Flores

Website: [letsgowithben.com](http://letsgowithben.com)



- **Qualifications:** I'm serving my third year as Councilman in Bay City, with almost three decades of Cybersecurity and Risk Management. I also started a small farm raising heritage pigs almost four years ago.
- **Disaster Recovery:** Beginning with the state-wide implementation of the Community Emergency Response Team program by FEMA. Next, from a GLO perspective, establish working groups within the different Regional Councils chapters, to develop processes for efficient and effective recovery work. Lastly, any vendors wishing to participate in recovery efforts, will be vetted in advance of any potential disaster.
- **Veterans:** Look to address gaps in healthcare options for veterans in the valley, verify the presence of Service Officers in all counties, drastically reduce the timelines for veteran mortgage applications, fully fund the Hazelwood Act program.
- **Coastal Management:** Support the adoption of new weather forecasting models, and newer roofing construction techniques, along the coast. This would help with insurance prices. Second, speedup the current state efforts for flood
- **Challenges:** Not maximizing nor diversifying the sources of revenue for the Permanent School Fund. Solar, wind, geothermal should all be considered. We could provide additional funding for our schools and property tax relief.

## COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Four-year term. The agriculture commissioner's principal job is promoting Texas' agricultural products. In that capacity, the commissioner facilitates trade and marketing of agricultural products; regulates weights and measures; regulates pesticide use and application; certifies organically produced products; administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs; provides financial help to farmers; and helps solve issues related to natural disasters.

### Clayton Tucker

Unopposed

## RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

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

### Jon Rosenthal

Unopposed

## TEXAS SUPREME COURT

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

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Ethics:** How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?
- **Equity:** What role should the Supreme Court play in expanding access to justice for persons or groups who may be underserved?
- **Issues:** What do you see as the most pressing challenge facing the courts today, and how would you propose addressing it?
- **Philosophy:** What is your judicial philosophy?

### CHIEF JUSTICE

#### **Cory L. Carlyle**

**Website:** [Carlyle4justice.com](http://Carlyle4justice.com)



- **Qualifications:** I served 6 years on the Dallas Appeals Court, am Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law, the fundamental law the Court does, and worked cases with over 30 justices, R and D, in my time on the bench.
- **Ethics:** Each case presents a unique set of challenges that our law either answers or provides a guide to answer. I intend to follow the law and answer the questions presented by the cases before me. Politics want to invade but I found in my time on the Dallas Court of Appeals that focusing on the legal principles and the facts of the cases before me that I could most faithfully apply the law.
- **Equity:** The Supreme Court is the highest arbiter of law in the state and should play an integral role in finding funding and people to make our justice system most accessible by the underserved. In my eyes, the court system is only as good as it treats those who need it most, meaning we must strive to meet them where they are when necessary. Our commissions are a good start, but their reach can grow.
- **Issues:** The greatest challenge the courts face is the insidious creep of ideology to our highest courts' chambers. Some judges have begun judging more from a personal-political basis in ways that have become destructive to the role of the third branch. I will address it one person at a time, one case at a time, not allowing these judicial lapses go unnoticed, with the goal of eliminating them forever.
- **Philosophy:** The true delight in deciding cases is finding the right answer. When settled law gives an answer, the quest is easy. But when the answer is unclear, we must apply the principles that came before us. Stare decisis is real, and when judges fail to follow precedent, they create uncertainty and diminish respect for the judicial system. I will follow the law in deciding our state's most important cases

#### **Maggie Ellis**

**Website:** [maggieforjustice.com](http://maggieforjustice.com)



- **Qualifications:** As an appellate justice, a former prosecutor and civil-criminal attorney with state and national legal certifications, I've handled thousands of matters in court. I've also led large organizations.
- **Ethics:** Experience and a proven history of advocating fairly from all sides of the docket is a good indicator of a candidate's likeliness to be fair and impartial. I have handled thousands of matters from all sides, including: ruling over cases fairly as a judge; defending individuals at risk of losing their liberty, their children, and their homes; and advocating for justice as a prosecutor.
- **Equity:** The TXSC should be a leader. As a child who grew up transient and homeless and with 15% of Texans living below the poverty level, I understand the need. I have been awarded for my work helping our most vulnerable have access to the court system by drafting legislation and establishing pro bono clinics. I will bring this experience to expand the TXSC commissions that address access to the courts.
- **Issues:** We have been experiencing an erosion of our separation of powers and of our civil rights. This election comes at a critical time when our judiciary is under attack and under political pressure. As the first openly gay woman to serve as an appellate justice in Texas, I will bring balance back to our courts; I will not bow to political pressure; and I will protect the laws that protect everyone.
- **Philosophy:** I believe deeply in what our courts are supposed to be: steady, independent, and grounded in the rule of law – that no one is above the law. Upholding my oath to defend our state and national Constitutions is important to provide confidence in our courts. I also believe that our laws should allow for flexibility to rise and shift in response to changes in our values but not to political pressures.

### PLACE 2 - UNEXPIRED TERM

#### **Chari Kelly**

Unopposed

### PLACE 7

#### **Kristen Hawkins**

**Website:** [judgehawkins.com](http://judgehawkins.com)

- **Qualifications:** I am board-certified in civil trial law and personal injury law. In 2021, I was Tex-ABOTA Judge of the Year. As a trial-court judge, I have presided over more than 200 jury and bench trials.
- **Ethics:** As a trial-court judge, I base my decisions on the facts and the law—not on campaign contributions. If elected to the Supreme Court, that would not change. I strive for predictability and consistency so the parties know what to expect when they come to court. I treat everyone with courtesy and respect, regardless of socio-economic status, political affiliation, or whether they have donated.
- **Equity:** The Supreme Court chooses its cases, and should select cases that are important to all Texans—not just the well-resourced. It should also review cases mindful of the constitutionally embedded right to a trial by jury and should respect juries and their verdicts. The Court can adopt rules streamlin-

ing access to justice for those with fewer resources, including self-represented litigants.

■ **Issues:** The persistent attacks on judges—both at the state and federal levels. The judicial branch is a coequal branch of government, and maintaining judicial independence is necessary to sustain our democracy. I would rule based on the law and facts and strive for consistent and fair application of the law without favoring any party.

■ **Philosophy:** The Constitution requires every party appearing in Court be treated equally under the law and guarantees a right to a jury trial. My judicial philosophy is simple: apply the law equally to everyone who appears in court and ensure that juries and their verdicts are respected. Consistent and predictable application of the law is what every Texan should expect from our judicial system.

**Gordon Goodman**

**Website:** *goodmanforjustice.com*



■ **Qualifications:** I served as Justice on the 1st Court of Appeals. Prior to that, I served in senior positions for DuPont, Conoco, and Occidental. In the community, I served on many school and professional boards.

■ **Ethics:** I have published many articles on ethics for the ABA, the UC Business Law Journal, the Heidelberg Journal of International Law, and the Harvard Public Health Review. My articles emphasize that individuals must not only comply with the law in all matters, but also that they must do the right thing even when the law is silent or ambiguous, and even when doing the right thing is unpopular.

■ **Equity:** The Texas Supreme Court should be accessible to all citizens. There is an important role to be played by individuals and groups whose interests may be impacted by future rulings, and the court should be receptive and attentive to amicus curiae briefs (i.e., briefs filed by friends of the court).

■ **Issues:** The justices of every court in Texas swear an oath to uphold and defend the constitution and laws of the State of Texas and the United States. The judicial department of Texas is the third arm of the government, and under the Texas constitution, the separation of powers is explicitly stated. The justices of the Texas Supreme Court must base their decisions on the law and not popular opinions.

■ **Philosophy:** Like Justices Holmes and Brandeis, I believe a ‘common law’ approach is the most vital. This was the prevailing judicial philosophy for most of the 20th century and is a form of pragmatism. A more popular judicial philosophy today is ‘originalism’ which proposes to interpret the law as it was understood when first enacted. The ‘common law’ approach acknowledges that the world changes over time.

**PLACE 8**

**Gisela D. Triana**

Unopposed

**JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS**

Six-year term. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals is Texas’ highest court for criminal cases. The Court includes a Presiding Judge and eight Judges, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. The court must review all cases in which the death penalty is

assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues rulings about wrongful imprisonment.

**PLACE 3**

**Okey Anyiam**

Unopposed

**PLACE 4**

**Audra Riley**

Unopposed

**PLACE 9**

**Holly Taylor**

Unopposed

**TEXAS STATE SENATOR**

4-year term. Responsibilities include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes.

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

■ **Education:** What steps, if any, should the Legislature take to ensure all Texas students have access to quality and equitable public education?

■ **Energy:** What steps, if any, should the Legislature take to ensure Texas has reliable, affordable energy while protecting the environment?

■ **Healthcare:** What role, if any, should the state government play in promoting a healthy Texas population, and what steps should the Legislature take to ensure that healthcare is affordable and accessible for all Texans?

■ **Elections:** What changes, if any, should be made to Texas election laws to protect voting rights and voting access for all eligible voters?

**DISTRICT 19**

**Roland Gutierrez**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 21**

**Judith Zaffirini (D)**

■ **Qualification:** 76,000+ consecutive votes; passed 1,500+ bills, more than any legislator in Texas history; B.S., M.A., PhD from UT-Austin; former teacher, businesswoman, and award-winning communication specialist.

■ **Education:** Texas should define education as a right, not a privilege, from early childhood through higher education. The state must fully and equitably fund public schools, expand flexibility to meet local needs, support libraries, technology, special education, mental health, and broadband access, and pay educators significantly better to recruit and retain excellence.

■ **Energy:** Legislators must ensure Texas energy is reliable, affordable, sustainable and protective of the environment; highest users pay fair share of infrastructure costs, balance economic development with environmental concerns; modernize the electric grid, create more reliable/resilient systems, expand battery storage,



close regulatory gaps; incentivize wind and solar energy; and raise efficiency goals.

■ **Healthcare:** Legislators should ensure healthcare is accessible, accountable, affable, affordable, available and excellent for all Texans, including low-income families and rural residents. Options include telemedicine, mobile medical units, incentives for medical providers/facilities in rural and low-income areas and Medicaid expansion. Eliminating waiting lists for critical services is imperative.

■ **Elections:** Texas election laws should be changed to protect voting rights and access for all eligible voters by making it easier to vote, especially by mail, drive-by and longer hours/periods; modernizing election administration; expanding voter access, especially for persons with disabilities; evaluating and perhaps reconsidering impact of controversial bills; and establish a Redistricting Commission.

**Cortney Jones (D)**

■ **Qualification:** Master's-level social worker, nonprofit CEO, and former DFPS state office staff. Served five years on the DFPS Council, LBJ Women's Campaign School graduate with lived and policy experience.

■ **Education:** The Legislature should fully fund public education, update the school finance formula, and ensure resources are equitably distributed across districts. This includes competitive teacher pay, mental health supports, early childhood education, modern facilities, and accountability systems that address disparities so all students can succeed regardless of zip code.

■ **Energy:** The Legislature should strengthen grid reliability through strong oversight, modernization, and long-term planning. Texas should invest in a diverse energy mix, support energy efficiency, and improve infrastructure resilience. Protecting air, water, and land while keeping energy affordable is essential for families, businesses, and long-term economic stability across the state.

■ **Healthcare:** The state should promote public health by expanding access to affordable, preventive, and mental healthcare. The Legislature should strengthen the healthcare workforce, support community-based care, improve maternal and behavioral health services, and reduce cost barriers so Texans can access care when and where they need it.

■ **Elections:** Texas should ensure elections are secure, fair, and accessible. The Legislature should protect voting rights by expanding access to early voting and vote-by-mail, ensuring adequate polling locations and staffing, improving voter education, and maintaining transparent election administration for all eligible voters.

**DISTRICT 26**

**José Menéndez**

Unopposed

**TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

2-year term. Legislative authority and responsibilities for the 150 representatives include passing bills on public policy matters, originating spending bills, raising and lowering taxes, and voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes.

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

■ **Business:** What, if any, regulation is needed for Data Centers?

■ **Education:** What role do you think the State Legislature should have in school district policies?

■ **Water:** What are your ideas for ensuring that Texans have affordable and safe water, while balancing the desire for economic development?

■ **Hunger:** How do we ensure no child goes hungry in the State of Texas?

■ **Voter Rights:** Would you support legislation that requires documented proof of citizenship when registering to vote? Please explain your answer.

**DISTRICT 116**

**Trey Martinez Fischer**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 117**

**Philip Cortez**

Website: [philipcortez.com](http://philipcortez.com)



■ **Qualifications:** I served two terms on City Council where I fought to improve police and fire services, clean parks, and modernize libraries. I established the Willie Cortez Senior Center to meet community needs. After my term, I became the State Representative for House District 117 in 2012 and have passed over 40 pieces of legislation supporting veterans, public schools, seniors, and job creation in Bexar County. I currently serve as the Chairman of the Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

■ **Business:** Data centers consume significant amounts of water and electricity to operate. As data centers and power generation emerge as vital components of our infrastructure, it is essential to regulate them to ensure they do not disrupt public services. While I support our state's independence with its own power grid, we must consider additional backup plans in case of a failure. This is why I have filed legislation to analyze the interconnection between Texas and other partners to enhance grid stability

■ **Education:** The residents of each local school district elect their school board trustees to serve as their voice and advocate. I believe the Legislature should respect each school board and its administrative leadership to make the best decision for the children attending their schools. The Legislature should have one goal and that is to increase funding allocated to our local public schools. Our Texas children deserve the highest quality of education in the nation.

■ **Water:** The Legislature's role in addressing climate change involves collaborating with various stakeholders to create laws that balance development, progress, and environmental protection. Prioritizing renewable energy sources offers a cleaner alternative that can effectively support the public when used in conjunction with traditional energy. We encourage changes at the individual and business levels by urging people to minimize waste and engage in conservation efforts within their daily routines.

■ **Hunger:** We need to prioritize programs that support families and expand existing initiatives. Children are our future, and our state must do more to assist them and their caregivers to ensure they have proper access to food, education, and healthcare. Over my years of service, I have supported and authored numerous pieces of legislation with this focus in mind. I am proud to have passed one of my top priorities into law, which provides eligible children with two six-month segments of Medicaid coverage.

■ **Voter Rights:** As the former Vice-Chairman of the Texas House Committee on Elections, I believe voting rights and election integrity are vital to democracy. I have consistently advocated against infringing on voting rights. I stood with the other 61 Democrats during the 87th Legislative session to block SB 7 and appealed to Congress for the rights of all Texans. I do not support additional burdens for voting or registration.

**Robert Mihara**

**Website:** [miharafortexas.com](http://miharafortexas.com)



■ **Qualifications:** I've spent my entire adult life leading teams and solving complex problems'20 years as a U.S. Army officer, including nearly a decade as a strategic planner and three years teaching history at West Point. For the past two years, I've served as managing attorney for a pro bono legal services organization. I know how to identify challenges, build practical solutions, and lead people to get results. I'm ready to put that experience to use for Texans in HD 117.

■ **Business:** Data centers place heavy demands on already-scarce water and electrical resources. They should be regulated to ensure their impact on local infrastructure, utility rates, and overall cost of living remains neutral for the community. The technology already exists to significantly reduce their resource use and make their operations far more sustainable'we just need policies that require them to use it.

■ **Education:** Local control should be the guiding principle in public education. But for it to truly benefit students, the Legislature must fully fund our schools and act as a real partner to counties and school districts. Today, the state's recapture system diverts local property tax dollars meant for classrooms and turns them into a slush fund for insider priorities. Public education dollars should stay in public schools. And with meaningful school finance reform, the Legislature can make that happen.

■ **Water:** Texas needs a fully funded, regional plan for water that prepares for scarcity instead of relying on outdated policies. We must stop waste by fixing failing pipes and preventing private profiteering from our water supply. Long-term security requires investing in sustainable sources like non-potable systems, desalination, and large-scale rain capture.

■ **Hunger:** We can end child hunger in Texas by making the state a true partner in delivering SNAP and school meals, lowering housing and transportation costs, and ensuring access to primary healthcare for everyone. Child hunger is a symptom of broader failures to provide the basic supports individuals and families need to stay healthy and secure.

■ **Voter Rights:** I support verifying voter eligibility, but those requirements must not block eligible citizens from voting on Election Day. Voting is a fundamental right, and it shouldn't be denied over fixable paperwork issues. Citizenship checks must account for the realities faced by unsheltered or marginalized Texans, including many older adults, so that every eligible voter can participate.

**DISTRICT 118**

**Kristian Carranza**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 119**

**Elizabeth 'Liz' Campos**

**Website:** [LizCampos.com](http://LizCampos.com)



■ **Qualifications:** Thirty years' experience at major law firms in San Antonio, ten years' experience in the Texas Legislature (Chief of Staff, District Director, Constituent Services Coordinator), and three terms in the Texas House of Representatives. My colleagues selected me 'Freshman of the Year'. I've advanced 427 bills in three terms. And, I've passionately fought to improve senior safety at nursing homes, protect kids in foster care, fully fund public schools, and invest state money to create local jobs.

■ **Business:** This legislative session, I voted for SB6 'Data Center' regulations to lower residential ratepayer costs, improve grid reliability, and require efficiency standards. More regulations are necessary, especially in data processing, internet hosting, and data migration. Important to data centers, I also co-authored HB150 to create the Texas Cyber Command in San Antonio. UTSA will play an important role in improving cyber security. Funded with \$135 million, TCC will be an economic boom to SA.

■ **Education:** I believe in local control. The State Legislature should have a limited role when it comes to district policies. Unfortunately, Texas public schools once again found themselves at the center of political struggle. Modest increases to funding and efforts to improve early literacy and special education were overshadowed by the passage of a statewide private school voucher program and a series of ideological mandates. State control of local schools will lead to more bureaucracy and more taxes.

■ **Water:** SAWS loses 21 billion gallons of per year due to leaks. Therefore, I championed and voters approved \$20 Billion for Water Infrastructure & Conservation. The money will go to replacing aging pipes and modernize our distribution infrastructure to prevent leaks; upgrade wastewater treatment plants to minimize pollution and maximize reuse; developing and increasing new water sources, such as desalination; flood mitigation projects; and supporting conservation efforts to help meet future demands.

■ **Hunger:** In Texas, children go hungry. We lead the nation in the number of people facing food insecurity, with 1 in 5 children at risk of going hungry. Former Gov. Ann Richards said 'We have problems like Alabama, including child hunger; the difference, we have the resources to do something about it'. Unfortunately, state leaders are doing nothing about it. We should increase the state's minimum wage, streamline SNAP application process, and fight federal tariff policies that make groceries expensive.

■ **Voter Rights:** No. This would disenfranchise millions of United States Citizens. Instead of making it more difficult to register, we need to make it easier by introducing online voter registration, same day registration, and statewide voter registration. Requiring proof of citizenship is one more attempt at voter suppression by rightwing politicians. They know 'illegal registrations and illegal votes' are statistically non-existent but they preach the contrary to rev up their base and keep others from voting.

**Did not respond:** Ryan Ayala

**DISTRICT 120**

**Jordan Brown**

**Website:** [jordanfortx120.com](http://jordanfortx120.com)



- **Qualifications:** As a public-school teacher, voter registration advocate, and former nonprofit professional, I have spent my career directly serving the communities I've lived in through hands-on experience. My work has been rooted in problem-solving, advocacy, and meeting people where they are. For 15 years, I've demonstrated a consistent commitment to service, collaboration, and servant leadership, while working within state and federal policy frameworks to turn rules into practical solutions for families.
- **Business:** Data centers operating with a 'wild west' approach are not sustainable. In Texas, many receive major tax breaks while placing heavy demands on water, energy, and public infrastructure. We need clear rules on resource use, data privacy, and environmental impact, and to ensure these companies pay their fair share so revenue is reinvested in local infrastructure, schools, and communities, not shifted onto ratepayers and taxpayers.
- **Education:** The State Legislature should set equitable school finance formulas, fully fund special education, and establish clear statewide standards, while leaving instructional and operational decisions to local districts. Its role is to ensure a student's ZIP code does not determine opportunity. Whether in San Antonio's 78207 or a rural community like where I grew up, every student deserves a well-funded public education that prepares them to think critically and contribute to Texas's future.
- **Water:** Texas must treat water as core infrastructure. Legislative priorities should focus on fully funding aging water systems, making conservation the first water source, expanding safe water reuse, protecting aquifers for long-term sustainability, integrating flood and drought planning, and keeping water affordable for working families. Water policy should be practical, equitable, and focused on long-term resilience, not short-term fixes.
- **Hunger:** We ensure no child goes hungry by guaranteeing year-round access to meals, including during the summer. I support policies that expand school meal and nutrition programs and raise the minimum wage so families can afford to put food on the table and so the workers who prepare and serve our children's meals can do the same. When we invest in children, schools, housing, and neighborhoods, we create the conditions for families to thrive and ensure every child has access to food.
- **Voter Rights:** I support legislation that removes barriers for eligible voters to exercise their right to vote. As a Volunteer Deputy Registrar and volunteer with Powered by People, I take this responsibility seriously. I do not support policies proven to disenfranchise voters. Texas already has safeguards in place, and voter fraud is rare. When it comes to proof of citizenship, if it ain't broken, don't fix it.

**Barbara Gervin Hawkins**

**Website:** [barbaragervin.com](http://barbaragervin.com)

- **Qualifications:** 9-years State Rep.; serve on two high power committees Appropriations, Ways and Means, ability to pass bills even though in the minority party, Chair of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and Texas Tourism Caucus, classified as a pragmatic legislature; Bachelors in Accounting (BBA), Master's in Education (MEd), PhD (abd) in Leadership, 30-year educator, Certified Principal & middle school math teacher, numerous hours

in corporate & school leadership, certified in construction and non-profit mgt.

- **Business:** As Data centers grow in Texas we should monitor them closely, establish strong regulations that provides oversight, leverages economic benefits and in addition explore how we can strengthen our energy supply now and into the future with a focus on electric and water. Regulate pricing in cases of emergency, work closely with local energy providers and ensure on-going reporting
- **Education:** Set policies that are realistic and in alignment with both student and districts needs, give districts the proper time for implementation of new legislation, enable innovation, allow flexibility, ensure adequate funding, hold districts accountable for academics, financial, and operational outcomes.
- **Water:** Build a stronger infrastructure, integrate old and new technology, make appropriate investments, modernize systems, establish strict regulations and monitor implementation. At a minimum every two years monitor systems to see what's working and what's not working
- **Hunger:** Strengthen feeding programs for youth like SNAP, EBT and school feeding programs. Every school day that food is left over from breakfast and lunch allow it to be given to families to take home daily. Reduce food access barriers, address root causes, develop and fund more community base food programs, engage local Farmers and address the needs of food desert communities
- **Voter Rights:** Federal and State law already exist that says only US citizens can vote. To bring greater trust to the system yes, I can support a program that requires upon initial registration proof of citizenship. Documents should be provided as long as senior citizens of a certain age and others that may have difficulty in securing records that no longer exist are not penalized. We don't need to hurt our older age citizens. They should be able to sign an affidavit in lieu of

**Did not respond:** Bently Paiz

**DISTRICT 121**

**Zack Dunn**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 122**

**Shelly Nickels**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 123**

**Diego Bernal**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 124**

**Josey Garcia**

Unopposed

**DISTRICT 125**

**Michelle Barrientes Vela**

- **Qualifications:** I am uniquely qualified for this position because I bring firsthand knowledge experience in public service, Served as an elected law-enforcement Official. I was responsible as a leader to oversee all operations, administrative, training and supervisory functions . I lead supervisors, officers, enforcing



statutory law and constitutional law. In addition I am a paralegal with studies of criminal, civil law, family law and contract law. To include a family owned dealership for nearly 30 years.

- **Business:** I believe federal oversight that ensures data centers are energy efficient, transparent in reporting, environmentally responsible, and secure as critical infrastructure.
- **Education:** We must invest in our school with funding, training, and mental health support to guarantee every child and their teachers get the deserved quality education they deserve. We must also address safety measures to safeguard the lives of our children, teachers and staff from the growing threat of active shooters
- **Water:** Government should balanced economic growth with water security by responsible acquiring new supplies, safeguarding existing sources from overuse and contamination investing in modern infrastructure, enforcing conservation standards, and ensuring affordable safe access for all Texans
- **Hunger:** To sure that no child goes hungry in Texas, the state should expand funding for school meal program, strengthen support for local nonprofits and food banks and provide workforce training that helps families raise income in households. This combination guarantees immediate access to food while building a long-term stability for families living paycheck to paycheck.
- **Voter Rights:** Proof of citizenship is already verified and documented through the Department of public safety DPS, when issuing state license or IDs, we should build on that existing database to create a more efficient verification system. This would safeguard against voter fraud while reducing unnecessary burdens on citizens

□ **Carlos Antonio Raymond**

**Website:** [RaymondForTexas125.Com](http://RaymondForTexas125.Com)



- **Qualifications:** My qualifications reflect a lifetime of service, leadership, and hands-on experience in the very systems that shape our community. I bring a broad and proven record that spans military service, government at multiple levels, community involvement, and professional expertise'experience that directly prepares me to represent the public effectively and responsibly. – Please See My Website-RaymondForTexas125.Com
- **Business:** Data centers are increasingly important to our economy, but they must operate in a way that protects our community, respects our resources, and contributes responsibly to local growth. Thoughtful regulation is not about limiting innovation'it is about ensuring that large-scale facilities are good neighbors and long-term partners. Please See My Website-RaymondForTexas125.Com
- **Education:** The State Legislature should play a guiding role in school district policies by setting minimum statewide standards while allowing local districts flexibility in how they meet them. These standards should ensure educational equity through baseline curriculum and graduation requirements, protect student safety through health, safety, and anti-discrimination laws, and maintain instructional quality through teacher certification standards.
- **Water:** Texas should ensure affordable and safe water by investing in modern water infrastructure, including repairing aging pipes to reduce leaks, expanding storage and delivery systems for fast growing areas, and upgrading treatment facilities to meet safety standards and withstand extreme weather. These improvements lower long term costs, protect public health, conserve water, and

provide reliable access that supports economic development and business growth.

- **Hunger:** We begin by recognizing that feeding the hungry is not only a public responsibility'it is a moral mandate. Scripture teaches us: 'Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me.' This calling has guided my life, my service, and my community leadership. My Legacy: Mass Feeding as a Calling.
- **Voter Rights:** I would approach legislation requiring documented proof of citizenship with caution, because while election integrity and public confidence are important, such requirements can unintentionally create barriers for eligible voters who lack easy access to documents. Safeguarding elections should focus on secure registration systems and enforcement of existing laws without discouraging lawful participation in a fundamental democratic right.

□ **Adrian Reyna**

**Website:** [voteadrianreyna.com](http://voteadrianreyna.com)



- **Qualifications:** Born and raised in this district, I have continued my family's long legacy of public service. I taught history at SAISD, worked as a legislative aide in Austin, and served as the Executive VP of my union. In every role, I've fought alongside students and working families to make sure our government reflects their needs. Now I'm ready to take the fight to the State House'lowering your property taxes, increasing investments in education and infrastructure, and ensuring healthcare for all.
- **Business:** Texas data centers are on track to consume 399 billion gallons of water each year. While I support technological progress and creating meaningful job opportunities, I also understand the need to regulate this growing sector. I support policies that require transparency and accountability around energy and water usage, including mandated water recycling. Not only would this protect our natural resources, it would also prevent consumer rates from skyrocketing and our energy grid from collapsing.
- **Education:** With over a decade of teaching experience, I believe the legislature sets the 'what,' and the districts determine the 'how.' Texas should ensure districts provide high-quality education, safe campuses, certified educators, set accountability/assessment systems, as well as ensure civil rights are protected. The legislature should not dictate daily lesson plans or monitor academic discussions, and it must respect local districts' democratic authority to set policies reflective of their community.
- **Water:** Water is not a commodity; it is essential. I support economic development, but we should prioritize people'household access, schools, hospitals, and agriculture first. We should ensure that our growth doesn't overrun our basic needs and resources. Large industrial users should pay for their water infrastructure and be mandated to disclose water usage plans, work with local communities to coordinate water management, and abide by drought contingency plans to protect consumers and our future.
- **Hunger:** You feed them – it's just that simple. Food security should not be a partisan issue, but last session, the Governor cut \$60 million in food assistance through a line-item veto. I have seen firsthand the impact of hunger on a child's development as well as the vital role that our public school breakfast and lunch programs play in feeding our community. We must expand our school food distribution programs by securing more federal and state funding, including expanding WIC and the EBT program.

■ **Voter Rights:** I strongly oppose any legislation that disenfranchises eligible voters. There is overwhelming evidence that requiring proof of citizenship for voter registration disproportionately impacts the voting rights of seniors, young people, and lower-socioeconomic Texans. I support increasing voting sites, expanding vote-by-mail, and making Election Day a state holiday. These are simple ideas that support the pillars of Democracy I've taught to thousands of children in my U.S. History classroom.

**Donovan Rodriguez**

**Website:** [Donovonrodriguez.com](http://Donovonrodriguez.com)



■ **Qualifications:** I bring over a decade of senior experience in the Texas Legislature, including serving as Chief of Staff, guiding legislation, budgets, and constituent services. Raised by a single mother and born into public housing, I understand firsthand how policy affects families. I also spend my time volunteering in the community, including leading the Edgewood ISD Foundation supporting classrooms and students where public resources fall short. I am steady, prepared, and focused on practical results.

■ **Business:** Data centers should be regulated to ensure they do not strain local water supplies, energy grids, or surrounding communities. Reasonable oversight should require transparency in water and energy use, fair contributions to infrastructure costs, and clear standards for reliability and environmental impact. Smart regulation can support innovation while protecting ratepayers, workers, and local communities.

■ **Education:** The Legislature should set clear statewide standards and fully fund public education while giving ISDs the flexibility to meet local needs. Schools are anchors of our neighborhoods and community resources, not political battlegrounds. I support strong teacher pay and benefits and policies that put kids first. I oppose rewriting history, mandating religious doctrine in classrooms, or investigating educators for their beliefs.

■ **Water:** Texas must treat water as essential infrastructure. I support increasing investment in the state water plan as a starting point to secure long-term supply, modernize aging systems, and protect affordability for families. Economic development should be paired with conservation, reuse, and responsible planning so growth does not outpace supply. Safe, reliable water is critical to public health and a strong economy.

■ **Hunger:** No child should go hungry in Texas. The state should fully support school meals, summer and after-school nutrition programs, and partnerships with local food banks. We must reduce barriers to access, protect benefits for working families, and ensure programs reach children where they are. Addressing child hunger strengthens health, learning, and long-term opportunity.

■ **Voter Rights:** I oppose requiring documented proof of citizenship because it creates real barriers for eligible Texans. Married women whose IDs don't match their birth certificates, seniors born at home, veterans, and working families can face costly and time-consuming hurdles. Our elections are already secure using existing verification. We should protect access to the ballot and security of our elections without making voting harder for lawful voters.

## TEXAS 15TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT

Six-year term. The Texas 15th Court of Appeals District has jurisdiction over civil matters brought against the state. The court also has jurisdiction over appeals brought by Texas Business Court over more than \$10 million.

### CHIEF JUSTICE, 15TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT

**Jerry Zimmerer**

Unopposed

### JUSTICE, 15TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 2

**Tom Baker**

Unopposed

### JUSTICE, 15TH COURT OF APPEALS DISTRICT, PLACE 3

**Marc M. Meyer**

Unopposed

## TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS

The 4th Court of Appeals is the intermediate court of appeals, comprised of seven Justices who hear both civil and criminal cases from thirty-two counties located in South Texas and the Texas Hill Country.

### CHIEF JUSTICE, 4TH COURT OF APPEALS

**Velia J. Meza**

**Website:** [veliameza.com](http://veliameza.com)



■ **Qualifications:** As the only member of the Fourth Court running for Chief Justice, I already know its rhythm, respect its people, and understand the weight of the work from day one. I can step into the role and lead.

■ **Ethics:** I have honored my oath to uphold the Constitution, respecting precedent, and maintaining the highest ethical standards of the office. That means my written opinions are grounded in law and evidence — not in political pressure, personal preference, or the interests of anyone who supports my work. The public deserves judges that operate with integrity, and I take that responsibility seriously.

■ **Equity:** One of the most impactful steps an appellate court can take is simplifying its processes. Appellate rules are often highly technical, and intimidating for self-represented litigants. By rewriting instructions in plain language, and providing clear guidance on deadlines and formatting, the court can reduce procedural barriers that disproportionately affect underserved communities.

■ **Philosophy:** I believe that leadership in the judiciary is not about power, but about service. It is about honoring the trust placed in us to safeguard fairness and uphold the rule of law. Every decision must be grounded in impartiality, guided by the Constitution and the law, and free from external pressures or personal interests. Justice is not a privilege; it is a right, and my role is to protect it.

■ **Issue:** Generally, Courts are under immense pressure to move cases faster—backlogs, limited resources, rising caseloads, and public expectations all push toward higher 'production.' But justice isn't a factory line. We need to use our data to help identify where

quality is slipping or where delays are most harmful and build systems that support both efficiency and quality.

**Atonia ‘Toni’ Arteaga**

**Website:** [JudgeArteaga.com](http://JudgeArteaga.com)



- **Qualifications:** I bring almost 20 yrs of judicial experience, including service as the most senior judge at the Bexar County Courthouse & statewide leadership as past president of the Texas Assoc. of District Judges.
- **Ethics:** I strictly follow the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and decide each case solely on the law. Judicial independence and impartiality are essential to maintaining public trust. Today, I remain just as committed to the rule of law as I did in 2008, when I was first elected, without consideration of campaign donors, political pressure, media or public opinion.
- **Equity:** Access to justice improves when courts are efficient, fair and patient. Courts should always admonished self-represented litigants that they will be treated just as an attorney would be in their court. Providing information online and a law library that is accessible to anyone is also a step in the right direction.
- **Philosophy:** The law is the law. Judges must apply the law as written. Treat all who come before the court with respect – at all times. Rule fairly and rely faithfully on legal precedent – without regard to politics or personal views.
- **Issue:** One of the great challenges facing the courts is the continuous rise in threats to our judiciary. The negative political rhetoric from leaders has a dangerous trickle down effect. Judges must, now more than ever, hold themselves to the highest standards to maintain public confidence while simultaneously insuring judges receive the tools needed to keep our courts safe.

ical needs, stability and continuity in home, school, and routines, and the child’s age and developmental needs. When appropriate, the child’s wishes may be considered. Under Texas law, courts apply the best interest of the child standard, prioritizing safety, stability, and overall well-being.

- **Backlog:** Courts can reduce backlogs through early case triage, firm trial settings, and strict limits on continuances. Using scheduling orders, regular status conferences tailored to the complexity of each case, expanded mediation and ADR, and remote hearings for routine matters improves efficiency. Clear deadlines and prompt rulings help move cases while preserving due process.
- **Reforms:** Voters deserve a judge who applies the law faithfully, respects constitutional rights, and issues fact-based decisions that withstand appellate review. My experience and commitment to due process equip me to serve with fairness and accountability. Judges must lead with restraint, not personal temperament.
- **Equality:** I would perform marriages for all couples, regardless of gender. I believe that every individual is entitled to the fundamental right to marry the person they love.

**Mary Lou Alvarez**

- **Qualifications:** I earned my Bachelors of Science in Industrial Engineering & Engineering Management from Stanford University & my JD from Seton Hall Law. During my service as a Federal Law Clerk for the Honorable Ron Clark in the Eastern District of Texas, I learned how to most effectively represent clients in court. The majority of my 15 year litigation career was spent representing victims of domestic violence at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. Justice without exception is what I will continue to provide everyday.
- **Family Law:** Texas law requires consideration of the Holley factors in conservatorship and possession decisions. I apply these factors by focusing on the child’s best interests, including the child’s emotional and physical needs, safety, stability, home environment, and parental abilities. I also evaluate each parent’s willingness and ability to foster cooperation and support the child’s present and future well-being. I am uniquely qualified & have the courage required to make decisions to protect children.
- **Backlog:** Our Civil Courts can reduce backlogs by actively managing dockets and prioritizing case resolution. I have coordinated and presided over dismissal-for-want-of-prosecution dockets to clear inactive cases post-COVID. I have also trained family law advocates and mental health professionals to promote efficient resolution in child-related cases. Most recently, I have participated in redesigning the Presiding Court system to better meet our community’s needs. I use best docket management tools daily.
- **Reforms:** I would like to see the office receive the resources needed to operate an effective and efficient civil district court without overburdening existing staff. With careful budget scrutiny, I am hopeful Bexar County can achieve better outcomes for the community by providing the trial courts with the required resources. I support staffing each civil district court with a dedicated court coordinator to strengthen docket efficiency and a skilled appellate attorney to protect judicial independence.
- **Equality:** I DO perform marriage ceremonies for all couples, regardless of whether they are of the same sex or different. During my seven years as Judge of the 45th District Court, I have officiated dozens of marriages, each reflecting the hope, faith, and love that make the ceremony meaningful. It is clear equality under the law requires a judge to recognize and respect the dignity and humanity of every person, especially at such an important life moment. It is imperative that judges are just to all.

**BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT – CIVIL**

Civil District Courts have original jurisdiction in cases where more than \$200 are in dispute, family law matters, title to land and contested elections.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Family Law:** In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?
- **Backlog:** What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
- **Reforms:** What changes would you like to see in the office?
- **Equality:** Would you perform marriage ceremonies for all couples regardless of whether they are of the same sex or different? Explain why or why not.

**45TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT**

**Dinorah Diaz**

- **Qualifications:** I have 34 years of experience practicing law, focusing on civil litigation and family law, and I am licensed in Texas and the Federal Western District of Texas. I bring high integrity, no disciplinary history, and a calm, respectful demeanor. I am committed to fairness, due process, and applying the law consistently, earning the trust and confidence of those who come before the court.
- **Family Law:** In a custody case where both parents are competent, the most relevant factors focus on the child’s emotional and phys-

**150TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT**

**Monique Diaz**

Unopposed

**224TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT**

**Marisa Flores**



**Qualifications:** I have had the honor of serving as Judge of the 224th District Court since January 1, 2023. I serve this community by working diligently, treating everyone who comes before my court with dignity and respect, and faithfully following the law. Before taking the bench, I practiced in various areas of the law. I practiced extensively in civil litigation from assisting victims of domestic violence in obtaining protective orders to representing individuals injured through no fault of their own.

**Family Law:** The best interest of the child is always the Court's primary concern. When both parents are competent, the Court considers all relevant factors in determining possession, access, and parental rights and duties. Whenever it is in the child's best interest, children should have meaningful relationships with both parents. The Court's role is to support families in fostering those relationships while ensuring the child's safety and well-being.

**Backlog:** I will continue working hard on behalf of the people of Bexar County to administer justice swiftly and fairly. I am proud of my work as Presiding Judge of the 224th District Court. The Office of Court Administration, the entity charged with holding judges accountable, has published statistics reflecting strong case disposition rates in my court. To the extent any backlog exists, I remain committed to eliminating it through diligent case management.

**Reforms:** The Legislature has imposed new statutory deadlines in certain civil matters. Additionally, the Supreme Court of Texas is in the process of publishing rule changes in the area of court and case administration. My goal is to ensure full compliance with any new changes, and minimally impact administration of our docket and access to justice by the public.

**Equality:** I will absolutely continue to perform same sex marriage ceremonies. In 2015, the United States Supreme Court upheld same sex marriage as constitutional in the Obergefell decision. Therefore, not only am I legally authorized to perform marriage ceremonies for all, I have always supported the LGBTQ+ community, and I will continue to do so.

**Grace M. Uzomba**



**Qualifications:** Elected Judge, County Court at Law No. 2, completed full 4-year tenure, 2019-2022 presiding over criminal and civil trials, hearings and post-trial matters. Practicing attorney for over 15 years handling civil and criminal cases. Have formal education, training and over 10 years experience in contracting. Educated, trained and experienced mediating community, contractual matters to complex family to include CPS cases. Certified tax professional and instructor for over 25 years.

**Family Law:** The willingness of the parents to co-parent that puts the best interest of the child FIRST. The external loving and caring involvement and influence of extended family. Positive involvement of child and parent in extracurricular activities.

Responsive and responsible keeping of the health and welfare of the child. My diverse education, practice, training and leadership experience enables me to understand the economic impact of the decisions I will make in this office.

**Backlog:** Increase the number of Courts and or Associate Judges. Use of retired Judges part-time to hear cases via zoom or outside facilities. Increase the number of personnel to handle the processing of cases. Have meetings with the attorneys to narrow the issues and encourage them to resolve cases through mediation where practicable. Not all cases can be mediated.

**Reforms:** I would like to see that the Servicemembers Relief Act (SCRA) is given more reverence. I would like to see more education of the community of the legal process and their civic duty. I loved the mantra of the Burlington Coat Factory: 'an informed customer is the best customer.' A more educated community may be less litigious or better prepared to move things along. Recognition of First Responders as our daily heroes and the sacrifices they and their families make to protect and serve us.

**Equality:** I would follow the law with regard to performing marriages.

**225TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT**

**Christine Vasquez Hortick**

Unopposed

**285TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT**

**Nadine Melissa Nieto**

Unopposed

**288TH CIVIL DISTRICT COURT**

**Cynthia Marie Chapa**

Unopposed

**BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT - CRIMINAL**

4-year term. Criminal courts hear felony cases involving such charges as murder, assault, theft and drunk driving.

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

**Bail Reform:** What is your position on bail reform? What do you recommend, if anything?

**Drunk Driving:** What, in your opinion, would help with the reduction of drunk driving?

**Access:** What are your thoughts on an expanded public defender office?

**Jail:** What do you think is the best way to solve jail overpopulation?

**Equality:** Do you believe the Bexar County criminal justice system impacts all economic classes equally? Explain why or why not.

**144TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT**

**Michael Mery**

**Website:** [judgemery.com](http://judgemery.com)

**Qualifications:** I bring more than 26 years of judicial experience, currently serving as Judge of the 144th Criminal District Court, with prior service on the 37th District Court and Bexar County Court at Law #12. I have pre-



sided over thousands of criminal cases and hundreds of jury trials, both criminal and civil. My career also includes public service as an Assistant Attorney General and Assistant District Attorney protecting children from abuse, and 43 years as a lawyer, including 12 in private practice.

- **Bail Reform:** Bail reform was addressed during the most recent legislative session, and as such, I am obligated to faithfully implement the reforms signed into law. Those changes reflect clear policy decisions by state leaders regarding bail, public safety, and pretrial procedures. My responsibility is not to relitigate those choices, but to ensure they are applied consistently, fairly, and in accordance with the law while protecting constitutional rights and maintaining the integrity of the justice system.
- **Drunk Driving:** During more than 11 years as Judge of County Court at Law # 12, I presided over thousands of DWI cases. One clear lesson from that experience is that underage alcohol consumption often leads to impaired driving. Preventing DWIs requires early intervention which includes educating students from middle school through high school about the health risks of alcohol, the legal consequences of underage drinking, and the serious, often life-altering consequences of driving while intoxicated.
- **Access:** Our Public Defender's Office plays a critical role in upholding the constitutional right to counsel and ensuring that justice is not determined by one's ability to pay. The office does excellent work under challenging conditions, and I support increased funding to expand attorney and support staff positions. Strengthening the Public Defender's Office will broaden access to quality representation, reduce caseload pressures, and help ensure fairness and integrity throughout our justice system.
- **Jail:** As Bexar County grows, jail overcrowding remains a serious challenge. Addressing it requires innovative solutions that link community resources with the justice system. One example is the misdemeanor Mental Health Court, which I helped establish in the mid-2000s and presided over through 2010. That court continues to divert mentally ill misdemeanor defendants from jail through coordinated efforts among law enforcement, mental health providers, and the court.
- **Equality:** Unfortunately, our current judicial system does not impact all socioeconomic classes equally. Truth be told, few things in life do. However, what the justice system can and must do is treat every person with fairness, respect, and dignity. As Judge of the 144th District Court, I strive to ensure that each case is decided on its facts and merits, and that true justice is pursued notwithstanding the economic circumstances of the defendant or the victim.

**Michael De Leon**

**Website:** [JudgeDeLeon.com](http://JudgeDeLeon.com)



- **Qualifications:** I'm running on my 25 years of public service serving Bexar County. I was a prosecutor for 18 years with the District Attorney's Office, a domestic violence court judge for 4 years during COVID, and a criminal defense attorney for the past three years protecting the rights of the accused. I have tried over 125 jury trials including sexual crimes against children and adults, aggravated assaults, murder and capital murder. This experience makes me qualified to be a judge of a felony court.
- **Bail Reform:** As a Judge, I am required to follow the laws of the State of Texas and that is what I will do. As an elected district court judge, I can make sure that citizens being accused of low-level, non-violent offenses do not remain in jail due to

not being able to have the money to bond out of jail. There are options in place to reduce the jail population while keeping our community safe.

- **Drunk Driving:** Citizens accused of Driving while Intoxicated need to be held accountable for their actions. In most cases, probation may be appropriate to get help for those who need alcohol or drug dependency treatment and make sure they do not commit another DWI endangering our community
- **Access:** I am supportive of any initiatives that provide a speedier court process. Quality representation of citizens accused of a crime will, at the same time, provide speedy justice to victims of crime. Currently, there are not enough attorneys to meet the demand of court appointed counsel. Any improvement in our system will assist all the parties who come to find justice at the courthouse.
- **Jail:** Low-level, non-violent offenders need to be properly evaluated and provided a low bond amount so they can bond out of jail. Just because a person cannot afford a bond doesn't mean the best use of taxpayer resources is to leave that person in jail. We can keep our community safe while ensuring defendants return to the courthouse.
- **Equality:** No. The poor do not get the ability to bond out of jail due to a lack of resources. That is not fair. Improvements need to be made so we ensure that citizens who do not have money are treated fairly and responsibly by our criminal justice system. As a Judge I can help in that respect.

**186TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT**

**Kristina Escalona**

Unopposed

**187TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT**

**Stephanie R. Boyd**

**Website:** [keepjudgestephanieboyd.com](http://keepjudgestephanieboyd.com)



- **Qualifications:** Judge Boyd is the first African American and first female judge of the 187th Judicial District Court. She holds a B.A., MBA, and JD and brings over 28 years of experience as a prosecutor and defense attorney. She has a long history of supporting treatment courts, co-presides over adult mental health court at the request of Judge Ron Rangel, and teaches at UTSA. Transparency is essential for educating the public, maintaining trust in the justice system, and allowing parties to appear remotely.
- **Bail Reform:** Judges are bound to follow the law. Recent Texas laws allow judges to deny bail for serious offenses, limit their ability to set bonds in certain cases, and give the state the power to appeal bail decisions. Some say the changes protect the community and ensure accountability, while others believe this could increase pretrial detention for low-income defendants. Expanding assessments and pretrial supervision could help address these inequities and create a fairer, more balanced pretrial system.
- **Drunk Driving:** Reducing drunk driving requires enforcement, education, and prevention. Public education campaigns about the dangers of impaired driving, along with promoting alternative transportation, can reduce incidents. Expanding access to alcohol treatment and intervention programs for repeat offenders addresses root causes, while early education through school programs helps instill awareness and responsible behavior from a young age.

- **Access:** An expanded public defender office combined with the current system, could positively impact the criminal justice system by reducing heavy caseloads, allowing for more thorough preparation and better access to investigative and support services. Since defense attorneys are often paid significantly less than their assistant district attorney counterparts, additional funding is needed. An expansion could address the disparities that disproportionately affect the economically disadvantaged.
- **Jail:** Jail overcrowding can be addressed through expanded facilities, effective diversion programs, and improved system efficiency. Increased funding for inpatient restoration programs and psychiatric facilities, combined with hiring additional mental health professionals, can reduce wait times and ensure proper care. Expanding programs such as DDRF, SAPFPF, and ISF, alongside community-based treatment alternatives and electronic monitoring for eligible individuals, can help minimize jail admissions.
- **Equality:** No. Lower-income individuals face greater challenges, including bail they cannot afford, limited access to community alternatives, and costly conditions of release like GPS or ignition interlock devices. Wealthier defendants can secure release and access alternatives more easily, highlighting a clear economic disparity in how the system impacts different populations.

**Stephanie Franco**

**Website:** [stephaniefrancoforjudge.com](http://stephaniefrancoforjudge.com)



- **Qualifications:** I bring more than a decade of experience as a first-chair felony prosecutor at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, handling a broad range of serious criminal cases, including sexual assault and domestic violence matters like those heard in the 187th District Court. These cases demand care, dignity, and respect for victims. As a judge, I will focus on justice and not exploiting victims on YouTube for clicks or views.
- **Bail Reform:** In our justice system, those accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty, and the bail system should function within that premise. While unnecessary incarceration should be avoided, public safety is paramount. If a person poses a threat to the community, then appropriate conditions must be put in place to ensure the safety of our community while a case is pending. Overall, I believe in a balanced approach to reduce pretrial incarceration without sacrificing community safety.
- **Drunk Driving:** Driving while intoxicated remains a serious threat to our community, and there is no single solution to stop it. Real progress requires a balanced approach that pairs prevention with accountability. DWI cases should be handled promptly so intervention and treatment can begin without delay, and offenders should engage in evidence-based therapeutic services to reduce the risk of repeat offenses and keep our roads safe.
- **Access:** The public defender system should be expanded and adequately funded. As U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black said, 'There can be no equal justice where the kind of trial a person gets depends on the amount of money they have.' Well-resourced public defenders mean fairer outcomes, manageable caseloads, and attorneys who can give each client the attention they deserve. Strong public defense strengthens the entire justice system.
- **Jail:** A fair bail system is essential to addressing jail overcrowding. Bail should ensure court appearance and public safety, not jail low-income individuals for minor offenses. When bail is used that way, it worsens overcrowding without improving safety. Judges should set bail intentionally, prioritize cases for incarcerated defendants through regular jail dockets, and move them swiftly to

resolution. When appropriate, GPS monitoring can protect the community while reducing unnecessary incarceration.

- **Equality:** With strong court-appointed attorneys, a well-resourced Public Defender Office, and a fair District Attorney's Office, the justice system can better serve people across all economic backgrounds. Bexar County is fortunate to have dedicated attorneys committed to equal representation. Judges play a critical role as well, safeguarding the rights of the accused by ensuring cases proceed only when supported by sufficient evidence, bringing us closer to equal justice for all.

**226TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT**

**Marissa Giovenco**

**Website:** [marissafordistrictjudge.com](http://marissafordistrictjudge.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have been a criminal attorney for over 14 years. I was a prosecutor for 12 years focusing my career on child abuse and domestic violence. Then for the past two years in August, I have been practicing criminal defense. I also have management and training experience. I have a positive and caring personality with an even temper. All of my experience has prepared me to make the best decisions on the bench. My personality and upbringing is what has taught me to treat everyone with respect.
- **Bail Reform:** Bail reform should be about public safety and ensuring someone returns to court, not about how much money they have. Bail decisions should be made by looking at the facts of the case, the person's history, risk to the community and the person's financial ability all on a case by case basis.
- **Drunk Driving:** Reducing drunk driving starts with education, easy access to ride share options and early intervention for offenders. Consequences for dwi should be meaningful and focused on changing behavior so that it does not happen again.
- **Access:** Everyone deserves competent representation, regardless of their income. An expanded and well funded public defenders office could improve fairness and efficiency in the system.
- **Jail:** In order to reduce jail overpopulation we need to move cases efficiently throughout the district attorneys office and the court, use pretrial release appropriately and expand diversion and treatment options for nonviolent offenders. Judges should focus on who truly needs to be in custody for public safety, while ensuring cases don't sit unnecessarily long without resolution.
- **Equality:** I do not believe the system impacts everyone equally. A persons income or access to funds directly affects bail, legal representation, and stability while a case is pending. Judges must be mindful of how decisions affect real people and work to ensure fairness, consistency and equal treatment under the law, regardless of economic status

**Anastacia 'Ana' Ochoa Nelson**

**Website:** [anaochoanelson.com](http://anaochoanelson.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am a St. Mary's University Law graduate and have been a prosecutor for more than a decade, serving in misdemeanor, juvenile, and district courts. I have tried jury and bench trials, including serious felony offenses such as murder, crimes against children, and domestic violence. Beyond trials, I understand that judges must manage dockets, ensure cases move forward, and apply the

law fairly. I am known for my temperament, preparation, and for treating all parties with respect.

- **Bail Reform:** Bail should ensure court appearance while also addressing public safety. It shouldn't result in the unnecessary detention of non-violent individuals solely because they cannot afford it. Judges must consider public safety, flight risk, seriousness of the offense, criminal history, and financial circumstances. Cash bail can be effective, but judges should thoughtfully articulate bail decisions and use discretion to balance individual rights with community safety.
- **Drunk Driving:** Drunk driving is a serious public safety issue in Bexar County. Courts can help reduce the number of offenses by applying consistent consequences, using appropriate pretrial conditions such as restrictions on alcohol use or driving when warranted, and addressing underlying alcohol abuse issues when identified. Clear expectations and accountability in court proceedings play an important role in discouraging dangerous conduct.
- **Access:** Access to counsel is a critical part of a fair justice system. While decisions about expanding a public defender's office are matters for other officials, the availability of defense counsel affects how efficiently and fairly cases move through the courts. A judge's role is to ensure defendants are represented, that appointed counsel have sufficient time to prepare, and that cases proceed consistent with the law.
- **Jail:** Jail overpopulation is a complex issue involving many parts of the justice system. As a judge, my role would be to apply the law, move cases forward efficiently, and make individualized decisions based on the facts before the court. Reducing unnecessary delay and resolving cases in a timely manner are ways courts can help limit prolonged pretrial detention.
- **Equality:** The criminal justice system does not impact all economic classes equally. People with fewer financial resources often face greater challenges navigating the system, including securing counsel and managing the time and cost of court appearances. A judge cannot eliminate those disparities, but a judge can help reduce their impact by applying the law consistently, ensuring cases move forward efficiently, and treating all parties with respect.

**227TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT**

**Christine Del Prado**  
Unopposed

**290TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT**

**Jennifer Peña**  
Unopposed

**437TH CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT**

**Joel Perez**  
Unopposed

**BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT - JUVENILE**

4-year term. Juvenile courts are criminal courts that hear mostly juvenile delinquency cases, which deal with conduct that would be criminal if committed by adults but are dealt with differently for people under age 17. They also hear criminal cases of juveniles who have been charged as adults.

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

- **Priorities:** What do you see as the most serious problem affecting juveniles in today's society?
- **Adult Trials:** In what circumstance should a juvenile be tried as an adult?
- **Funding:** Do you think the State Legislature should provide additional funds to local governments for intervention programs, such as mental health intervention for youth? Explain.

**289TH JUVENILE DISTRICT COURT**

**Rose Sosa**  
Unopposed

**436TH JUVENILE DISTRICT COURT**

**William 'Cruz' Shaw**  
Website: [keepjudgeshaw.com](http://keepjudgeshaw.com)



- **Qualifications:** I was raised by a single mother in the south side of Houston. I went to public school my entire life. I received my undergrad degree from UTSA in juvenile corrections. I worked for a juvenile probation. I worked for Juv Probation, TYC, as well as placement facilities in Bexar County. Once becoming an attorney, I practiced Juvenile and criminal law. I was elected to city council for district 2 then an Associate Judge in Juvenile and elected to my first term as a juvenile District Court judge.
- **Priorities:** Some of the biggest issues I see in our courts are mental health, access to weapons, impulsivity amongst kids, and lack of resources in our communities for our families
- **Adult Trials:** Legally, the only way we can certify a juvenile to be tried as adult is the state has to meet a certain burden for more severe cases which would be a first degree or a second-degree felony as well as the age requirement.
- **Funding:** We could always use more funding to support mental health issues for our youth and our families.

**Raymond A. Villareal**



- **Qualifications:** I have practiced law for over 30 years. My experience has included: Assistant Attorney General for the Office of the Attorney General of Texas; Staff Attorney for the Fifth District Court of Appeals; Legal Counsel for the Texas Workforce Commission. I have also practiced criminal law and have had numerous jury trials. I ahem also extensively practiced juvenile law.
- **Priorities:** The first priority should always be protecting the community. There has been an increase in juvenile crime across the country and steps should be taken to safeguard citizens. The high rate of recidivism is also an issue that should be addressed.
- **Adult Trials:** I believe that a judge should consider the severity of the offense and the offender's criminal history. I don't believe it should be limited to only violent offenses. Certain drug offenses should also be considered.
- **Funding:** If appropriate, yes.

## BEXAR COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

4-year term. Works with law enforcement in the investigation of criminal cases, presents cases to the grand jury, represents victims of violence in protective orders, represents the state in prosecuting felony criminal cases and in removing children from abusive households.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Bail Reform:** Is bail reform needed? What do you recommend, if anything?
- **Domestic Violence:** What role can the District Attorney have in reducing domestic violence in our community?
- **Reforms:** What changes, if any, would you make in the District Attorney office?
- **Backlog:** What solution(s) would you suggest to remedy the backlog of criminal court cases in Bexar County?
- **Death Penalty:** What is your position on the death penalty?

**Jane Davis**

**Website:** [Davisforda.com](http://Davisforda.com)



- **Qualifications:** For 40 years, I have served as an Assistant District Attorney under seven District Attorneys, working in nearly every department. I bring the most relevant experience in this race and a deep understanding of how to lead the office efficiently and fairly. I also understand the data driving the need for reform and the best practices required to protect the people of Bexar County. My number one priority as District Attorney will be to keep our community safe.
- **Bail Reform:** People should not be jailed simply because they are poor and accused of a crime. Bail decisions should be driven by risk, not wealth grounded in thoughtful assessment and appropriate supervision. A system built on fairness and public safety reduces inequality, preserves limited resources, and strengthens trust in our justice system.
- **Domestic Violence:** The District Attorney has the ability and the responsibility to structure the intake of domestic violence cases around the needs of victims. By prioritizing early review and leveraging available grants to expand staffing, the office can ensure victims are contacted within 48 hours, informed of their rights, and connected to critical support services. A prompt, compassionate response not only supports survivors but it strengthens case outcomes and accountability.
- **Reforms:** I would strengthen staffing to ensure domestic violence cases are handled quickly and effectively, work closely with law enforcement to streamline case intake, and expand the number of victim advocates so survivors receive timely support, clear communication, and the resources they need.
- **Backlog:** In Bexar County, where court backlogs remain a serious challenge, a dedicated intake unit would streamline case review and ensure only well-investigated cases are filed. Early screening would reduce delays caused by incomplete evidence, save court resources, and move cases more efficiently. This approach benefits victims, defendants, and the community while strengthening confidence in the justice system.
- **Death Penalty:** I do not favor the use of the death penalty, but I recognize that it may be appropriate in the most extreme and

rare cases. My approach is guided by the seriousness of the crime, the strength of the evidence, and the interests of justice not politics. Any decision involving the death penalty must be made carefully, thoughtfully, and with the understanding that it carries irreversible consequences.

**Meli Carrion Powers**

**Website:** [meliforda.com](http://meliforda.com)



- **Qualifications:** For nearly 25 years, I have served the DA's Office. I've prosecuted thousands of cases at every level, and tried cases including murder, capital murder, domestic violence, and child abuse. As Family Violence Division Chief, I lead the largest division in the office – more than 57 prosecutors and 28 victim assistance personnel. In 2024, nearly 14,000 domestic violence and child abuse cases were filed with the division. I bring extensive courtroom, leadership, and community experience.
- **Bail Reform:** In Texas, bail reform is needed to protect public safety and reduce reoffending by high-risk and repeat offenders. Reform should utilize risk-based decisions when setting bail. It should uphold due process rights and apply consistent standards. It should also limit unnecessary pretrial detention for low-risk individuals, improve transparency and data, and balance public safety with fairness and constitutional rights.
- **Domestic Violence:** For 18 years, I've specialized in family violence and child abuse. As D.A., we can reduce domestic violence by prioritizing victim safety and holding high-risk offenders accountable. Evidence-based prosecution, risk assessments, strict protective orders/bond/probation conditions, victim support, collaboration with community partners, addressing root causes, and data-driven strategies prevent future violence. As Chief, I've driven meaningful change in this area, but there is more work to do.
- **Reforms:** As District Attorney, my goals are to ensure public safety by holding violent and repeat offenders accountable; expand diversion and rehabilitation programs to address root causes and prevent future violence; enhance victim services and communication; maintain transparency and public engagement; increase mental health resources and training; and improve pay and staffing to retain experienced prosecutors.
- **Backlog:** The case backlog refers to cases awaiting prosecutorial review. The situation was caused largely by a nationwide shortage of prosecutors due to inadequate pay. Successful programs have already reduced the backlog by 40%. With recent hiring and fewer vacancies, it will continue to decline. The long-term solution is securing county funding to ensure competitive salaries and retain experienced prosecutors.
- **Death Penalty:** Decisions to seek the death penalty must be made carefully by an experienced D.A. with felony trial and victim advocacy experience. It may be appropriate in the most heinous cases, but fairness, bias, and the risk of error must be considered. Rigorous evidence review and careful judgment are essential to protect against wrongful convictions while ensuring accountability. It is and should be rarely used but considered an option in limited circumstances.

**Shannon Locke**

**Website:** [lockeforda.com](http://lockeforda.com)

- **Qualifications:** Shannon Locke is the only District Attorney candidate who is board-certified in criminal law. Only 1% of all attorneys are board certified and only board certified lawyers can

claim to specialize in a particular area of the law. The people of Bexar County deserve the expertise of a board certified lawyer making the communities' most important legal decisions. He has practiced extensively in State and Federal court for the past twenty years and has over 200 jury trials.

- **Bail Reform:** Bail Reform is necessary. A reformed system would focus on crafting conditions of release that would protect the public against harm. Many people, under the current system, spend too much time in jail because they cannot afford to bond out. This means that poor people are kept in jail not because of their crime but because they are poor. This is wrong and cuts against our fundamental principle of the presumption of innocence.
- **Domestic Violence:** Every domestic violence case is a cry for help. The current backlog at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office is a risk to public safety. When the system ignores those asking for help it puts them at risk for greater harm because they are less likely to ask for help. The DA's office should then educate victims about the cycle of violence, the wheel of power and control, and try to dismantle abusive relationships.
- **Reforms:** We need to re-define how justice is sought. Instead of looking exclusively for convictions we must use every case as an opportunity to improve the community. This means we pay attention to victims, and ask them what they need while balancing those needs with protecting the community. This shift will make our community healthier safer and stronger. I will be the most transparent DA in the history of Bexar County and this transparency will help restore trust in the office.
- **Backlog:** Increased pre-trial diversion programs, and shifting the goal from a conviction-oriented prosecution to community-improvement prosecution will significantly reduce the backlog.
- **Death Penalty:** The death penalty should be reserved for the most extreme crimes but used sparingly. Any decision must meet the highest legal and ethical standards, with absolute certainty of guilt and respect for due process. When a case is worthy of the death penalty the community will decide whether death should be imposed in the form of a jury trial.

**Veronica I. Legarreta**

- **Qualifications:** I have been an attorney for 19 years. I worked as a prosecutor for approximately 4 years. I am a criminal defense attorney, a civil litigator and have tried over 125 jury trials. I have practiced in Bexar County and several Texas counties. I work in State and Federal Court. I am and have been a Magistrate Judge for the past 3 years. I serve as the Chair of the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, SA chapter and the Chair-Elect for the Hispanic Lawyers Section of the State Bar.
- **Bail Reform:** Bail is a topic that involves more than one party. The DA's office can recommend amounts but it is ultimately up to a judge to set the amount. Bail reform is needed across the board. Harsher crimes deserves higher bonds whereas lower level crimes do not. Bail needs to ensure the individual appears in court and is not unduly prejudiced but also keeps the community safe while pending the outcome of the case.
- **Domestic Violence:** The DA's office needs to move faster on these cases. Victims need to be listened to. The system right now is devastating. I know a young lady who was choked by her boyfriend to the point she thought she was going to die. One section of the DA's office issued a protective order. The case should've



been conflicted out of the family violence unit because the defense attorney is the husband of the chief of the family violence unit. Instead the case was dismissed. The victim remains terrified.

- **Reforms:** I will change the case intake system. I will add a part-time work program to assist the filing cases. I will set up a structure of support for all prosecutors. Policies will remain in place and given the opportunity to work unlike now. There will be no micromanaging. Every prosecutor will be trained so there is a uniform system in place. Supervisors will step in and help prosecutors who are in court and need an extra hand. Prosecutors will be empowered to do justice and not just convictions.
- **Backlog:** The addition of more staff members to contact witnesses and victims will assist prosecutors to make informed decisions on cases quicker. The DA's office and Judges need to sit down to pinpoint where the breakdown is following apart. Also, the part-time work program should have cases filed in a more timely fashion.
- **Death Penalty:** The death penalty is something that should be saved for the absolute most egregious cases. It is a decision not to be taken lightly.

**Luz Elena Chapa**

**Website:** [chapaforda.com](http://chapaforda.com)



- **Qualifications:** I'm a mother of three, a St. Mary's Univ. alum & a lifelong Democrat. The DA's office has criminal & civil divisions: I have the most widespread experience as a 25 year lawyer in criminal & civil law; I'm a former elected appellate judge of 12 yrs, a visiting judge of one yr & a civil litigator of 12. During my service on the Fourth Court, I authored nearly 600 criminal opinions & 800 civil opinions & reviewed & served as a panel member on thousands more. I don't buckle to outside pressure.
- **Bail Reform:** Currently, bail guidelines are the most strict as applied to those who are repeat offenders and who have been accused of the most heinous crimes; these strict laws should remain in place as applied to these types of offenders. I do believe judges or magistrates should have the most discretion when setting bail, and they should weigh evidence and prosecutorial and defense arguments when determining the amount of bail.
- **Domestic Violence:** It's imperative the DA's office fast track cases involving domestic violence instead of allowing these cases to go unprosecuted for months. Fast tracking these cases will allow victims to begin to heal & make the offenders understand they will be swiftly prosecuted according to the fullest extent of the law based on the evidence presented. Allowing these cases to go unprosecuted for months leads to meritless dismissals, ultimately sending a message to abusers they will not be held accountable.
- **Reforms:** I'll fast track domestic violence cases & change the path a case takes to improve efficiency & backlog. I'll implement a policy that prosecutors must resign if they run for office. Currently, over 5 are running while earning a salary funded by the county, adding to the backlog crisis. I'll change the office culture to encourage teamwork and cohesion between the different divisions. I'll strengthen the relationship w/ Commissioner's Court & repair the broken relationship w/ law enforcement.
- **Backlog:** Fair & judicious consideration of cases at each stage of prosecution is a must & the only way our justice system can improve, ultimately leading to justice for victims. Currently, the path each case takes through our system is not designed to prevent backlog. Thousands of cases are pending & justice has not

been delivered to thousands of victims. I intend to meaningfully address each stage and thoughtfully change a case's path through the system to improve effectiveness & achieve justice.

- **Death Penalty:** I intend to follow state law. Texas law provides in rare and in the most heinous crimes, the death penalty can be considered by a jury. I would only seek it in the most serious cases where the facts & circumstances warrant it. I would never abuse or overuse this option, and this decision would not be made lightly. I intend to implement several tiers of review to make sure such a case outcome is always given the utmost respect, dignity, and care.

□ **Meredith M. Chacon**

Website: [chaconforda.com](http://chaconforda.com)



- **Qualifications:** I bring over 22 years of experience as a trial lawyer, prosecuting child abuse, domestic violence, and human trafficking cases. I have led multidisciplinary efforts, trained law enforcement and CPS, served as an ad litem attorney, and as a part-time associate judge. My career reflects sound judgment, collaboration, compassion, and a commitment to justice and public safety.
- **Bail Reform:** My experience as a prosecutor, ad litem attorney, and associate judge shows that bail decisions must be based on risk to the safety of our community. We need to work towards reforms that address the unnecessary pretrial incarceration of nonviolent offenders, and make sure that judges have the appropriate information to be firm and decisive with those accused of the most serious and violent crimes.
- **Domestic Violence:** The District Attorney must lead by putting victims at the center of domestic violence prosecution. With my experience both as a prosecutor and a victim's advocate, I know reducing violence requires strong, consistent victim engagement, trained prosecutors with real discretion, and early case review. By improving trial skills, and connecting victims to real support, we can increase accountability and safety.
- **Reforms:** The District Attorney's Office needs immediate, top-to-bottom reform. I would rebuild morale by restoring prosecutorial discretion, ending fear-based management, and creating strong training and mentorship programs pairing experienced felony prosecutors with new attorneys. I will actively recruit from law schools, bring back experienced prosecutors, and advocate for fair pay and support for staff.
- **Backlog:** The current backlog is driven by unchecked case intake, lab delays, and incomplete investigations. I would require 24-hour attorney review before cases are accepted, reject or return unready cases, and coordinate closely with law enforcement. By restructuring staff, using technology to manage evidence, and prioritizing serious and family violence cases, we can reduce backlog and restore efficiency and justice.
- **Death Penalty:** The death penalty should be reserved for the most heinous crimes and for offenders who present a continuing danger even in prison. With life without parole now available, death should be sought only when truly necessary. It is costly, delays closure for families, and has no proven deterrent effect. Any decision to seek death must be rare, carefully considered, and transparent to the community.

□ **James 'Jim' Bethke**

Website: [jimbethke.com](http://jimbethke.com)



- **Qualifications:** I bring more than 30 years of experience across every level of the criminal justice system as a former prosecutor, judge, adjunct law professor, and U.S. Army soldier. Since 2022, I have served as Executive Director of the Bexar County Managed Assigned Counsel Office, ensuring justice does not depend on wealth. I am the only candidate with experience leading large justice systems and implementing data driven reforms that strengthen fairness, effectiveness, and public trust.
- **Bail Reform:** Yes. Bail reform is necessary to ensure people are not jailed simply because they are poor. Pretrial decisions should be based on public safety and flight risk, not wealth. In Harris County, I worked closely with federal court monitors to address unconstitutional bail practices. Effective reform improves safety, reduces unnecessary detention, saves taxpayer dollars, and allows resources to focus on serious offenses through evidence-based assessments and effective pretrial services.
- **Domestic Violence:** The District Attorney must put victim safety first in domestic violence cases. That means reviewing cases early, having victim coordinators reach out right away, and making sure safety concerns are addressed quickly by leadership. I support trauma-informed practices, enforcing protective orders, and moving cases forward without delay to reduce repeat violence, hold offenders accountable, and use public resources wisely.
- **Reforms:** I would focus on transparency, communication, and disciplined case management, with clear public charging and plea policies and internal systems that empower prosecutors and staff to resolve cases fairly and efficiently. Data-driven management would guide diversion, training, ethical oversight, and resource allocation. The goal is to restore trust and morale while reducing delays, controlling costs, and ensuring taxpayer dollars are used where they have the greatest impact on safety and justice.
- **Backlog:** Reducing the backlog requires exceptional leadership and coordination across the justice system. Serious cases should be handled first, appropriate cases diverted early, and cases filed only when they are ready. Deadlines must be enforced and resources focused on where delays occur. Doing this shortens case timelines, reduces unnecessary jail time, saves taxpayer dollars, and protects both public safety and fairness.
- **Death Penalty:** The death penalty is the law in Texas, but it should be sought only in the rarest cases. That means when the law allows it, the evidence is overwhelming, and no other sentence can protect public safety. As District Attorney, I would require rigorous review, proportionality, and the highest ethical standards so these decisions are deliberate, transparent, and never influenced by politics.

**Did not respond:** Oscar Salinas

**BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE**

4-year term. Presiding officer of the Bexar County Commissioners Court, voting member of court, spokesperson and ceremonial head of the county government, head of emergency management, sets agenda for meetings.

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

- **Priorities:** What are the top three issues you would like to address? Explain.
- **Tax Dollars:** How can you help the County determine the best use of taxpayer dollars to balance the need for economic expansion and the need to provide social services?
- **Water:** What do you think can be done at the County level to address the County's water needs given the current population growth?
- **Preparedness:** What kind of preparation should be in place for the next emergency in Bexar County, whether a natural disaster or other?
- **Flooding:** Is Bexar County sufficiently prepared for flooding, or is more needed? Explain.

**Peter Sakai**

**Website:** [judgepetersakai.com](http://judgepetersakai.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am an attorney with experience as assistant DA, Associate Judge, and District Court Judge and County Judge. I have championed foster children, domestic violence survivors, and families in crisis, leading to a tenfold increase in foster adoptions and greater support for women in Bexar County. As County Judge, I passed three balanced budgets without raising taxes and cut property taxes for seniors, disabled, and veterans, while prioritizing listening, mediation, and addressing root causes.
- **Priorities:** Public Safety/Public Health: Funded emergency flood alerts, homelessness/mental health programs, and ensured a well-funded Sheriff's Office. Economic Development: Passed budgets with no new taxes, supported Toyota's expansion, secured new manufacturing companies, funded affordable housing, and mitigated federal healthcare and food cuts. Infrastructure/Roads: Secured \$102M for VIA's Silver Line, \$44M for Alamo RMA, improved Evans and Fischer Roads, and obtained \$41M to expand internet access.
- **Tax Dollars:** To address limited tax funds/federal cuts, I built public/private partnerships and used federal monies to hire more school counselors and expand family mental health services. Bexar County's Affordable Housing Plan to boost school enrollment and funding. Local collaborations attracted over \$2 billion in private investment for downtown and East side growth without raising taxes and reduced spending. Improving housing and healthcare strengthens families' economic stability.
- **Water:** To keep up with growth, we must prioritize water conservation and efficient management. Bexar County has maintained steady water demand despite population increases due to ongoing conservation efforts; per capita use has fallen from 154 gallons in 1992 to 120 today. With continued planning, infrastructure improvements, and community support, we can further reduce usage, control leaks, and build climate resilience.
- **Preparedness:** Our aim is zero fatalities during severe weather/flooding. This year, the County invested \$21 million to fully fund the NextGen Flood Warning System, collaborating with the San Antonio River Authority. The system uses advanced technology/real-time alerts with sensors/automated road barricades/better lighting in flood-prone areas, to keep residents safe. It's part of a broader \$2 billion Bexar County flood mitigation effort.
- **Flooding:** Climate change/new growth bring ongoing challenges. We will continue working with engineers/first responders/community outreach specialists to test our systems, find weak points, and act quickly. We remember those lost to floods this year. Over

\$2 billion were invested in flood prevention/mitigation. With the County's NextGen Flood Warning System, we need to address low water crossings/clear floodplains/improve regional communication/ upgrade infrastructure/use industry best practices.

**Ron Nirenberg**

**Website:** [voteron.com](http://voteron.com)



- **Qualifications:** As mayor for 8 years, I built coalitions across the region to deliver results for the entire community. We overcame a global pandemic, while transforming economic opportunity and resilience: an affordable housing plan, generational investments in education (preK4SA, free community college, job training), our first mass transit system, redevelopment of the airport, and SA's first climate plan. Leaders can't just hope for the best—they have to deliver it. As County Judge, I will continue to do so.
- **Priorities:** 1. Safety and justice: keep dangerous criminals off the streets, eliminate the case backlog, and stop using the jail as a mental health facility and homeless shelter. 2. Readiness: develop a regional growth strategy to improve infrastructure, emergency preparedness, and eliminate redundancies so we can do more with less. 3. Opportunity: attract good jobs and coordinate local investments in economic mobility, including education, job training, transit, health care, and housing.
- **Tax Dollars:** We cannot rely on one-time federal pandemic relief dollars to fund long-term services, nor can we continue to ignore redundancies that move the county toward a fiscal cliff. I will work collaboratively with Commissioners Court and the public to develop a clear strategic vision and a structurally balanced budget grounded in each precinct's priorities. We will also significantly expand budget transparency through publicly accessible dashboards that track goals and outcomes using real data.
- **Water:** The county cannot be a silent partner in the protection of our water supply, and I will make water security a priority of county government. That means having a vision for growth that is smart and sustainable while developing a unified, regional strategy aligned with existing area plans. I will work with state leaders on legislation to protect our water and collaborate with all 26 cities and SAWS to protect the Edwards Aquifer, diversify our water supply, and build/repair vital infrastructure.
- **Preparedness:** Preparation begins by understanding threats, anticipating challenges, and knowing how we will communicate during an emergency. First, I will ensure a continuously updated Community Risk Assessment to identify and eliminate vulnerabilities. Next, I will regularly convene county officials with Emergency Operations Center personnel and community leaders to conduct tabletop exercises. Lastly, I will work with commissioners and area cities to improve resilience and upgrade critical infrastructure.
- **Flooding:** Bexar County residents deserve proactive planning, but flood prevention has failed to keep pace with the region's rapid growth. That needs to change, and so does our method of flood control. Outdated drainage systems upstream have accelerated downstream disasters. Where feasible, we should use (and incentivize for private development) proven methods of natural stormwater management that prevent downstream flooding, while increasing investment now, not later in flood warning technology.

## BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW

4-year term. Civil and criminal courts at law handle many cases similar to those in district courts, though jail sentences and fines are less; they also accept appeals from Justice of the Peace and Municipal courts.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Speciality Courts:** Which speciality courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?
- **Fairness:** Do you believe the county Court-At-Law system impacts all economic classes equally? Explain why or why not?
- **Equality:** Would you perform marriage ceremonies for all couples regardless of whether they are of the same sex or different? Explain why or why not.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** Explain your position on the Bexar Gives Back program which allows some nonviolent offenders to work off their sentences at county facilities instead of serving jail time

### COURT 1

**Helen Petry Stowe**  
Unopposed

### COURT 2

**Melissa Saenz**  
Unopposed

### COURT 3

**David J. Rodriguez**  
Unopposed

### COURT 4

**Alfredo Ximenez**  
Unopposed

### COURT 5

**Andrea Arevalos**  
Unopposed

### COURT 6

**Erica Dominguez**  
Unopposed

### COURT 7

**Melanie M. Lira**  
Unopposed

### COURT 8

**Cleophus 'Cleo' Marshall, III**

**Website:** [CleophusMarshall4judge.com](http://CleophusMarshall4judge.com)

- **Qualifications:** I bring nearly three decades of courtroom experience as a former prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and federal CJA panel attorney. I have handled thousands of misdemeanor and felony cases, including jury trials of capital murder to sexual assault and DWI. My experience on both sides of the aisle provides balanced judgment, fairness, and respect for the rule of law. I am known



for sound judgment, preparedness, and treating all who appear before the Court with dignity and professionalism.

- **Speciality Courts:** Speciality Courts are among the most effective tools in our justice system because they combine judicial oversight with treatment, supervision, and community resources. Drug and DWI Courts reduce repeat offenses, Veterans Courts address service-related trauma, Mental Health Courts divert individuals into care, and Reflejo Court has achieved remarkable reductions in reoffending. I support all Speciality Courts and would advocate increased funding, consistent standards, and careful expansion.
- **Fairness:** I would hope the County Court-at-Law system impacts all economic classes equally, but the reality is that it does not. Economic disparities affect access to legal representation, the ability to post bond, transportation, time away from work, and access to treatment or support services. These factors can influence outcomes and the pace of a case. As judge, I would work diligently to minimize these impacts and promote fairness, consistency, and equal justice for all who appear before the court.
- **Equality:** I have been an ordained minister for 27 years. In my pastoral role, marriages I perform requires premarital counseling over multiple sessions. Because courthouse marriages typically occur in a single appearance, and because County Court-at-Law judges are not required to perform marriage ceremonies, I would likely decline performing marriages as part of my judicial duties. This approach would apply uniformly to all couples and is consistent with the voluntary nature of the service.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** I support the Bexar Gives Back program when appropriate safeguards and oversight are in place. For nonviolent offenders, structured work programs can promote accountability, reduce unnecessary incarceration, and allow individuals to contribute positively to the community. Because most non-violent offenders will ultimately be reintroduced into society, providing opportunities to build work habits and responsibility can improve outcomes while maintaining public safety and judicial supervision.
- Victoria Cruz**

**Website:** [VoteVictoriaCruz.com](http://VoteVictoriaCruz.com)

- **Qualifications:** As a practicing attorney for the last 8 years, I have accrued experience in criminal defense at the municipal, misdemeanor, felony, and appellate levels. I understand the nuances of both private practice and working for a non-profit organization, specializing in the cross issues that come with criminal defense, immigration and family law. Working for a firm that offers bail bond services has also given me invaluable insight and perspective of criminal defense and the future of bail bond law.
- **Speciality Courts:** I have a tremendous respect for all of the speciality courts, but the misdemeanor drug and DWI courts specifically seem to have the most successful structure and outcomes. Primarily because they accept defendants with some prior offenses on their record, and seem to understand the balance between treating substance use while addressing the underlying criminal case. I have identified a need for a Young Adult Court, which would address the 17-25 age range where defendants can still be reached.
- **Fairness:** I have found that there is definitely a socio-economic disparity which directly impacts a defendant's likelihood of success. Specifically, the economic burden of pre-trial conditions and length of time that a case takes to work its way through the system needs to be accounted for. Many defendants lack transportation to monthly court dates for extended periods of time, lack

childcare, lack employment with PTO time, and lack the money to meet requirements such as GPS monthly fees and high bonds.

- **Equality:** Absolutely! And I can do them in Spanish as well! I am uncomfortable with the idea of charging for the ceremony, and if elected plan to provide this as a free service for any who have a marriage license and the will to say I do!
- **Bexar Gives Back:** Bexar Gives Back has been a fantastic program which my firm utilizes regularly. From its inception, it identified a part of the demographic that would not benefit from prolonged time in the Bexar County Jail, while simultaneously holding defendants accountable by requiring that they log on every Thursday and perform work detail every Saturday. The program allows for accountability because it still requires a plea or conviction, but avoids adding to the overpopulation at the jail.

**COURT 9**

□ **Lizz Lane**

**Website:** [electlizzlane.com/](http://electlizzlane.com/)



- **Qualifications:** I have a range of experience throughout my career. Working with municipalities in Bexar County to bring 5G to our community in a safe and collaborative way; managing national programs with team members spread across the globe to being the prosecutor in CC9 prior to filing to run. I have also had the opportunity to see the inter workings of the Criminal Justice System from all sides. As a concerned family member of a defendant, an advocate for both sides and a victim myself.
- **Specialty Courts:** When ran properly, Specialty Courts can bring important knowledge, training and resources to those community members who need it most, regardless of whether its a victim or a defendant. Having a centralized guiding force allows our court system to focus on systemic issues and bring about healing and change that allows our community to grow for the better. All of Bexar County's Specialty Courts are successful in their own ways and I would be open to exploring one that helps tackle the unhoused.
- **Fairness:** We strive to create equality, but the unfortunate reality is that it is not. Having access to resources and higher priced representation can be a huge factor in how a Defendant's case is resolved. This can be addressed by increasing education surrounding the Justice System and individual rights. Our society has evolved into those who have knowledge and those who do not. Knowledge allows one to make decisions that will enhance lives versus living to survive by any means necessary.
- **Equality:** I would absolutely perform marriage ceremony for any two consenting adults who ask me to. I believe love is love and everyone should have access to the same ability to profess their feelings and relationship to the world and their family's, be it chosen or biological.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** I think it is a great idea as it keeps non-violent offenders out of our over crowded jail while also allowing them to gain skills and resources that they might not have had access to before. I think beneficial punishments such as community service and giving back will have a greater and more beneficial outcome for all parties involved. It allows the offender to have a sense of pride and connection to the community and that their mistakes are not what defines them.

□ **Maritza Perez-Stewart**

**Website:** [maritzaforjudge.com](http://maritzaforjudge.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have been a criminal defense attorney, a high level prosecutor and a judicial staff attorney in my 13 year career. As a prosecutor, I have risen to the level of division chief of family justice and have tried criminal cases at all levels. I have been able to see what has worked in the criminal justice system and what does not work, and that will make me the kind of judge that can use the tools at my disposal to fairly decide just outcomes for everyone involved in the justice system.
- **Specialty Courts:** I believe that all specialty courts are important because they focus on the issues that cause people to commit crimes in our community. Specifically, I have been a prosecutor assigned to the veterans treatment court (VTC) in Bexar County. As the daughter of a mom who served honorably in Desert Storm, specialty treatment for veterans holds a special place in my heart, and it was a great honor working in that role as a VTC prosecutor. I would support a new court that dealt w/ unhoused defendants.
- **Fairness:** No, I don't believe it does, because defendants who are more economically advantaged are able to afford better representation, and typically get better outcomes. As a prosecutor, I often see that defendants who are not able to afford an attorney are appointed overworked and underpaid attorneys who are not able to give their case the kind of attention it deserves. I believe the Bexar County Public Defender's Office does a great job, but they are not able to be assigned all of the appointed cases.
- **Equality:** Yes, I believe that everyone is entitled to respect and equal access to the courts for all purposes including marriage. Who a person loves and wants to commit their lives in marriage to is a personal choice and a constitutionally protected right, and as judge, I will celebrate and perform marriage ceremonies for everyone entitled under the law to get married. As a person whose marriage used to be outlawed in our country as well, I know personally how important the right to marry who you love is.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** I believe this is an important program that encourages rehabilitation and discourages recidivism, which should be the goal of every court and the criminal justice system as a whole. As a felony prosecutor dealing with the most heinous crimes against children, I have been able to see many times that the person in front of me could have been rehabilitated if the proper intervention had happened in a misdemeanor court earlier on in their lives. I fully support Bexar Gives Back as an important tool.

□ **Jessica A. Gonzalez**

**Website:** [jessicagonzalezforjudge.com](http://jessicagonzalezforjudge.com)



- **Qualifications:** After graduating St. Mary's in 2024, I began my career as an ADA at the Bexar County DA's office. I prosecuted cases at the misdemeanor and felony levels, preserved convictions in appellate courts, and drafted legislation protecting victims of family violence. Since leaving in 2012, I protect the constitutional rights of persons accused of any crime. I also am a Board member for SACDLA, sit on committees bettering courthouse facilities, and a former Board member for the Junior League of SA.

- **Specialty Courts:** I am very familiar with the specialty courts in Bexar County. As a prosecutor I worked with the misdemeanor Drug Court, and as a defense attorney, I was the court appointed attorney for clients in Re Entry and STRIVE courts. The key factors for success come down to the willingness of participants to make a change and a team dedicated to the success of individuals. I support any and all specialty courts only accepting voluntary participants and dedicated to participants' successes.
- **Fairness:** In general, yes, but there are times where it can be unfair for a number of reasons including economic status. The goal of all courts should be to facilitate due process regardless of gender, race, and economic status. But this goal may not be met depending on actions of prosecutors and the representation of defense attorneys. As a judge, I would require all persons be treated equally and fairly by prosecutors, defense attorneys, and court staff.
- **Equality:** Yes, I will perform marriage ceremonies for all couples. Same sex couples have a fundamental right to marry just the same as different sex couples. As a judge I will welcome any and all persons in my court and will happily perform marriage ceremonies for all.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** I wholeheartedly support the Bexar Gives Back program. I grew up in Virginia where it is common place to see local inmates repaying the community through roadside litter removal, park cleanups, and landscaping while supervised by deputies. I was excited to learn of the launch of the program in 2020, and I hope it continues and expands in Bexar County.

**COURT 10**

**Cesar Garcia**

**Website:** <https://tinyurl.com/yerubb4t>



- **Qualifications:** I'm the current incumbent presiding judge for County Court 10. For the past three years, I've been able to eliminate the backlog of cases, go paperless, create three additional dockets, establish a library of legal forms for self represented litigants to use and achieve on average over 100% clearance rate of cases every month. I approach my job with a strong work ethic focused on respect, impartiality and humility. I make sure everyone has their day in court and due process is upheld.
- **Specialty Courts:** The specialty courts that are most successful are the ones that focus on restorative justice and reducing recidivism. However, since County Court 10 is part of the civil division, I do not deal with criminal cases or criminal defendants. Therefore, I created a Dismissal Docket that focuses on dismissing older, stale debt cases for lack of prosecution. The debt cases that are on my dismissal docket are usually credit card debt, medical debt and sometimes student loan debt.
- **Fairness:** Yes. The top two cases I see are either debt collection cases or eviction cases. These issues affect all economic classes equally. I make sure the landlord strictly complies with the Texas Property Code before granting judgment. I also encourage both sides to try to come to an agreement before proceeding to trial in order to avoid a judgment on someone's record. Also, I've been forgiving and dismissing older debt collection cases for lack of prosecution for the past two and a half years.
- **Equality:** Yes, of course. I have conducted marriage ceremonies for same sex couples in the past and will continue to do so in the future. I have no problem marrying people who want to get married and start a family. Conducting marriage ceremonies is

part of my job duties. I simply go to work everyday, uphold the law and do my job.

- **Bexar Gives Back:** Again, since County Court 10 is part of the civil division, I'm not directly involved in the Bexar Gives Back program; however, I fully support any program that focuses on restorative justice, reducing recidivism, keeping families together while saving the taxpayers money.

**Shannon Roberta Salmón**

**Website:** [shannonrobertasalmon.com](http://shannonrobertasalmon.com)



- **Qualifications:** I served our community as a caseworker, 911 operator, and two decades as an attorney/family, criminal, civil, and immigration law, often representing people in crisis. I have worked with survivors of domestic violence, children in CPS cases, immigrants, and families facing poverty. My qualifications are also personal: I am a survivor of domestic violence and homelessness. I understand the real-world impact of judicial decisions and know justice must be firm fair and compassionate.
- **Specialty Courts:** Specialty courts have proven successful because they address underlying issues while promoting accountability and public safety. Courts focused on treatment, rehabilitation, and stability reduce recidivism and strengthen communities. I would support expanding specialty courts and creating additional programs that serve individuals experiencing homelessness, ensuring that court involvement becomes an opportunity for stability and support rather than a revolving door.
- **Fairness:** No. While the law applies equally, access to the court system does not. Individuals with financial resources often have greater access to legal representation, time, and information. Others face barriers such as work conflicts, transportation issues, language barriers, or lack of counsel. Fairness requires acknowledging these disparities while applying the law impartially and ensuring proceedings are understandable, respectful, and accessible so that justice is not determined by income.
- **Equality:** Yes. Same-sex marriage is the law, and the law must be applied equally. All couples regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity are entitled to the same rights, dignity, and respect under the law. Equal justice means equal treatment, without exception.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** With appropriate safety protocols, programs like Bexar Gives Back are effective and fiscally responsible. They hold individuals accountable while reducing incarceration costs, supporting rehabilitation, and benefiting the community. When used appropriately, these programs promote public safety and responsible use of taxpayer resources.

**Did not respond:** Adam Flores

**COURT 11**

**Erica Peña**

Unopposed

**COURT 12**

**Yolanda Huff**

- **Qualifications:** Before becoming a Judge in 2018, I was a Solo Practitioner in Bexar County for 22 years. I received a BA Degree from UT Austin (1989) and a Law Degree from St. Mary's School of Law (1996). In my practice I did criminal law and adoptions/CPS cases. I am going into my eighth year and my



third term as presiding Judge of County Court 12 and the Mental Health Court. I sit on many Boards and I have lead several organizations as president. To educate the community about the judiciary is my goal.

- **Specialty Courts:** There are 15 Specialty Courts in Bexar County. All of them are doing great and needed work for defendants in the Judiciary. I preside over the Mental Health Court for Bexar County. I have reformed this Court into one of the best Specialty Courts in the state of Texas. Other cities routinely reach out to me and the team for advice and training. I won the Texas Specialty Court Judge of the year in 2023. I formed the Bexar County Specialty Courts Coalition in 2019 and I chair that coalition.
- **Fairness:** I do believe the Court-at-Law systems impacts all economic classes equally. The County Courts at law are the workhorses of the judiciary. These courts receive volumes of cases. If a defendant cannot afford an attorney one is quickly appointed to a defendant. I have set up a system in my court where the goal is to depose of each case in 180 days. This insures fairness and less time in the judiciary for every defendant.
- **Equality:** In my Court I perform weddings for all couples. Love is love and I make no distinction between same sex couples. Not only do I consider not marrying everyone unfair and unethical as a Judge, I personally would never discriminate against anyone based on gender, sex, race, age or disability. Everyone is treated fairly in County Court 12 and the Mental Health Court.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** I think the Bexar Gives Back program is a wonderful way for defendants to give back to the community and work off their sentences. The defendants are nonviolent and they provide much needed help to county facilities.

**Lauren Zamora**

**Website:** [zamoraforjudge.com](http://zamoraforjudge.com)



- **Qualifications:** Over my twenty year career, I have served as an assistant public defendant, in private criminal defense, as a child welfare attorney, and a prosecutor. Today, I work in the Conviction Integrity Unit, an autonomous division with the District Attorney's Office. Our team corrects injustices because even one wrongful conviction is too many. Each of these roles has provided me a unique perspective of the judicial system's strengths, flaws, and the impact it has on real people and their families.
- **Specialty Courts:** The most successful specialty courts are the Esperanza Court, the Early Intervention Courts in Children's Court, and the Felony Drug Court. I would continue to support the Community Court, the newest speciality court I co-created in 2023 to reduce recidivism and address the root causes of homelessness. Through the Community Court, I have gained expertise in ensuring the success of a speciality court. As Judge of County Court 12, I would use this expertise to strengthen the Mental Health Court.
- **Fairness:** No. Defendants and victims from low-income communities, who are unable to afford a private attorney, have a harder time navigating the court system. They are forced to rely on attorneys who are often overburdened and underpaid. They face the inability to post cash bail, which leads to longer pretrial detention, potential job loss, and pressure to accept a plea deal even if innocent. The justice system generates revenue through fines and fees that disproportionately burden low-income communities.
- **Equality:** Yes. My parents, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, have shown me and my brother that mar-

riage is about love, commitment, and the freedom to build a life with a partner who brings you joy, stability, and purpose. As a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, my belief in same-sex marriage equality is deeply personal. It would be my honor to perform marriage ceremonies for all couples.

- **Bexar Gives Back:** Justice must be fair, thoughtful, and informed by a deep understanding of criminal law and the human stories behind every case. Programs like Bexar Gives Back and specialty courts help divert low-level, non-violent offenders to workforce opportunities and treatment programs that help address the root causes of the offenses. Program graduates are eligible for clearing their records, which helps remove barriers to housing and employment. These programs also alleviate over-crowding in jails.

**COURT 13**

**Alicia 'Ali' Perez**

**Website:** [aliciaperez4judge.com](http://aliciaperez4judge.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am a practicing attorney with 18 years of experience handling criminal, family, and immigration matters. I have served as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney, giving me a balanced and practical approach. My focus is on running a courtroom that is respectful, efficient, and focused on the law above all. A great judge commands the courtroom in a way that empowers parties to stay focused on the law and their next steps in their cases.
- **Specialty Courts:** I support the creation of a special-needs court with fully inclusive judicial procedures, so parties with disabilities can meaningfully participate in court. When designed well, specialty court interventions can repair the harm and reduce the likelihood of future harm, providing more meaningful accountability than probation or incarceration alone. It is important that these courts share data and results openly so outcomes can be evaluated and the public can have confidence in the process.
- **Fairness:** The costs attached to misdemeanor cases can be significant and unexpected, with ripple effects that extend beyond what the law expressly provides for. Courts should remain mindful of those impacts. A judge should ensure that the goals of the justice system and the requirements of the law are not undermined by financial barriers. Where authorized, adjusting dates, times, or orders can improve compliance and allow parties to meet their burdens under the law.
- **Equality:** I fully support equal access to civil marriage. If the law authorizes the marriage, I will perform the ceremony without hesitation or distinction and ensure every couple is treated with dignity and respect and allowed a bit of joy and celebration as well. Courts must reflect the principle that equal justice under law applies to everyone.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** Bexar Gives Back is a constructive option for appropriate nonviolent misdemeanor cases and can be improved or expanded to increase its impact. Programs like this help maintain accountability while allowing people to keep jobs, housing, and family stability and contribute positively to the community. Misdemeanor punishment should remain proportional to the harm caused, with courts balancing accountability, public safety, and fairness within the limits of the law.

**Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez**

- **Qualifications:** I elevated to this bench on Jan. 1, 2019, and have presided over Court 13 since. I came to the bench as a former social worker and 17 year attorney with a Board Certification in Child Welfare Law. I have presided over Court 13 and REFLEJO Court for almost 7 years. Court 13's team has lowered our case load to record low numbers, reducing it by over 70%. I have presided over 150 jury trials. Our team works daily to ensure swift justice, due process for defs & safety for victims of family violence.
- **Speciality Courts:** All Bexar Co. Treatment Courts are successful and their rates vary depending on the population they serve. I am supportive of all Treatment Courts because if even one life is changed for the better, then that is a success. I can tell you that Court 13's treatment court, REFLEJO Court, has a less than 3% recidivism rate for our graduates. We have graduated 43 as of today and 42 have not reoffended. REFLEJO Court will be matriculating an additional 7 graduates January 2026 for a total of 50 grads.
- **Fairness:** They do impact each defendant differently and unequally. The disparity in impact is more profound the lower the income the family brings in. For a DEF or household that earns \$200,000/yr, a \$10,000 atty retainer impacts the family much less than for a family that only earns \$75,000/yr. because of the percentage the retainer pulls from the household income.
- **Equality:** I do. I have. I will. I always have. I was a Certified Marriage Officiant prior to becoming a judge via American Marriage Ministries (since June 27, 2015), and I am LGBTQIA. Everyone is entitled to inalienable rights which include life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and that includes marrying who they choose to marry.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** I think it is an effective program. Court 13 defendants are deemed violent offenders and do not qualify for the program, but we support it, nonetheless.

**COURT 14**

**Carlo Rodriguez Key**

**Website:** [judgekey.com](http://judgekey.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have 23 years of experience in criminal law as a prosecutor, defense attorney and over half of my career has been dedicated to being a county court at law Judge. Over my 3 terms on the bench, I have run an efficient, fair court. I apply the law consistently and accurately, having no decision over-turned on appeal in my career. I believe in showing up everyday and doing the work. That commitment is reflected in a consistently low docket and a court with zero trial backlog.
- **Speciality Courts:** I believe they all have had a fairly impressive measure of success. Having attended several drug court graduations, the stories of the accomplishments and the lives changed within that program are truly heart-warming and something the community should be proud of. Community Court, a relatively new specialty court has a very much needed focus of providing services to our communities' homeless population. Our community would greatly benefit from its success and I support it's efforts.
- **Fairness:** The costs associated with having a criminal charge can add up significantly. Drug tests and alcohol monitors as a part of pre – or post conviction court supervision included with fines and court costs can be quite difficult to maintain on a low-in-

come. Further, the bail system as directed by law, can create inequities in pre-trial incarceration among the classes.

- **Equality:** It is my privilege to be made a part of any couple's special day! True love is one of the greatest things this life has to offer and humans should be free to love who they want to love without being judged, ridiculed or treated differently.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** Currently, I am the supervising judicial officer. Myself and Sheriff Salazar co-supervise the program. It is an excellent program that we are working to improve and grow. The program allows for low-level offenders to perform community service in lieu of incarceration. It should be noted that the program services more than county facilities. Recently participants have cleaned-up homeless encampments in our city and handed out food to those in need with the assistance of local charities.

**Audrey Martinez**

**Website:** [audreymartinezforjudge.com](http://audreymartinezforjudge.com)



- **Qualifications:** I have been attorney for almost 8 years and have handled a wide variety of cases but perhaps what matters as much as my professional experience is my personal background and upbringing. I'm the first in my family to go to College, from the South Side of San Antonio and like many people in the community, I have family on both sides of the criminal justice system. This gives me a unique understanding for people who do enter the system. I will be a Judge from the Community, for the Community.
- **Speciality Courts:** The most successful are the Drug and DWI Courts, Mental Health Courts and the Domestic Violence Courts. I would support a Young Adult Court focused on helping individuals between the ages of 17-25. I believe this court would be successful because it could help with lower reoffending rates. It would help this young population with finding employment, housing and if needed give them access to educational/vocational programs. It could help to identify any future cognitive/substance abuse issues.
- **Fairness:** I do not believe it impacts all economic classes equally. County Courts handle cases that touch every day life – misdemeanors, which include domestic assaults and DWIs. These cases don't discriminate by income but the consequences can. Sometimes people of a lower income can face a harsher punishment, have trouble taking off from work to make court appearances and this creates a ripple effect on their lives. This can impact an individual's ability to get a job, find housing and family stability.
- **Equality:** Yes, absolutely. Marriage equality is the law of the land and everyone deserves to be treated with fairness, respect and have their rights protected. My role as Judge would not be to impose personal beliefs but to uphold the law and the law protects the rights of same sex couples.
- **Bexar Gives Back:** I am in favor of the Bexar Gives Back Program because it allows for people to remain in the community and gives them the opportunity to do real good for the community. It allows people to remain accountable for their actions without unnecessary incarceration. It can reduce recidivism, allows for people to maintain employment and potentially gain job skills. I think the biggest factor is that it avoids some of the consequences a short term jail sentence can have on people's lives.

**COURT 15**

**Melissa Vara**

Unopposed

## BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT

4-year term. Duties include probating the wills of deceased persons, declaring the heirs of deceased persons who die without a will and establishing guardianships for incapacitated persons.

### COURT 1

**Oscar J. Kazen**

Unopposed

### COURT 2

**Veronica Vasquez**

Unopposed

## BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

4-year term. Serves as clerk and custodian for all District Court records, coordinates jury panel selection process, processes passport applications, manages court registry funds.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Electronic Records:** What new measures, if any, are necessary to protect the electronic records you maintain from cyber-attacks?
- **Jury Selection:** What, if any, changes are needed for the administration of the jury duty process?
- **Reforms:** What changes would you like to see in the office, if any?

**Elva Abundis Esparza**

Website: [elvafordistrictclerk.com](http://elvafordistrictclerk.com)



- **Qualifications:** I bring decades of hands-on experience in the District Clerk's Office, including years as Chief Deputy. I have completed extensive state-mandated and continuing education, exceeding the required 20 hours of annual training. I lead with integrity, institutional knowledge, and a deep respect for public service.
- **Electronic Records:** Protecting court records requires strong collaboration. I will continue working closely with Bexar County IT (BCIT) to ensure all systems use updated software, secure servers, and best practices in cybersecurity, while regularly reviewing protocols to stay ahead of emerging digital threats.
- **Jury Selection:** The jury selection process is currently managed by the Central Jury Department, which operates independently from the District Clerk's Office. This structure was established by Commissioners Court in January 2003, separating jury administration to improve efficiency and specialization. Given this structure, the District Clerk does not directly oversee jury selection. However, collaboration between departments remains essential to ensure smooth court operations and positive public experiences.
- **Reforms:** My first priority is improving staff morale through leadership, communication, and accountability. I will work with BCIT to further automate e-filing for efficiency and accuracy, and I will advocate for a dedicated accounting position to properly manage and reconcile Court Registry funds.

**Christine 'Chris' Castillo**

Website: [votechriscastillo.com](http://votechriscastillo.com)

- **Qualifications:** I have 33 years of dedicated experience in the District Clerk's Office, where I have gained extensive knowl-

edge of court operations, records management, and judicial procedures. I have worked on civil, criminal and family cases, ensuring accuracy, confidentiality, and compliance with state laws and court rules. My long tenure has allowed me to develop an understanding of document retention and the importance of outstanding customer service. I have strong work ethics, integrity and passion.

- **Electronic Records:** Reliable up-to-date security measures, data backup and disaster recovery plans must be in place to ensure all records are protected and recoverable in the event of a breach or system failure. Bexar County has an Information Technology department with a well-trained staff to maintain the integrity and safe keeping of all records. It is equally important to have ongoing cybersecurity training of staff to recognize phishing attempts.
- **Jury Selection:** Jury Selection is crucial to our court system, and I believe the Central Jury Room staff have done an outstanding job. However, I do feel there is room for improvement. For the most part, a juror can sit for hours waiting to be sent to a certain court, depending on type of case, or possibly released. I believe the courts can help ensure jurors are summoned appropriately and used efficiently, minimizing wait times and reducing the burden of the citizens of Bexar County.
- **Reforms:** In the District Clerk's office, I would like to continue modernizing technology to improve efficiency of electronic filing and improved online access to records. Expedited services for our senior citizens, veterans and first responders. Offer internships to college students to gain experience and knowledge of the court system and the importance of accountability and efficiency. Ongoing training, cross-training, and clear procedures help ensure consistency, accuracy and strong customer service.

**Monica Ramirez Alcántara**

Website: [MonicaRamirezAlcantara.com](http://MonicaRamirezAlcantara.com)



- **Qualifications:** Monica brings 32 years of legal experience and proven leadership. As a litigation paralegal and legal administrator, she managed complex cases and oversaw operations for multiple law firms. Where she was responsible for developing and maintaining litigation case management systems. For seven years, she led the local Democratic Party. In which she modernized operations, increased turnout, and administered seventeen elections. She is focused and result-oriented in supporting complex operations.
- **Electronic Records:** Protecting electronic records is both a technical and moral responsibility. I will ensure systems are modern, secure, and resilient through encryption, multi-factor authentication, role-based access, regular updates, firewalls, and secure backups. Ongoing staff training, clear incident response plans, and compliance with state and federal regulations will strengthen security. I am committed to safeguarding public information with integrity, and respect for the trust residents place in us.
- **Jury Selection:** Jury duty is vital to our democracy, but it can be more accessible, flexible, and fair. Clear, multilingual communication and user-friendly tools can reduce confusion. Flexible scheduling, including short-term jury pools for caregivers, would make service more equitable. Greater transparency, efficient technology, and public education can build trust. I am committed to modernizing jury service so every resident can participate with dignity and respect.
- **Reforms:** If elected District Clerk, I will modernize the office to make it more accessible, efficient, and transparent. I will upgrade technology so records can be searched, reviewed, and ordered

online through a secure subscriber portal. I will expand multilingual services, add public kiosks and a satellite office, and improve customer service. By investing in staff and accountability, we can better serve all Bexar County residents with integrity and trust.

**Did not respond:** Gloria A. Martinez, Raul Davila

## BEXAR COUNTY CLERK

4-year term. Responsible for birth and death certificates, issuance of marriage licenses and other public records, along with administering the county courts at law.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Technology:** What should be done in the clerk's office to stay current with technology changes?
- **Electronic Records:** What new measures, if any, are necessary to protect the electronic records you maintain from cyber-attacks?
- **Reforms:** What changes would you like to see in the office, if any?

### Lucy Adame-Clark

**Website:** [votelucyadameclark.com](http://votelucyadameclark.com)



- **Qualifications:** 29 years of Bexar County government and criminal justice information systems experience, which includes 7 yrs. as Bexar County Clerk. Serves as Records Management Officer; member of the Bail Bond Board and Investment Committee; Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court; and Clerk for Probate, Mental Health, Civil, and Criminal courts. Extensive continuing education, DPS/FBI training, TCOLE hours, and oversight of court registry accounts to ensure integrity, transparency, and record protection.
- **Technology:** Our native cloud-based system enabled us to develop the 'Records on the Run' mobile unit in 2019 bringing the County Clerk's Office Straight to You ' delivering land and vital records services (including marriage licenses and DBAs) at locations with free parking. We offer a free property alert system for the public to receive email alerts anytime their name or property is used in a real property filing. In 2026, we go-live with interactive kiosks providing more remote services to our community.
- **Electronic Records:** Training is critical; my staff and I comply with the annual HB3834 Bexar County Cybersecurity Training mandated by Texas Govt. Code 2054.5191 educating and improving cybersecurity intelligence to safeguard our network against threats. We work directly with the DA's Office and Information Technology Dept. ensuring our Records Management System allows us to have real time back up for business continuity and disaster recovery, protecting the integrity of the records.
- **Reforms:** In 7 years, we've modernized the office, expanding access and improving services for the public. I'll continue expanding services and grow with emerging technologies, as legislation is enacted; preserving records to educate and share history online with our growing community. In 2026, eCertification for county clerk records will be implemented, allowing the public to purchase certified records online and avoid parking fees; providing more access to the constituents and underserved community.

### Mari Sanchez Belew

**Website:** [votemari.com](http://votemari.com)



- **Qualifications:** I am an Army Veteran with more than 17 years of leadership experience across the military/government and private sector. My diverse background includes Military Intelligence, managing cyber threat teams, leading financial strategy operations, and identifying cybersecurity risks and compliance issues for one of Texas' largest financial institutions. I hold a Top Secret Security Clearance and have worked at the intersection of national security, technology, and public accountability.
- **Technology:** To stay current, the County Clerk's Office must treat technology as critical infrastructure. That means enforcing cybersecurity standards in vendor contracts, conducting pre – and post-deployment testing, regularly auditing data integrity and access controls, and training staff to prevent errors and breaches. Modern systems only work when they are secure, monitored, and accountable.
- **Electronic Records:** Bexar County's clerk system (Odyssey records platform) has faced rollout failures, data errors, and public access issues. Protecting electronic records requires more than basic security tools. The Office must limit system access to only what employees need, require strong login protections, safeguard data, and monitor systems for suspicious activity. Regular security reviews, clear response plans, and staff training help prevent breaches and ensure public records remain accurate and secure.
- **Reforms:** The Bexar County Clerk's Office needs consistent processes, clear accountability, and a service-first culture. Too often, residents and attorneys face confusion, delays, and uneven treatment depending on the department or day. The Clerk's office should be a reliable partner to the courts, offering clear guidance, respectful service, and efficient operations so access to justice is fair, predictable, and dignified for everyone.

### Cynthia Castro

**Website:** [CASTRO4CLERK.COM](http://CASTRO4CLERK.COM)



- **Qualifications:** I have 22 years of legal experience, specializing in insurance risk litigation, and currently serving as a Senior Litigation Manager for a respected Fortune 100 insurance and financial services company.' I earned my Bachelor's in Business and Paralegal Specialty degrees.' I have extensive experience analyzing and evaluating issues; conducting root cause analysis and executing plans to mitigate risk. My education and successful business and legal career are accomplishments I value deeply.
- **Technology:** AI has become the most current technology used by many businesses. With the evolution of technology, the Clerk's office must move with the change of technology for the benefit of the office and the county residents. Transitioning the Clerk's office to utilizing more AI technology would reduce backlogs stemming from manual document reviews; reduce data entry errors; thus, saving time and costs, and allowing for opportunities to evaluate other areas of risk and implement mitigation plans.
- **Electronic Records:** Just as AI is the new technological wave seen in businesses, AI can also be used to create cyber threats. The Clerk's office must conduct cyber security defense audits on a more frequent basis. These audits need to have the capability to identify AI enabled cyber attacks. The current County Clerk's office requires leadership with education, training and business

experience to conduct root cause analysis and effectively mitigate risk — qualifications and standards that are currently missing.

- **Reforms:** I would make positive changes in the office if elected to serve as the County Clerk. I will be present daily and focused not only on internal issues, but also issues that may have external consequences. A leader is required to identify areas of opportunity for improvement, implement processes and procedures for technological changes; maintain customer and public service; and adhere to legal standards – all of which is currently not present in today’s office.

## BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

4-year term. Each commissioner represents ¼ of the county’s population. Commissioners Court adopts county budgets and tax rates, sets salaries and benefits, has exclusive authority to authorize contracts and maintains county buildings and facilities.

### PRECINCT 2

- Justin Rodriguez**

Unopposed

### PRECINCT 4

- Tommy Calvert Jr**

Unopposed

## BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

4-year term. JPs preside over justice courts, which hear cases for traffic violations and Class C misdemeanors. They can also hear minor civil cases, truancy cases, tenant disputes and small claims cases and issue search or arrest warrants.

- **Qualifications:** What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?
- **Tenant’s Rights:** Do you think this position has a role in proactively ensuring tenant’s rights are adhered to by landlords? Explain.
- **Truancy:** What, in your opinion, would help cut down on the number of truancy cases?
- **Homelessness:** What should the County’s role in addressing homelessness be?
- **Equality:** Would you perform marriage ceremonies for all couples regardless of whether they are of the same sex or different? Explain why or why not.

### PRECINCT 1, PLACE 1

- Armando Cruz Jr**

■ **Qualifications:** I have dedicated 14 years of service to Bexar County, including 9 years with the Justice of the Peace Court and 5 years with the Constable’s Office. I have completed over 120 hours of specialized training through the Texas Justice Court Training Center, which oversees training and certification for all JP offices statewide. I have gained expertise in judicial processes, court administration, and civil process procedures while working for both offices and this makes me a well-qualified candidate.



■ **Tenant’s Rights:** I believe this position has an important role in ensuring that tenants and landlords rights are protected. As Justice of the Peace our decision is to follow the law fairly and

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impartially, making sure that tenants understand their rights and that landlords follow legal procedures.

- **Truancy:** In 2014, Bexar County and the City of San Antonio developed an agreement to transfer all Truancy cases to the Municipal Court. If the Justice Court would regain jurisdiction, I would partner with organizations to provide social services to youth in the community.
- **Homelessness:** Bexar County should partner with the City of San Antonio to provide the resources to anyone facing homelessness not only to city residents, but to all residents including the unincorporated areas of Bexar County.
- **Equality:** As a Justice of the Peace, I would serve all members of the public equally and in accordance with the law.

- Carlos Quezada**

■ **Qualifications:** Licensed Attorney for 17 years. Former District Court Judge. Current Municipal Court Judge for Kirby and Von Ormy, Texas. Appointed as Visiting Judge for all Justice of the Peace Courts in Bexar County. Former Assistant District Attorney and Special Prosecutor. St. Mary’s University 04. Thurgood Marshall School of Law 08. Attended Multiple judicial trainings. The most important characteristic a judge should have is empathy and compassion. A judge should listen to all the parties involved.

■ **Tenant’s Rights:** Yes, Justices of the Peace are in the position to set the standard on fair and just rulings that equalize the power balance between tenants and landlords. We accomplish this by: 1. Ensuring due process. Make sure the law is being followed in the eviction process. 2. Make sure the court is accessible. Options for attendance: Zoom, phone. Provide translations if needed. Reminders for court dates. Provide information on resources available. Invite legal aid. 3. Court transparency, open courts.

■ **Truancy:** Currently, in Bexar County, truancy cases are handled by the city of San Antonio. If elected, I would invite a partnership with the justice of the peace courts and the city of San Antonio. The best way to decrease truancy is to address the root problem and help the child get more involved in school activities, making school a place they want to be.

■ **Homelessness:** Bexar County currently addresses homelessness through significant funding for permanent supportive housing, strategic collaboration with the City of San Antonio and agencies like Haven for Hope, and by managing federal grants (HUD) for prevention, outreach, and shelter, focusing on chronic cases and vulnerable populations via systems like Homelink. I wholeheartedly support continuing these practices.

■ **Equality:** Yes, in 2019 The San Antonio Young Lawyer’s Association and the San Antonio LGBT Bar Association unveiled a catalog which provides local same sex couples with information about how to obtain a marriage license and a list of Bexar County judicial officials who will marry them with a commitment to equality. The project was called Will You Marry Me? I am proud to have added my name to that list of Judges. I have performed many same sex marriages. Why? Because everyone should be treated equally.

### PRECINCT 4, PLACE 1

- Anna Campos**

■ **Qualifications:** I bring over 35 years of legal and administrative experience, an Associate’s Degree in Paralegal Studies, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration. I have extensive experience in court processes, compliance, and case management, and I am



the only candidate with proven legal experience. My background ensures fairness, efficiency, and respect for the law. I lead with integrity in every aspect of my life and work, ensuring fairness, accountability, and respect for the law.

- **Tenant's Rights:** Yes. While remaining impartial, the court plays an important role in ensuring landlords and tenants understand and follow the law. A Justice of the Peace should have the knowledge and experience to address matters such as probate or ownership transitions that may impact a tenant's rights. I have this experience and will ensure proceedings are fair, lawful, and accessible to all parties.
- **Truancy:** While Justice of the Peace courts in Bexar County do not hear truancy cases, they still play an important preventative role. Truancy can be reduced through clear coordination between JP courts, schools, and municipal juvenile courts, early identification of attendance issues, and parent education and accountability when families appear in JP court on related matters. By being knowledgeable about diversion programs and community resources, JP courts can help direct families.
- **Homelessness:** The County should coordinate resources, support prevention efforts, and partner with nonprofits, courts, and service providers to connect individuals with housing, mental health care, and employment assistance. Addressing homelessness requires a balanced approach that emphasizes accountability, compassion, and long-term stability.
- **Equality:** Yes. As a Justice of the Peace, my duty is to uphold the law and ensure equal access to services without discrimination. Marriage is a civil matter, and all legally eligible couples deserve to be treated with dignity, respect, and fairness under the law, regardless of sexual orientation.

**Christopher 'Chris' McKnight**



- **Qualifications:** I am a Court Clerk, in this office – Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4. I have 25 years of experience in the legal field (and 30 years as a landlord). I worked in legal publishing before managing the litigation discovery process for large law firms. I then managed legal issues related to building and land use for a foundation. As to characteristics that qualify me, I am a lifelong resident of Precinct 4, I care about our community want to see it succeed – as a listener and decision maker.
- **Tenant's Rights:** I absolutely believe in tenant rights as a current landlord and current Court Clerk. The process is fairly straight forward and rapid. There are only a few steps landlords need to adhere to for a completed eviction. As a Clerk at JP4, I often see small mistakes that rightly halt the eviction process, and I look to following the law. I've never been a politician. But, after working with Judge Michele Garcia for a number of years – my qualifications are the best on all issues.
- **Truancy:** JP4 does not handle truancy cases. The juvenile cases we do see are related to mainly fights and vaping.
- **Homelessness:** The county should use every available option to house homeless individuals, and assist with the varying underlying needs or needs to prevent people from going back to the streets. Homelessness can be cyclical due to a variety of reasons, such as mental health. Bexar County has great resources to allocate more towards this issue.
- **Equality:** Yes. I absolutely believe all people, regardless of sexual-ity, deserve to have the full rights of all citizens. I will marry same sex couples both on and off site.

**Veronica Michele Brooks**



**Website:** [veronicabrooksforjustice.com](http://veronicabrooksforjustice.com)

- **Qualifications:** I bring 23+ years of federal service, including senior leadership as a Supervisory Contracting Officer managing complex, high-risk cases with strict legal compliance. My background includes adjudicative decision-making, negotiations, conflict resolution, and due-process safeguards. I am trained to be fair, calm under pressure, detail-driven, and people-centered applying the law consistently, respectfully, and without bias to serve the community with integrity.
- **Tenant's Rights:** Yes. A Justice of the Peace plays a critical role in protecting tenant rights by ensuring landlords follow Texas law and due process. While the court must remain neutral, the JP ensures notices, filings, timelines, and procedures are legally valid before any eviction moves forward. The court also ensures tenants understand their rights, hearings are fair, and no party is disadvantaged by lack of information, language barriers, or intimidation. Fair process is the safeguard.
- **Truancy:** Prevention beats punishment period. Truancy drops when courts partner with schools, families, and community resources early, before patterns turn into cases. Clear communication of expectations, access to counseling and support services, accountability for parents, and flexible interventions matter more than fines. The JP court should focus on root causes transportation, housing instability, mental health not just attendance numbers. Solve the problem upstream and the caseload shrinks.
- **Homelessness:** The County should be a convener, not a bystander. Its role is to coordinate housing, mental health, workforce, and public-safety resources into one aligned strategy with clear accountability. That means funding evidence-based programs, supporting diversion and stabilization efforts, and partnering with nonprofits and cities to reduce repeat court involvement. Courts shouldn't criminalize poverty; they should connect people to solutions while protecting public order.
- **Equality:** Yes. The law is clear, and a Justice of the Peace takes an oath to uphold it no exceptions. Marriage equality is established law, and my role is to apply the law fairly and consistently, not inject personal beliefs. Every couple who meets legal requirements deserves equal access to the court's services, dignity, and respect. Equal justice isn't optional it's the job.

**Erasmio Raz Hernandez**

**Website:** [raz4jp4.com](http://raz4jp4.com)

- **Qualifications:** Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center in courtroom presentations. The San Antonio Police Department Evidence Unit on the preservation, collection, and photographing of evidence, Texas District & County Attorneys Association, and training with the U.S. Secret Service. 34 years of courtroom & justice system experience in Bexar County. Worked with the District Attorney's Office & District Clerk's Office as Chief of Staff. I bring fairness, patience, and respect to every situation.
- **Tenant's Rights:** The court cannot advocate for tenants or landlords, but it can proactively protect tenant rights by strictly enforcing legal requirements, ensuring landlords follow proper notice and eviction procedures, and making sure cases are handled fairly and in a respectful manner.
- **Truancy:** I think as a community we need to do more mentoring for students and provide more resources to parents. We also need

to address mental health issues that some students may be facing and address issues like anxiety and depression.

- **Homelessness:** The county should be the connector between nonprofits, organizations and other service providers to working together to help prevent homelessness.

- **Equality:** Yes, I would perform wedding ceremonies for couples regardless of whether they are same-sex or opposite-sex. As a Justice of the Peace I must uphold the law fairly and respectfully. A JP should never impose their personal beliefs. Everyone will be treated equally, fairly and with respect regardless of who they choose to love.

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE SAN ANTONIO AREA

# COME JOIN US!

A trusted nonpartisan resource  
in Bexar County for 85 years!

- ✓ Defend Democracy!
- ✓ Protect Voting Rights!
- ✓ Produce Voter Education Resources like this Voters Guide!
- ✓ Empower Voters!

**We have fun doing serious work.**



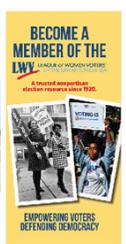
LWV Membership

This QR code will take you to the LWV Membership Portal or visit [lwvsa.org](http://lwvsa.org) to join



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE SAN ANTONIO AREA

The League offers informational material for citizens to learn how to vote and make their voices heard. Brochures can be obtained by contacting the League at 210-657-2206, or download them at [lwvsa.org](http://lwvsa.org).



# 411

**VOTE411.ORG**

**ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED**

- Compare the candidates
- Mark your choices
- Print your list
- Take it to the polls

# Texas Voters' Bill of Rights

Your Voting rights are protected. These rights are guaranteed to qualified registered voters.

1. **You have the right** to vote if you are a qualified registered voter.
2. **You have the right** to cast your ballot in a manner that ensures privacy. You have the right to vote without any person trying to influence your vote and vote in a booth that prevents others from watching you mark your ballot.
3. **You have the right** to stay in the booth for as long as necessary to complete your ballot.
4. **You have the right** to receive up to two replacement ballots if you make a mistake and spoil your ballot before you cast your ballot.
5. **You have the right** to request assistance when voting from a poll worker or anyone of your choice except your employer, or an officer of your union or their representatives.
6. **You have the right** to vote if you are disabled. The polling place must be accessible, and there must be an accessible voting booth.
7. **You have the right** to vote if you cannot read or write. You have the right to bring an interpreter with you who can translate.
8. **You have the right** to vote but must show one of the IDs listed on the reverse side of this sheet.
9. **You have the right** to cast a provisional ballot if you believe you are a qualified registered voter but a poll worker tells you that you are ineligible to vote. (See reverse for details).
10. **You have the right** to vote once at an early voting location during the early voting period within the territory conducting the election.
11. **You have the right** to follow up any challenge to your right to vote through the complaint process.
12. **You have a right** to vote if you are not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction and have registered as a voter after your sentence is fully discharged.
13. **You have the right** to take this Voters' Bill of Rights or any other papers, including a sample ballot, voter guide or campaign material, into the voting booth with you. Please remove all papers when you leave the booth.
14. **You have the right** to vote at any polling place in Bexar County\* on Election Day any time between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. for state and federal elections – hours may vary for local elections. If you are in line at the polling place when the polls close at 7 p.m., you have the right to vote.
15. **You have the right** to bring your children into the voting booth with you.

If you feel that your right to vote has been violated in any way, contact the Secretary of State toll free at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683), via e-mail at [elections@sos.texas.gov](mailto:elections@sos.texas.gov) or by regular mail at Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.



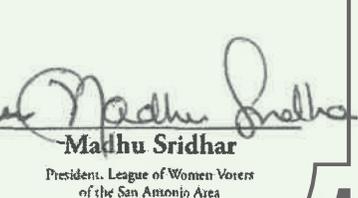
**Ron Nirenberg**  
Mayor, The City of San Antonio



**Nelson W. Wolff**  
Judge, Bexar County



**Jacquelyn F. Callanen**  
Elections Administrator, Bexar County



**Madhu Sridhar**  
President, League of Women Voters  
of the San Antonio Area

\*For counties other than Bexar, check with your county election official.  
Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

## VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

- » Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- » Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- » Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- » Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- » United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- » United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- » United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the acceptable photo identification must be current or have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. For voters over age 70, the expiration date for documents is unlimited.

If you do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of these IDs, fill out a declaration at the polls explaining why and bring an original or copy of one of the following supporting documents:

- » Valid voter registration certificate
- » Certified birth certificate
- » Current utility bill
- » Bank statement
- » Government check
- » Paycheck
- » Government document with your name and an address

## PROVISIONAL BALLOT

**You have the right** to cast a provisional ballot IF,

Your name does not appear on the list of registered voters.

**You have the right** to cast a provisional ballot also IF,

(a) you do not possess one of the seven (7) acceptable forms of photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, and you can reasonably obtain one of these forms of identification **OR**

(b) you possess, but did not bring to the polling place, one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification **OR**

(c) you do not possess one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification that is not expired for more than four years, you could otherwise not obtain one but you did not bring a supporting form of identification to the polling place.

**If you cast a provisional ballot due to lack of identification,**

You must present one of the acceptable forms of photo identification or one of the supporting documents to the county voter registrar's office within six (6) calendar days after Election Day.

If you feel that your right to vote has been violated in any way, contact the Secretary of State toll free at 1-800-252-VOTE(8683), via e-mail at [elections@sos.texas.gov](mailto:elections@sos.texas.gov) or by regular mail at Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

# SAMPLE BALLOT FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Please feel free to mark this ballot with your choices and take it into the voting booth.

Note: If you do not see a race or candidate listed here, it is because the party either did not field a candidate or the candidate is running unopposed. You will see the race and candidate listed when you vote in the voting booth.

## REPUBLICAN

### FEDERAL

#### UNITED STATES SENATOR

- Ken Paxton
- Anna Bender
- John Cornyn
- Wesley Hunt
- Virgil John Bierschwale
- John O. Adefope
- Sara Canady
- Gulrez "Gus" Khan

#### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 21

- Kyle Sinclair
- James "Trey" Trainor, III
- Weston Martinez
- Peggy McCormick Wardlaw
- Mark Teixeira
- Jason Cahill
- Jacques DuBose
- Mike Wheeler
- Daniel W. Betts
- Zeke Enriquez
- Paul Rojas
- Heather Tessmer

#### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 23

- Francisco "Quico" Canseco
- Brandon Herrera
- Tony Gonzales
- Keith Barton

#### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 35

- Jay Furman
- John Lujan
- Mark Eberwine
- Larry La Rose
- Rod Lingsch
- Randy Adams
- Ryan Krause
- Steven Wright
- Vanessa Hicks-Callaway
- Josh Cortez
- Carlos De La Cruz

## STATE

#### GOVERNOR

- R.F. "Bob" Achgill
- Pete "Doc" Chambers
- Evelyn Brooks
- Nathaniel Welch
- Mark V. Goloby
- Kenneth Hyde
- Stephen Samuelson
- Ronnie Tullos
- Charles Andrew Crouch
- Greg Abbott
- Arturo Espinosa

#### LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

- Esala Wueschner
- Dan Patrick
- Timothy Mabry
- Perla Muñoz Hopkins

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL

- Aaron Reitz
- Mayes Middleton
- Joan Huffman
- Chip Roy

#### COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

- Michael Berlanga
- Christi Craddick
- Kelly Hancock
- Don Huffines

#### COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

- Sid Miller
- Nate Sheets

#### RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

- Bo French
- James (Jim) Matlock
- Jim Wright
- Hawk Dunlap
- Katherine Culbert

#### JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 3

- Thomas Smith
- Lesli Fitzpatrick
- Alison Fox
- Brent Coffee

#### JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 9

- Jennifer Balido
- John Messinger

#### STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 19

- Marcus Cardenas
- Adam Ernest Salyer
- Robert Marks, Jr

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 118

- Joe Shellhart
- Jorge Borrego
- Desi Martinez

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 121

- David McArthur
- Marc LaHood

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 122

- Mark Dorazio
- Willie Ng

#### STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 125

- Chuck Mercer IV
- Ricardo "Rick" Martinez

## DEMOCRAT

### FEDERAL

#### UNITED STATES SENATOR

- Ahmad R. Hassan
- James Talarico
- Jasmine Crockett

#### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 20

- Kendra Elizabeth Wilkerson
- John Atwood
- Joaquin Castro

#### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 21

- Kristin Hook
- Regina Vanburg
- Gary Taylor

#### UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 23

- Katy Padilla Stout
- Santos Limon
- Bruce Richardson
- Gretel Enck

**UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 35**

- Whitney Masterson-Moyes
- Johnny C. Garcia
- Maureen Galindo
- John Lira

**STATE**

**GOVERNOR**

- Angela "Tia Angie" Villescaz
- Jose Navarro Balbuena
- Chris Bell
- Bobby Cole
- Andrew White
- Patricia Abrego
- Zach Vance
- Gina Hinojosa
- Carlton W. Hart

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

- Marcos Isaias Velez
- Courtney Head
- Vikki Goodwin

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

- Nathan Johnson
- Anthony "Tony" Box
- Joe Jaworski

**COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

- Savant Moore
- Sarah Eckhardt
- Michael Lange

**COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE**

- Jose Loya
- Benjamin Flores

**CHIEF JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT**

- Cory L. Carlyle
- Maggie Ellis

**JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT, PLACE 7**

- Kristen Hawkins
- Gordon Goodman

**STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 21**

- Judith Zaffirini
- Cortney Jones

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 117**

- Philip Cortez
- Robert Mihara

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 119**

- Elizabeth "Liz" Campos
- Ryan Ayala

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 120**

- Jordan Brown
- Bently Paiz
- Barbara Gervin Hawkins

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 125**

- Michelle Barrientes Vela
- Carlos ANTONIO Raymond
- Adrian Reyna
- Donovan Rodriguez

**BEXAR COUNTY**

**CHIEF JUSTICE, 4TH COURT OF APPEALS**

- Velia J. Meza
- Antonia "Toni" Arteaga

**DISTRICT JUDGE, 45TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

- Dinorah Diaz
- Mary Lou Alvarez

**DISTRICT JUDGE, 144TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

- Michael Mery
- Michael De Leon

**DISTRICT JUDGE, 187TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

- Stephanie R. Boyd
- Stephanie Franco

**DISTRICT JUDGE, 224TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

- Marisa Flores
- Grace M. Uzomba

**DISTRICT JUDGE, 226TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

- Marissa Giovenco
- Anastacia "Ana" Ochoa Nelson

**DISTRICT JUDGE, 436TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

- William "Cruz" Shaw
- Raymond A. Villareal

**CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

- Jane Davis
- Meli Carrion Powers
- Shannon Locke
- Veronica I. Legarreta
- Luz Elena Chapa
- Meredith M. Chacon
- James "Jim" Bethke
- Oscar Salinas

**COUNTY JUDGE**

- Peter Sakai
- Ron Nirenberg

**JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 8**

- Cleophus "Cleo" Marshall, III
- Victoria Cruz

**JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 9**

- Lizz Lane
- Maritza Perez-Stewart
- Jessica A. Gonzalez

**JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 10**

- Cesar Garcia
- Shannon Roberta Salmón
- Adam Flores

**JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 12**

- Yolanda Huff
- Lauren Zamora

**JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 13**

- Alicia "Ali" Perez
- Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez

**JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 14**

- Carlo Rodriguez Key
- Audrey Martinez

**DISTRICT CLERK**

- Gloria A. Martinez
- Raul Davila
- Elva Abundis Esparza
- Christine "Chris" Castillo
- Monica Ramirez Alcántara

**COUNTY CLERK**

- Lucy Adame-Clark
- Mari Sanchez Belew
- Cynthia Castro

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT NO. 1, PLACE 1**

- Armando Cruz Jr.
- Carlos Quezada

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT NO. 4, PLACE 1**

- Anna Campos
- Christopher "Chris" McKnight
- Veronica Michele Brooks
- Erasmo RAZ Hernandez



## EARLY VOTING

You can vote at any Bexar County polling location, both during Early Voting, February 17 through February 27, and on Election Day, March 3.

Signs will be posted at each polling site listing the four other nearest sites, so if the one you selected is too crowded, you can easily choose another one nearby.

Election Day voting sites will be posted on the Bexar County Elections website, [Bexar.org/elections](https://www.bexar.org/elections), after Early Voting is completed, and in the San Antonio Express-News the day before the election.

### EARLY VOTING CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 15	February 16	February 17 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	February 18 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	February 19 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	February 20 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.	February 21 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
February 22 Noon to 6 p.m.	February 23 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	February 24 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	February 25 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	February 26 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	February 27 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.	February 28

### EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

Bexar County Elections Department	1103 S. Frio	Mission Branch Library	3134 Roosevelt Ave.
Bexar County Justice Center*	300 Dolorosa	Mission Del Lago Community Room	2301 Del Lago
Brook Hollow Branch Library	530 Heimer Road	Northeast Lakeview College – Medina CTE Rm. 104 Bldg. 800	1201 Kitty Hawk Road
Castle Hills City Hall	209 Lemonwood	Northside Activity Center	7001 Culebra Road
Christian Family Baptist Church	1589 Grosenbacher	Northwest Vista College – Mountain Laurel Hall Rm. 100 A&B	3535 N. Ellison Drive
Claude Black Community Center	2805 E. Commerce	Our Lady of the Lake University – Sueltenfus Library Community Room	411 S.W. 24th St.
Cody Branch Library	11441 Vance Jackson Road	Palo Alto College – Palomino Center Rm. 110	1400 W. Villaret Blvd.
Collins Garden Branch Library	200 N. Park Blvd.	Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak	20735 Wilderness Oak
Converse Community Event Center	407 S. Seguin Road	Precinct 1 Satellite Office	3505 Pleasanton Road
Copernicus Community Center	5003 Lord Road	Precinct 3 Satellite Office	320 Interpark Blvd.
Cortez Branch Library	2803 Hunter Blvd.	San Antonio College – Victory Center Rm. 117	1819 N. Main Ave.
Encino Branch Library	2515 E. Evans Rd	Schaefer Branch Library	6322 US Hwy. 87 E.
Fair Oaks Ranch Police Dept. – Training Room	7286 Dietz Elkhorn Drive	Semmes Branch Library	15060 Judson Road
Frank Garrett Multi Service Center	1226 N.W. 18th St.	Shavano Park City Hall	900 Saddletree Ct.
Great Northwest Branch Library	9050 Wellwood	Somerset City Hall	7360 E. 6th St.
Guerra Branch Library	7978 W. Military Drive	St. Hedwig City Hall	13065 FM – 1346
Helotes City Hall	12951 Bandera Road	St. Philips College – William Hudgens (WAC) Rm. 100	1801 Martin Luther King Drive
Igo Branch Library	13330 Kyle Seale Parkway	Texas A&M University – Mays Ctr. Ste. 111	One University Way
Johnston Branch Library	6307 Sun Valley Drive	Thousand Oaks Branch Library	4618 Thousand Oaks
Kirby City Hall	112 Bauman	Tobin Library at Oakwell	4134 Harry Wurzbach
Las Palmas Branch Library	515 Castroville Road	UTSA – Bexar Room	1 UTSA Circle
Leon Valley Conference Center	6427 Evers Road	Wonderland of the Americas	4522 Fredericksburg Road
Lions Field Adult and Senior Center	2809 Broadway St.	Woodlawn Pointe Center	702 Donaldson Ave.

\*Bexar County Justice Center hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

**Deafink is available at all poll sites.**

For more information contact the office of the Bexar County Elections Administrator, Michelle Carew, at (210) 335-VOTE (8683) or at [bexar.org/Elections](https://www.bexar.org/Elections)



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League of Women  
Voters of the San  
Antonio Area

Stay Connected  
Follow the League of Women Voters  
of the San Antonio Area

