

# NONPARTISAN VOTERS GUIDE

TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTION ★ MARCH 3, 2026

U.S. Senate ★ Governor ★ Lieutenant Governor ★ Attorney General ★  
Comptroller of Public Accounts ★ Commissioner of General Land Office ★  
Commissioner of Agriculture ★ Railroad Commissioner ★ Texas Supreme Court ★  
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ★ State Board of Education ★ Court of Appeals

EARLY VOTING: February 17–February 27 ★  
ELECTION DAY: March 3. Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

### ★ ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas. The League never supports or opposes political candidates or political parties.

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# U.S. SENATOR

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

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

**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?



### ★ Jasmine Crockett (D)

**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

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

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## ★ Ahmad R. Hassan (D)

No response received



### ★ James Talarico (D)

**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.

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

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## ★ John O. Adefope (R)

No response received

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## ★ Anna Bender (R)

No response received

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## ★ Virgil John Bierschwale (R)

No response received

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## ★ Sara Canady (R)

No response received

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## ★ John Cornyn (R)

No response received

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## ★ Wesley Hunt (R)

No response received



## ★ Gulrez "Gus" Khan (R)

**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.

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

## ★ Ken Paxton (R)

No response received



## 2025 TEXAS REDISTRICTING

The 2025 redrawing of the U.S. Congressional map affected the following U.S. House districts: 9, 18, and 29 (Houston); 20, 21, 27, 35, and 37 (Austin/Hays County); 28 (Laredo); 30 and 33 (Dallas); and 34 (Rio Grande Valley).

If you previously lived in one of these districts, please check your voter registration at [VOTETexas.gov](http://VOTETexas.gov) to confirm whether your voting district has changed.

You can view an interactive version of this map at [dvr.capitol.texas.gov/Congress/89/PLANC2333](http://dvr.capitol.texas.gov/Congress/89/PLANC2333).



## VOTE411

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



# GOVERNOR

**Four-year term. The governor is the chief executive of the state. They appoint members to boards and commissions; appoint statewide executive officials, state judges and district attorneys when vacancies occur; declare special elections to fill vacancies in certain elected offices; deliver the State of the State address; provide guidance to the legislature; call special sessions of the legislature and set the agenda; and serve as commander-in-chief of the state's military forces. The governor can veto legislation (including a line-item veto on appropriations), sign legislation, or allow it to become law without their signature. Current annual salary: \$153,750**

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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.



### ★ Patricia Abrego (D)

**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.



### ★ Chris Bell (D)

**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

## ★ Chris Bell (D) *(continued)*

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 ad-

ministration'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.

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

## ★ Bobby Cole (D)

**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 com-

munities 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.

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



## ★ Carlton Hart (D)

**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,

## ★ Carlton Hart (D) *(continued)*

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.



## ★ Gina Hinojosa (D)

**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

**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.

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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.

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

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## ★ Jose Navarro Balbuena (D)

**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. Pass-

## ★ Jose Navarro Balbuena (D) *(continued)*

ports 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



## ★ Zach Vance (D)

**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

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.

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

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## ★ Angela "Tia Angie" Villescaz (D)

No response received

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## ★ Greg Abbott (R)

No response received

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.

**Campaign Website:** [www.4abettertexas.com](http://www.4abettertexas.com)

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## ★ Andrew White (D)

Withdrawn



## ★ R.F. "Bob" Achgill (R)

**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.

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

## ★ Evelyn Brooks (R)

**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.

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

## ★ Pete "Doc" Chambers (R)

No response received



### ★ Charles Andrew Crouch (R)

**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 (R)

**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 per-

sonnel 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.



## ★ Mark V. Goloby (R)

**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.

**Campaign Website:** [markgolobyfortexas.com](https://markgolobyfortexas.com)

## ★ Kenneth Hyde (R)

No response received

## ★ Stephen Samuelson (R)

**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 fo-

cused 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.

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



## ★ **Ronnie Tullos (R)**

**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.

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

## ★ **Nathaniel Welch (R)**

No response received



## HELPFUL CONTACTS AND WEBSITES

### League of Women Voters of Texas

[lwvtexas.org](http://lwvtexas.org)

### Secretary of State

[VOTETexas.gov](http://VOTETexas.gov)

### Your County Election Website

[sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/links.shtml](http://sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/links.shtml)

### Election Protection

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

### Voter Hotlines!

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

### Republican Party

[txgop.org](http://txgop.org)

### Libertarian Party

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

### Democratic Party

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

### Green Party

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

# 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. Current annual salary: \$7,200 plus \$221 for every day the Legislature is in session, including any special sessions.

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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?



### ★ Vikki Goodwin (D)

**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.

**Campaign Website:** Goodwin4Texas.com



## ★ Courtney Head (D)

**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, af-

fordable 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 corporate 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.

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

## ★ Marcos Isaias Velez (D)

No response received



## ★ Timothy Mabry (R)

**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.

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



## ★ Perla Muñoz Hopkins (R)

**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 pri-

ority 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 thereof. NO Texan should be forced to leave their home.

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

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## ★ Dan Patrick (R)

No response received



## ★ Esala Wueschner (R)

**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.

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

# 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. Current annual salary: \$153,750

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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?

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### ★ Anthony "Tony" Box (D)

No response received



#### ★ Joe Jaworski (D)

**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 asy-

lum 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/disseminate 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.

**Campaign Website:** JaworskiForTexas.com



## ★ Nathan Johnson (D)

**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.

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

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## ★ Joan Huffman (R)

No response received



## ★ Aaron Reitz (R)

**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, de-

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## ★ Mayes Middleton (R)

No response received

tention, 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.

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



## ★ Chip Roy (R)

**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.

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



## EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

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

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

## League of Women Voters of Texas Voter

**Education Chair:** Marilyn Minnaar

**League of Women Voters of Texas Staff:** Aileen McMurrer, *Executive Director*; Joleen Smith, *Digital Communications Manager*; Breezie Reeves, *Data Manager*; Jasmin Reardon, *Development*; Kiera Kabbara, *Outreach Coordinator*; Sophie Boston, *Administrative Assistant*

**Voters Guide Volunteers:** Grace Chimene, Joyce LeBombard, Susan Raybuck, Janis Richardson

**Production Team:** Capital Linguists, Community Impact, Inspirare Communications, Jaci Collins, Motto Publishing Services

# 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. Current annual salary: \$153,750**

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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?

### ★ Sarah Eckhardt (D)

**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.

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

# COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

*(continued)*



## ★ Michael Lange (D)

**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 re-

ports 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, Electricity and School Voucher issues. Bottom Line is People of Texas are safer and better off.

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

## ★ Savant Moore (D)

**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.

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

# COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

*(continued)*



## ★ Michael Berlanga (R)

**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

**Campaign Website:** [www.mikeberlangafortexas.comptroller.com](http://www.mikeberlangafortexas.comptroller.com)



## ★ Christi Craddick (R)

**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.

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

# COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

*(continued)*

## ★ Kelly Hancock (R)

No response received



## ★ Don Huffines (R)

**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 government. 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.

**Campaign Website:** [dohnuffines.com](http://dohnuffines.com)

# COMMISSIONER OF THE 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. Current annual salary: \$140,938

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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?



### ★ Benjamin Flores (D)

**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 statewide 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.

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



### ★ Jose Loya (D)

**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.

# COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

*(continued)*

## ★ Jose Loya (D) *(continued)*

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.

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

## ★ Dawn Buckingham (R)

Unopposed



## VOTERS GUIDE POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- For the races covered in the *Voters Guide*, all candidates on the ballot with opponents on the ballot are invited to participate. For races in which a candidate on the ballot has only write-in opponents, the League attempts to reach out to all candidates in that race so their responses can be published on **VOTE411.org** only (not in the printed guide).
- Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. The League assumes no responsibility for the content of the candidate responses.
- Negative references to opponents, including officeholders, or specific persons are not allowed.
- If a response does not meet the criteria listed in this Voters Guide, in place of a response or portion of a response that does not meet the criteria, the Voters Guide will state "Response removed; does not meet criteria" or "Portion of response removed; does not meet criteria".
- The Voters Guide is organized by office, with candidates listed by party. For general elections, candidates are listed in ballot order.

For the complete LWV Texas Voters Guide policy, see [lwvtexas.org](http://lwvtexas.org).

# 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. Current annual salary: \$140,938

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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?

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### ★ Clayton Tucker (D)

Unopposed



### ★ Sid Miller (R)

**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, expand-

ing 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.

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

# COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

*(continued)*



## ★ Nate Sheets (R)

**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:

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:** Farmers once earned over 40¢ of every food dol-

lar—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:** 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:** 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.

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



## VOTING IN TEXAS

The upcoming Primary Election is extremely important for Texas!

**Primary Elections:** Texas has an open primary system. This means all eligible voters can take part. You do not have to sign up with a political party ahead of time. When you vote in the primary, you choose one party's primary election or convention to participate in.

This Primary Election is held on March 3. If no candidate gets enough votes, a Runoff Election is held on May 26.

- The Republican and Democratic parties choose their candidates through primary elections.
- The Libertarian and Green parties choose their candidates at party conventions held at other times.

Since many districts in Texas heavily favor one party over the other, the primary elections often determine the winner of the General Election! Even if you do not strongly identify with any political party, you can and

should carefully consider the candidate choices and participate in one of the primaries or conventions to have your voice heard.

**Important Note:** Once you vote in a party's primary election or convention, you cannot vote in another party's primary or convention. If there is a runoff election, you may vote **only in the same party's runoff**.

The Democratic and Republican primary ballots may include non-binding propositions. These propositions gauge voter support on specific issues. The results help guide each party's legislative priorities, which are decided on at their respective conventions.

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

# 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. Current annual salary: \$140,937

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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 rule-making 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?

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### ★ Jon Rosenthal (D)

Unopposed



### ★ Katherine Culbert (R)

**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 rule-making 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 market demands, we need to modernize operations and plan for long-term resilience.

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



## ★ Hawk Dunlap (R)

**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 informa-

tive 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.

**Campaign Website:** Hawk4texas.com

## ★ Bo French (R)

No response received



## ★ James “Jim” Matlock (R)

**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.

**Campaign Website:** matlockfortexas.com

## ★ Jim Wright (R)

**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 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.

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

## 2026 Texas Primary Election – Key Dates

2	FEB	Last day to register to vote or update your registration
17	FEB	First day to vote early in person
20	FEB	Last day for Vote by Mail ballot application to be received
27	FEB	Last day to vote early in person
3	MAR	Election Day and last day for Vote by Mail ballot to be received

**VOTE 411**

# CHIEF JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. The Texas Supreme Court is the court of last resort for civil matters in Texas. This Court includes a Chief Justice and eight justices, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. This court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals; issues certain orders to governmental officials to act and individuals to appear before the court; and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the Texas legal system. Current annual salary range: \$210,000–\$264,600

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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?

## ★ PLACE 1



### ★ Maggie Ellis (D)

**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.

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

# CHIEF JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

(continued)

## ★ PLACE 1 (continued)



### ★ Cory L. Carlyle (D)

**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

**Campaign Website:** Carlyle4justice.com

## ★ Jimmy Blacklock (R)

Unopposed



## TEXAS LOCAL LEAGUES

Learn more about our local Texas Leagues and how they help shape today's important issues by visiting [lwvtexas.org](http://lwvtexas.org).

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# JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. The Texas Supreme Court is the court of last resort for civil matters in Texas. This Court includes a Chief Justice and eight justices, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. This court issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals; issues certain orders to governmental officials to act and individuals to appear before the court; and has jurisdiction over orders or judgments of trial courts if the Supreme Court determines them important to the Texas legal system. Current annual salary range: \$210,000–\$264,600

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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?

## ★ PLACE 2 (UNEXPIRED TERM)

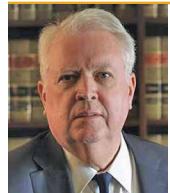
### ★ Chari Kelly (D)

Unopposed

### ★ James P. Sullivan (R)

Unopposed

## ★ PLACE 7



### ★ Gordon Goodman (D)

**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 be-

# JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

*(continued)*

## ★ PLACE 7

### ★ Gordon Goodman (D) *(continued)*

lieve 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.

**Campaign Website:** [goodmanforjustice.com](http://goodmanforjustice.com)

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### ★ Kristen Hawkins (D)

**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 streamlining 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 co-equal 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.

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

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### ★ Kyle Hawkins (R)

Unopposed

## ★ PLACE 8

### ★ Brett Busby (R)

Unopposed

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### ★ Gisela D. Triana (D)

Unopposed

# JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Six-year term. The Texas Court of Appeals is Texas' highest court for criminal cases. The Court includes a Presiding Judge and eight Judges, each of which is elected by voters of the entire state. The court must review all cases in which the death penalty is assessed. It also exercises discretionary review in other criminal cases and issues rulings about wrongful imprisonment. Current annual salary range: \$210,000–\$264,600

## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**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

### ★ Okey Anyiam (D)

Unopposed

### ★ Brent Coffee (R)

No response received

### ★ Lesli Fitzpatrick (R)

No response received



### ★ Alison Fox (R)

**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.

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

### ★ Thomas Smith (R)

No response received

# JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

(continued)

## ★ PLACE 4

### ★ Audra Riley (D)

Unopposed

### ★ Kevin Patrick Yeary (R)

Unopposed

## ★ PLACE 9

### ★ Holly Taylor (D)

Unopposed



### ★ Jennifer Balido (R)

**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.

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



### ★ John Messinger (R)

**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

# JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

*(continued)*

## ★ John Messinger (R) *(continued)*

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 ap-

ply 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.

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



## VOTING FOR JUDGES IN TEXAS

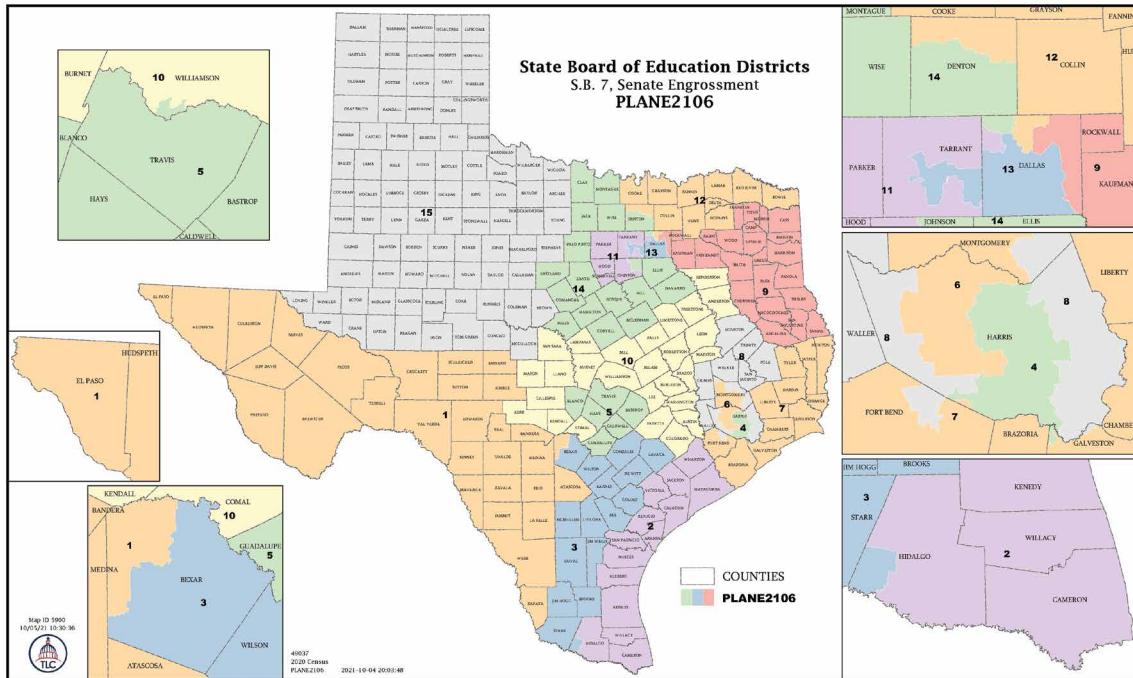
Although in some states, judges are appointed, in Texas most judges are elected. Judges make decisions about fundamental issues impacting family life, education, health care, housing, employment, finances, discrimination, civil rights, public safety, and government actions.

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and courts of appeal. In trial courts, judges and/or juries evaluate the facts and the law and make a decision in a civil or criminal legal dispute. When decisions in most trial courts are appealed, they are sent to a court of appeal where judges consider what happened at the trial court, evaluate legal arguments, and then decide if a mistake was made.

See [txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts](http://txcourts.gov/about-texas-courts) for more information.

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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



## ★ QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

**Social Studies Curriculum:** How should the K-12 social studies curriculum balance state, national, and world history to best prepare students to be responsible citizens in today's world?

**Teacher Support:** How can the SBOE strengthen teacher preparation, certification, and ongoing professional development to support high-quality instruction?

**Digital Education:** How can the SBOE balance technology use with traditional instructional methods to best support student learning?

**Religion in Public Schools:** Should Christianity or any other religious beliefs be incorporated into the public school curriculum? Explain your position.

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

## ★ DISTRICT 2

### ★ Thomas Ray Garcia (D)

Unopposed

## ★ DISTRICT 2 *(continued)*



### ★ LJ Francis (R)

**Qualifications:** Current elected officeholder - Member, State Board of Education District 2, SBOE Committee Chairman, Previous educator experience and Masters in Engineering and working on a PhD in Engineering.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** The Board voted for the broad high level topics based on feedback from our appointed content advisors. However, I have appointed all south Texas educators to the work group that will ultimately rewrite the Texas essential knowledge and skills. I trust my teachers to inform me of best practices in the field.

**Teacher Support:** I currently chair the committee on school initiatives which oversees rulemaking for the state board for educator certification (SBEC). I am proud of the great working relationship I have with my counterpart Chair Streepey and in my role I have worked with SBEC to approve their final rules and provide guidance based on my interactions with teachers and constituents in the community.

**Digital Education:** The SBOE have consistently championed more “paper and pencil” instruction coupled with high quality instructional materials. However, because the state test is online local education agencies (school districts) have the freedom to use a balance as is fitting to their needs as their exercise their local control.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Any religious beliefs can be incorporated in a curriculum so long as it gives the student an accurate depiction of the knowledge and skills needed for the subject and it does not violate state law.

**Other Issues:** I also chair the ad hoc committee on mathematics instructional framework. This important subject is due for a curriculum rewrite as well as recommendations to improve teacher preparation, ongoing teacher support and cultivating and sustaining effective instructional methodologies in a classroom environment that promotes success for all students. Also the new Texas specific teacher certification.

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

### ★ Victoria Hinojosa (R)

No response received

### ★ Carrie Moore (R)

No response received

## ★ DISTRICT 5



### ★ Allison Bush (D)

**Qualifications:** I have 25 years in education, from classroom teaching and counseling to administration. With a student-centered focus writing curriculum, managed budgets, developed policy, and fundraising.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** A strong K-12 social

studies curriculum should balance Texas and U.S. history with world history to build civic knowledge and global awareness. Students need accurate, inclusive content that develops critical thinking, civic responsibility, informed voting, and an understanding of how history shapes today's democracy.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE can strengthen teacher support by setting rigorous, practical preparation standards, protecting certification pathways, and ensuring

## ★ DISTRICT 5

### ★ Allison Bush (D) *(continued)*

ongoing professional development aligned to classroom needs. While SBOE doesn't set pay, it should publicly advocate for competitive wages and benefits that attract and retain high-quality educators.

**Digital Education:** Technology should enhance strong instruction and reflect the evolving world students live in. The SBOE should support innovative, responsible use of digital tools alongside teacher-led learning and in-person interaction. When used well, technology increases engagement, expands access, and prepares students for college, careers, and civic life.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Public schools must uphold the constitutional separation of church and state and remain religiously neutral. Curriculum may teach

about religion's role in history and culture but should not promote or favor any belief system. Respecting religious freedom means protecting every student's right to learn in an inclusive environment free from endorsement or exclusion.

**Other Issues:** Key pressing issues include the teacher shortage, graduation standards that reflect diverse student pathways, student mental health support, and protecting public education from privatization. Decisions must prioritize students, educators, and local communities over political interests. The SBOE must be an education-focused board guided by evidence and expertise—not driven by political agendas.

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



### ★ Abigail Gray (D)

**Qualifications:** B.S. in Education & M.Ed in Curriculum and Instructional Design. Teacher and instructional coach for 7 years. Pursuing a Master's in public affairs. Reviewed curriculum for the SBOE.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** An equal emphasis should be placed on each level of history. In an increasingly interconnected world, it's just as important for students to understand the historical contexts of the rest of the world as it is to know the history of their state. A balanced approach to history should give students a better appreciation for differences across the world and avoid teaching intolerance and superiority.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE votes to approve or veto rules developed by the State Board for Educator Certification. Before voting on rules, SBOE members should be well-informed about how the new rules impact what is taught to educators in preparation programs and the impact on instructional practices in the classroom. This will require research and a deep understanding of education philosophies.

**Digital Education:** Technology should support in-

struction, not replace what works. The SBOE can help strike that balance by approving instructional materials that use technology purposefully for practice, feedback, project-based learning, or accessibility. The board should focus on evidence-based use of technology in instructional materials and leave day-to-day instructional decisions to educators and districts.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Religious beliefs should not be incorporated into public school curricula. Parents have the right to direct their child's moral and religious upbringing, and schools must remain neutral. While religion may be discussed in appropriate academic courses, curricula should not promote religious texts or practices, as this can marginalize students and misrepresent families' beliefs.

**Other Issues:** The instructional materials adoption process is the board's most significant responsibility and comes with real challenges. SBOE members must evaluate complex materials within a limited time, relying on well-trained reviewers with clear expectations. Strong training, transparency, and sufficient review time are essential, especially amid increasing political and ideological polarization.

## ★ DISTRICT 5 *(continued)*



### ★ Kevin Jackson (D)

**Qualifications:** Only career public-school educator running; M.Ed. (Special Ed) & MPA degrees; Union advocate (TSTA); Daughters in public

school; Active progressive Democrat; Board member Black Austin Democrats

**Social Studies Curriculum:** Education is the foundation of a strong democracy. Recent SBOE actions have narrowed social studies and erased diverse voices. As a middle-school Texas history teacher, I've seen how powerful it is when students see themselves reflected in what they learn. I support balanced Texas, U.S., and world history that includes the voices of women and communities of color.

**Teacher Support:** Supporting teachers with high-quality instructional materials should be a top SBOE priority, especially for early-career educators. Certified teachers improve outcomes and reduce turnover, so the SBOE should strengthen preparation, ensure certification in classrooms, waive fees in high-need fields, reduce high-stakes testing, and reject culture-war content that drives teachers out.

**Digital Education:** Young children learn best through

hands-on experiences. Paper and pencils support the development of fine-motor skills, creativity, and social development. As students progress into upper elementary, middle, and high school, technology should be used to build on those skills—supporting deeper learning, problem-solving, and innovation.

**Religion in Public Schools:** No. Public schools must not promote any religion. As a practicing Christian, I believe faith belongs with families and houses of worship, not the state. Adding religious doctrine to the curriculum risks coercion and bias and violates the Constitution. Religion should be taught only academically—its role in history, literature, and world cultures—without advocacy.

**Other Issues:** Only 5 of 15 SBOE members are career classroom teachers. Christian Nationalists are influencing curriculum and textbooks. Private-school vouchers drain public-school funding. Politicized and inaccurate curriculum standards. Weak oversight of charter-school approvals. State takeovers of districts like Houston ISD. I'll fight so every Texas child can have an excellent public education.

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



### ★ Stephanie Limon Bazan (D)

**Qualifications:** I'm a former educator, current nonprofit leader & board member with experience making policy-driven decisions & recommendations, overseeing \$100M+ budgets & collaborating across differing viewpoints.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** Students deserve a social studies curriculum that is historically accurate and sets a foundation in geography, government and economics while also incorporating culture to help them grow into informed and engaged citizens. By learning multiple perspectives and developing critical think-

ing skills, students are better prepared to participate actively and contribute thoughtfully in their communities.

**Teacher Support:** Policies should support multiple, high-quality pathways into the classroom and remove barriers to entry while maintaining high standards. We must respect and treat educators as professionals and ensure professional development is meaningful, not merely compliance-driven. Focusing on a strong, sustainable pipeline will help ensure every student has access to well-prepared, supported teachers.

**Digital Education:** SBOE can support responsible, age-appropriate access to technology that helps prepare students for college and careers, while affirming that strong instruction is grounded in skilled educators

## ★ DISTRICT 5

### ★ Stephanie Limon Bazan (D) *(continued)*

and proven teaching practices. Technology should be a tool that enhances learning, expands access, and supports differentiated instruction, and not a replacement for teachers.

**Religion in Public Schools:** A broad understanding of world religions is an important part of a well-rounded education, helping students understand diverse perspectives and cultures. Public school curriculum, however, should remain grounded in the separation of church and state, and no single religion, including

Christianity, should be promoted as an exclusive viewpoint, nor should any faith be elevated or denigrated.

**Other Issues:** Other important issues facing the SBOE include supporting English Language Learners, addressing the impact of poverty on student achievement, recruiting and retaining bilingual educators, and meeting the growing needs of students receiving special education services. All while making sure we are strengthening public schools and better supporting all students, teachers and families.

**Campaign Website:** [stephaniebazan.com](http://stephaniebazan.com)



### ★ Neto Longoria (D)

**Qualifications:** Graduate student at the LBJ School of Public Affairs; AISD UpClose Class of 2025 alumnus; former bilingual special education teacher (PK-12); and Parent Support Specialist.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** The K-12 social studies curriculum should balance state, national, and world history while reflecting Texas's diverse, minority-majority population. It must include the contributions of women, LGBTQIA+ communities, and diverse ethnic groups. World history, cultures and geography ought to be examined to best prepare students for a global society.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE can strengthen teacher support by promoting a diverse workforce, reducing barriers to preparation, and expanding mentorship and culturally responsive training. Certification should include more robust, practice-based pathways. Ongoing professional development must support teacher mental health, responsible use of AI, urban school needs, and protect teacher rights and professional autonomy

**Digital Education:** The SBOE can balance technology and traditional instruction by ethically leveraging AI alongside in-person teaching, testing, and facilitation. Clear ethical and safe-use standards should guide AI for translation and evaluation, while positively reinforcing face-to-face interaction, collaboration, and student-centered learning.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Public schools should teach about Christianity and other religions in a neutral, fact-based, and nonpartisan manner. Instruction should acknowledge their historical and cultural impact in Texas, the U.S., and the world, while respecting religious freedom and maintaining the constitutional separation of church and state.

**Other Issues:** Key issues facing the State Board of Education include protecting teacher rights and professional autonomy, ensuring accountability and transparency for charter schools, improving fair and meaningful accountability systems, and advocating for equitable, sustainable school funding that meets the needs of all Texas students.

**Campaign Website:** [NetoFortexas.com](http://NetoFortexas.com)

## ★ DISTRICT 5 *(continued)*



### ★ Victor Sampson (D)

**Qualifications:** Former teacher, current UT professor, and curriculum expert with 20+ years improving STEM education, teacher training, and policy. Committed to evidence-based decisions and strong public schools.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** We must teach honest, research-based history that builds critical thinking, not rote recall. Standards should be drafted by educators, textbooks chosen on objective criteria, and laws like HB 3979/SB 3 implemented responsibly. Students deserve rigorous, accurate, inclusive curriculum that prepares them for civic life in a diverse and global society.

**Teacher Support:** Teaching is hard and students deserve skilled teachers. Texas should ensure teacher certification programs are meaningful and effective, grounded in research and classroom practice. We must support pre-service teachers through scholarships and fellowships so they can focus on learning and fund high-quality, sustained PD that meets district needs and helps in-service teachers grow.

**Digital Education:** Technology should support learn-

ing, not replace schools. In-person instruction that centers interactions between people and ideas is essential for social and emotional development and academic success. The SBOE should view EdTech as a tool to enrich community schools in a way that increases access to high-quality instruction not as way to create alternative pathways.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Public schools must respect the separation of church and state. All students, regardless of belief, have the right to an education free from religious indoctrination. Social studies can, and should, teach how religions have shaped history, but no single faith should set standards for values or behavior that all students must follow.

**Other Issues:** The SBOE must create academic standards that promote critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving rather than memorization; support schools that center student motivation, engagement, and belonging; adopt policies that empower teachers as professionals; foster innovation in teaching; and drop high-stakes testing in favor of an accountability system that supports opportunity and growth.

**Campaign Website:** [www.victorsampson.org](http://www.victorsampson.org)

## ★ Mica Arellano (R)

Unopposed

## ★ DISTRICT 6

### ★ Michelle Palmer (D)

Unopposed

## ★ DISTRICT 6 *(continued)*



### ★ Barbara Denson (R)

**Qualifications:** I graduated Magna Cum Laude in Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. I built a successful career as an engineer, later I focused on environmental science. I'm effective with varied viewpoints

**Social Studies Curriculum:** The recently approved social studies framework has an excellent balance of each. Historical documents should be used to accurately teach core constitutional principles, civic duties, and global context. Texas history is American history, and teaching both thoroughly will build informed, responsible citizens who understand their state, their nation, and their place in the wider world.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE has strengthened instruction by encouraging high-quality residencies. Data shows that 90% percent of candidates who complete Texas' high-touch, hands-on model return for a third year of teaching. The SBOE should review data to evaluate the results of teacher mentorship programs and instructional materials/resources to ensure every teacher has sufficient training, tools and resources.

**Digital Education:** The SBOE can blend technology

with proven teaching by using digital tools and AI to enhance—not replace—traditional teaching. AI in particular offers exciting possibilities, but it must be used carefully and responsibly to protect students and keep learning grounded in strong instruction. I would never want a child's education to rely solely on computers without guidance from a live adult teacher.

**Religion in Public Schools:** I believe that parents should guide their children's moral and ethical upbringing according to their own values. However, Texas law says that there must be TEKS for religious literature that ensure school districts provide religious instruction—either integrated into other subjects or, where appropriate, as a standalone course—as a condition of accreditation.

**Other Issues:** Problems (teaching what to think, not how to think) with the science books are what pushed me into this race. In addition, updating science every 8 years is far too slow. That cycle must be shortened. CTE is also increasingly vital as high-tech companies move in, and we need stronger, modern training in a vast array of CTE areas so students can compete and thrive in a rapidly evolving workforce.

**Campaign Website:** [barbaradenson4texas.com](http://barbaradenson4texas.com)

### ★ Tiffany Nelson (R)

No response received

## ★ DISTRICT 7



### ★ Debra Drake Ambroise (D)

**Qualifications:** I served three terms as a Board Trustee. I understand Texas public education from the classroom level to system-wide policy. I am committed to student learning and civic readiness.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** Social Studies cur-

riculum should intentionally balance all levels of history so students understand their local identity within a broader national and global context. The curriculum should emphasize critical thinking, historical inquiry, multiple perspectives and media literacy. Preparing responsible citizens means helping students analyze evidence and engage with different viewpoints.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE can strengthen teacher

## ★ DISTRICT 7

### ★ Debra Drake Ambroise (D) *(continued)*

support by ensuring certification standards are rigorous, relevant, and aligned with classroom realities. Preparation programs should emphasize content knowledge, effective pedagogy, classroom management, and culturally responsive instruction. Ongoing professional development should be teacher-informed, research-based, and job-embedded to meet the district needs.

**Digital Education:** Technology should be used as a tool to enhance learning, not replace effective teaching. The SBOE should support thoughtful integration of digital resources that improve access, personalize instruction and build digital literacy. Clear guidelines should engage age-appropriate technology use, protect student privacy, and support educators in choosing when digital tools are most effective.



### ★ Janell Burse (D)

**Qualifications:** Former substitute teacher and parent who homeschooled. I hold a BS from Tulane in Computer Information Systems, a business minor,

and bring a future-ready, technology-focused approach to education.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** There should be a greater emphasis on democratic principles by teaching local, state, national, and world history in age-appropriate ways. Students should learn the Constitution, civic responsibility, voting, respectful debate, and how informed participation strengthens a democratic society.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE can strengthen teaching by updating certification standards, training teachers to use modern technology, supporting mentorship, and providing ongoing professional development that keeps classrooms current and effective.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Public schools must remain religiously neutral, as required by the U.S. Constitution. While students should learn about religion in an objective, academic manner such as its historical and cultural influence, public school should not promote or endorse Christianity. Maintaining this separation protects religious freedom for students and families and ensure respect of Texas' diverse population.

**Other Issues:** Key issues facing the SBOE include high-quality, accurate instructional materials; addressing learning gaps and student achievement; supporting teacher recruitment and retention; and maintaining transparency and public trust in the curriculum adoption process. The Board must also navigate the responsible use of artificial intelligence, and the need for strong civic education.

**Digital Education:** The SBOE can balance learning by using technology to support, (not replace) traditional teaching. Schools should blend digital tools with hands-on instruction, discussion, reading, and problem-solving, while ensuring diverse learning styles and access for all students.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Public schools should follow the Constitution by neither promoting nor prohibiting religion. Students can learn about different faiths in an educational context, while families guide personal beliefs. Schools may offer moments of silence or optional reflection that respect all religions and beliefs.

**Other Issues:** A pressing issue for the SBOE is ensuring parents have a strong voice in their children's education. The State Board of Education must uphold the Constitution by protecting parental rights, supporting transparency in curriculum, and ensuring every student has access to a quality education.

## ★ DISTRICT 7 *(continued)*



### ★ Ben Estrada (D)

**Qualifications:** I have a bachelors in Management Information Systems from UH and I've worked for the last 15 years in Oil & Gas and Tech as an IT professional to teach technical concepts to business operations teams.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** World history is essential to providing context to Texas and US history. We should take a balanced approach that recognizes Texas and US history while also acknowledging that they are subsets of a broader global narrative. We must reject sanitized history that focuses only on exceptionalism and embrace a curriculum that includes robust world history, geography, and diverse cultural perspectives.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE should support teachers by strengthening the new residency and mentorship pathways funded by HB 2. We need to ensure these programs provide real pay and support to help reverse the teacher shortage. We must also end curriculum whiplash by depoliticizing standards, approving better materials to reduce workload, and focusing training on core subjects instead of political mandates.

**Digital Education:** Technology should remain a tool

to enhance lessons, not a replacement for teacher-led instruction. The SBOE should prioritize student wellness by following LRPT guidelines on digital health and screen time. We should also support traditional, print-based methods to ensure foundational mastery, using tech only when it adds clear value to learning and protects student development.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Separation of church and state is vital to ensure public schools remain inclusive and neutral. Religious instruction is the responsibility of families and places of worship, not the government. By keeping the curriculum secular and centered on core subjects, we protect students of all backgrounds from state-sponsored indoctrination and ensure that public funds never favor one belief over another.

**Other Issues:** One of the most pressing issue facing the State Board of Education is the protection of public school funding from the expansion of private school vouchers. Although the SBOE doesn't manage vouchers directly, the board can use its control over the Permanent School Fund to help keep public education fully funded.

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



### ★ Adam Khan (D)

**Qualifications:** As a former and current public special education teacher, specialist and principal for elementary, middle and high schools in Houston area for 10+ years, I have experience and a doctorate in education

**Social Studies Curriculum:** Texas civics, U.S. and world history curriculum should share factual details which may or may not steer students towards 'global citizens'. The idea of global interdependence is not necessarily an essential theme- as some experts wish. Rather, focusing on multiple perspectives and other civic mile-

stones we have accomplished, should generate Socratic feedback and engagements.

**Teacher Support:** Upon elected, I will strengthen teacher preparation by clearly aligning curriculum standards with classroom realities. I intend to streamline certification with higher quality control for new teachers, including mentorship. I will push for more professional development funding—especially in content knowledge, pedagogy, and student support—to help teachers deliver better instruction.

**Digital Education:** SBOE should promote technology use that enhances, not replaces, instruction. Clear guidelines can encourage digital tools for personalization, access, and skill-building while preserving proven

## ★ DISTRICT 7

### ★ Adam Khan (D) *(continued)*

methods like discussion. Take it from a special education teacher who provides accommodations for strugglers.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Legally, we have the constitution that expressly forbids holding another religion above another- even indirectly. The Establishment Clause and First Amendment rights protect impression-

able children from this. The goal is to live and let live; however, even as an ordained minister, it pains me to not allow God in the conversation. I believe in the Constitution and will promote balance and equity.

**Other Issues:** Savings account, Bluebonnet curriculum, and funding in general.

**Campaign Website:** [DrAdamKhanTexasD7.com](http://DrAdamKhanTexasD7.com)



### ★ Tiffany Perkinz (D)

**Qualifications:** I am a lifelong Texas educator and parent of six, with experience in public, private, and higher education. I hold a Master's in Education

and own a tutoring and independent teaching business.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** K-12 social studies should ground students in a true and honest account of Texas history and frame it within a national and global context. Students should understand how events in Texas connect to larger U.S. and world events. Instruction recognizes that Texas both shapes and is shaped by the wider world, and prepares them to be informed citizens in a global society, not just memorizers of facts.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE can strengthen teacher support by prioritizing preparation programs grounded in real classroom experience, mentorship, and subject-area expertise. Certification should be rigorous without unnecessary barriers. Professional development should be teacher-led, practical, and classroom-relevant. Supporting teachers as professionals improves retention and leads to stronger instruction.

**Digital Education:** Technology should support—not replace—learning. Teachers report that overuse of AI is

weakening students' critical thinking and writing skills, which are rooted in learning how to think. Students need to read whole novels and engage in sustained writing rather than test-prep excerpts or shortcuts. Teachers should have the autonomy to decide when technology enhances versus hinders learning.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Public schools should not promote or endorse any religion. Religious topics may be taught in an academic, historical, or literary context, but instruction must remain neutral and inclusive. Faith formation belongs to families and religious communities, not the state. Maintaining religious neutrality protects students' freedom of belief and ensures public schools serve all Texans.

**Other Issues:** One of the most pressing issues for the SBOE is protecting academic freedom and keeping politics out of curriculum decisions. The board must prioritize transparency, high-quality instructional materials, and long-term literacy and critical thinking over ideological agendas. Public schools should be places where students are supported and prepared to think critically, engage civically, and succeed.

**Campaign Website:** [texasfortiffany7.org](http://texasfortiffany7.org)

### ★ Julie Pickren (R)

Unopposed

## ★ DISTRICT 8

### ★ Shahzeb Meghani (D)

**Qualifications:** I am a software developer who brings my STEM expertise and data-driven judgment to the table to support strong schools, improve student outcomes, and advocate policies that reflect classroom needs.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** Social studies should balance state, national, and world history. Giving younger students a broad historical picture and revisiting topics in later grades allows them to recontextualize events to understand how previous actions shape future decisions and events. This leads to the development of civic identity and global awareness.

**Teacher Support:** Texas faces significant teacher attrition. One way to alleviate this is to advocate the state for higher minimum salaries and ensuring the state funds them through teacher incentive allotment (TIA).

Certifications costs can also be cheaper and the process of certification can be improved while maintaining its high quality.

**Digital Education:** Physical books, paper, and pencils should be all that is needed for younger students to understand how to do math, write complete sentences, and understand concepts before technology is introduced to them. As they get older, use of a computer to type papers and research can be used but a reliance on technology without the foundations leads to less understanding and reduced critical thinking.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Public schools should not promote or teach any specific religion, including Christianity. Religion should only be discussed objectively in the context of history or culture to understand its impact on civilizations. Religious belief and doctrine are personal choices and should be taught by families and religious institutions, not public schools.



### ★ Dana Van De Walker (D)

**Qualifications:** I am a dedicated and passionate educator with nearly 20 years of experience. I have worked in K-12 education and now enjoy working with Texas youth as a community college professor and administrator.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** Social studies education is essential in preparing the next generation to be engaged citizens and responsible community members. We owe it to our children to ensure that history is accurately taught in schools and that all high school graduates leave school with a firm understanding of civics, governance, and economics. Texas youth are the global workers of tomorrow—they should be well-rounded.

**Teacher Support:** The State Board of Ed has great power and great responsibility. We need to ensure that teaching positions are filled with qualified candidates, while also acknowledging that there is a teacher short-

age. We need to reassess teacher pay and benefits, routes to alternate certification that actually work, and methods to retain veteran teachers. Professional development is critical in this mission.

**Digital Education:** I'm not writing responses with generative AI, but I could be. We now live in a reality where we can fear technology or use it to our benefit. Understanding the complexities of technology is something that I'm deeply interested in and on day one, I would prioritize ways to train teacher in digital instruction and new learning technologies (while also dedicating time to understand tech ethics).

**Religion in Public Schools:** Religion has no place in our public schools. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of religion (including none). Christian ideology or curriculum in TX schools is an assault to this constitutional right. As educators, we can respect a student's individual right to freedom of religion while also maintaining the core belief of separation of church and state.

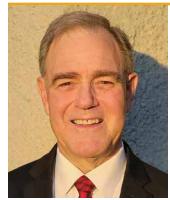
## ★ DISTRICT 8

### ★ Dana Van De Walker (D) *(continued)*

**Other Issues:** In addition to the issues above, I am deeply committed to the following: Ending school vouchers (which weaken our public school system), improving statewide math and literacy standards, making

higher education more affordable (along with strengthening programs to prepare students for college, military, or career), and ensuring equal access to education for ALL Texans, regardless of status.

**Campaign Website:** [www.dana4txsboe8.com](http://www.dana4txsboe8.com)



### ★ George Brian Vachris (R)

**Qualifications:** Licensed P.E. in Texas with 4 degrees; Former Certified Teacher of mathematics, physical science, engineering (6-12);

Taught 9 years at a Title 1 school in Houston. Go to [vachriscampaign.com](http://vachriscampaign.com)

**Social Studies Curriculum:** The course curriculum is set by statute and SBOE vote already. What are being developed now are the individual course TEKS. I have submitted pages of written testimony to SBOE with specific suggestions to improve the TEKS. For a general outline, go to [vachriscampaign.com](http://vachriscampaign.com). There is not enough room in 400 characters to specify changes to one course, never mind all of chapter 113 TAC.

**Teacher Support:** While there is currently an emphasis on teaching methodology, there is far too little emphasis on teaching facts and specific subject matter. Teacher professional development should include methods to teach specific content as specified in the TEKS. This should emphasize student memorization of basic material such as times tables, historical timelines with key facts, etc.

**Digital Education:** Digital Education, including cal-

culators, should not be used in elementary grades. Students need to learn to read the printed word. Students need to learn to calculate with pencil and paper. Student testing should be on paper. Federal Title one requires State student tests but does NOT require on-line testing. This should be reserved for upper grades. Computer Sciences should include MS Excel.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Our Judeo-Christian heritage is embedded into our legal system and our entire culture. It is WRONG to murder or steal. History should teach the Christian religious founding of the colonies, this is historical reality. The role of Christians in the abolition movement is historical reality. The first Amendment does not mention “separation of church and state”, rather it guarantees religious freedom.

**Other Issues:** The State Board of Education is responsible for oversite of the Texas Permanent School Fund. Investments should be made with the dual goal of preserving and growing the investment capital value while maximizing the return on investment. While these goals can be in conflict, they are not mutually exclusive, and careful attention should be paid to the proper mix of investments.

**Campaign Website:** [vachriscampaign.com](http://vachriscampaign.com)

## ★ DISTRICT 8 *(continued)*



### ★ Audrey G. Young (R)

**Qualifications:** Audrey brings more than three decades of distinguished service in Texas public education. Her career reflects academic rigor and a career-long dedication to understanding the needs of Texas children.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** As a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Social Studies, Audrey has worked collaboratively with educators, content experts, and community stakeholders to ensure that the curriculum framework reflects both academic rigor and real-world relevance. She has developed a structured approach that includes clear strands, coherent course sequencing, and the integration of primary sources.

**Teacher Support:** Dr. Young has been a vocal supporter of National Board Certification, recognizing it as one of the most rigorous and research-based professional credentials available to teachers. By encouraging policies that expand access to National Board programs, she has helped more Texas educators pursue advanced certification, deepen their instructional expertise, and remain in the profession long-term.

**Digital Education:** Audrey recognizes digital tools

can expand access, however, she believes that engaging in foundational practices: reading physical texts, writing by hand, participating in discussion, and learning through hands-on activities are most effective for Texas students. Audrey has been a steady advocate for ensuring that technology enhances—not replaces—high-quality teaching and learning.

**Religion in Public Schools:** Dr. Young supports teaching about religion in an academic, historical, and culturally relevant context. This includes supporting curriculum standards that allow students to study the historical influence of various religions while preparing students to understand the diverse world around them. As an educator, she values ensuring that students receive a well-rounded, academically sound education.

**Other Issues:** Several pressing issues: school board training, mathematics standards, and the adoption of high-quality instructional materials. Audrey believes that strengthening school board training is essential to ensuring that locally elected trustees are well-prepared to govern effectively, understand their legal responsibilities, and make informed decisions that support student achievement and outcomes.

**Campaign Website:** SBOE8.com

## ★ DISTRICT 9

### ★ Ericka Ledferd (D)

Unopposed

### ★ Rachel Hogue (R)

No response received

### ★ Kason Huddleston (R)

No response received

## ★ DISTRICT 9 *(continued)*



### ★ Stephen Yearout (R)

**Qualifications:** I am a parent, literacy and dyslexia advocate, and policy collaborator with direct experience working with the SBOE and Legislature. Evidence-based instruction, Transparency, and Students First.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** Social studies should be factual, age-appropriate, and balanced. Students need a strong understanding of Texas history, U.S. civics, and global context grounded in primary sources and historical accuracy. The goal is to develop critical thinking, civic responsibility, and informed citizenship without political bias.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE should align teacher preparation and instructional materials with cognitive science and developmental research on how the brain acquires language and literacy. Professional development should emphasize structured, evidence-based practices that support learning, memory, and skill development while remaining practical for the classroom.

**Digital Education:** Research shows that excessive classroom technology can hinder attention, memory, and skill development, especially in early grades. The SBOE should prioritize direct instruction and foundational learning, using technology only when it clearly supports instruction rather than replaces teacher-led learning or collects unnecessary student data.

**Religion in Public Schools:** As a Christian, I believe faith formation belongs first to the families, not government institutions. Public schools should respect religious beliefs without interpreting or promoting doctrine. Students may learn about religions in historical context, but the SBOE, TEA, and ISDs must not step into the role of parents in matters of faith.

**Other Issues:** Key priorities include adopting evidence-based instructional materials, setting clear academic standards, overseeing the Permanent School Fund responsibly, and enduring transparency in textbooks and curriculum decisions. The SBOE's role is to focus on student outcomes, fiscal stewardships and public trust.

**Campaign Website:** [yearout4sboe9.com](http://yearout4sboe9.com)

## ★ DISTRICT 13

### ★ Kimberly Boswell (D)

No response received



### ★ Tiffany Clark (D)

**Qualifications:** EdD with research on teacher retention; former teacher, counselor, adjunct professor, and 6-year school board trustee bringing classroom insight, governance experience, and equity-focused leadership.

**Social Studies Curriculum:** Teaching world, state, and national history requires honesty. History is not

opinion but documented events and contributions that shape our nation. The U.S. was built through the labor, intellect, resistance, and sacrifice of Black and Brown Americans. Removing African American or Mexican American studies erases truth. A full history builds critical thinking and strengthens democracy.

**Teacher Support:** The SBOE can strengthen teacher preparation by grounding it in real classroom conditions. Teachers need mentors and practical training beyond theory to meet students' academic, social, and

## ★ DISTRICT 13

### ★ Tiffany Clark (D) *(continued)*

emotional needs. Preparation must include trauma-informed practices, classroom management, and family engagement components while holding programs accountable. Lastly, supporting teachers with livable wages.

**Digital Education:** The SBOE should support learning by using technology as a resource, not a replacement, for strong instruction. Digital tools should complement proven methods like direct instruction, writing, discussion, and critical thinking. Thoughtful integration, such as blending tech with hands-on learning, enhances outcomes while preserving foundational skills.

**Religion in Public Schools:** I am a proud member of Friendship West Baptist Church, led by Rev. Dr. Fred-

erick D. Haynes III. My faith is central to who I am, but faith should uplift, not be weaponized. Public education must not mandate religion or privilege one worldview. That is indoctrination, not education, and it limits empathy, critical thinking, and democracy.

**Other Issues:** I want heightened awareness of mental health and conflict resolution in schools, even possibly as a graduation requirement. We are losing too many students due to poor emotional regulation. I also want TEA to track outcome data tied to student success: which programs improve outcomes, facility closures, and providing districts real interventions before taking local control away from the community.

**Campaign Website:** [tiffanyclark4stateofeducation.nationbuilder.com](http://tiffanyclark4stateofeducation.nationbuilder.com)

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### ★ April Williams Moore (R)

Unopposed

## ★ DISTRICT 14

### ★ Amy Taylor (D)

Unopposed

### ★ Mindy Bumgarner (R)

Unopposed

## CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS

Six-year term. There are 14 regional Courts of Appeals, each covering several counties, plus a specialized 15th Court with statewide jurisdiction. Each of these Courts includes a Chief Justice and at least two other Justices. These Courts hear appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in their districts. Current annual salary range: \$205,000–\$255,050

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



# BE A TEXAS VOTER!

Whichever way you choose to vote, be sure you are registered by checking at [VoteTexas.gov](https://VOTETexas.gov)! You must be registered before you can vote! Then, vote in one of the following ways.

## VOTE BY MAIL

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

## VOTE IN PERSON

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

## VOTE IN PERSON USING CURBSIDE VOTING

- If you are physically unable to enter the polling place without personal assistance or likelihood of injuring your health, you may park at the curbside voting parking space and call the number that is posted to ask that an election officer bring a ballot to your car.
- However, you must sign a form declaring, under penalty of perjury, that you cannot physically enter the polling station without personal assistance or without putting your health at risk.
- After you mark your ballot, give it to the election officer or hand it to a companion to deposit in the ballot box for you.

## VOTE EVEN IF YOU ARE A SUSPENDED VOTER

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

## PURGED FROM THE VOTER ROLLS?

If you receive a notice requesting proof of citizenship for your voter registration and you are a U.S. citizen, do not ignore it. Contact your county voter registrar or election office immediately to confirm your registration status and learn what steps, if any, you need to take to remain eligible to vote.

## VOTE A LIMITED BALLOT

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

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



# VOTER ID: WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

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

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

Note:

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

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

## VOTER HARASSMENT

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



# VOTERS GUIDE SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

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