

2022 Voters Guide

Early Voting: February 14-25

Election Day: March 1



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

The League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area is a strictly nonpartisan organization.
The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

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PICKING YOUR BALLOT

The March 1 election is actually two separate primary elections - the Democratic primary and the Republican primary. You will choose one of the two ballots and vote for all your candidates from that to help determine which ones will represent their party in the November 8 general election. For races in which no candidate receives a majority of the votes, runoffs will be held May 24. You may vote only in the runoff of the party in which you voted in the March election.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Vice President of Voter Services – Glenda Wolin

Members – Barbara Baruch, Kim Cauthorn, Melanie Cawthon, Greta Hawkins-Mathis, Martha Lankford, Alene Lindley, Teri Swartz

A LETTER TO VOTERS

Dear Voter,

In this joint primary election for the Democratic and Republican parties, each party will choose its candidate for several important statewide seats including governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general. Republicans and Democrats will also choose their candidates to face off in November for district-based congressional and legislative offices, the State Board of Education and judicial seats.

You are allowed to cast a ballot in either primary regardless of party affiliation. You don't need to register with a party ahead of time. 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 (for Libertarian and Green Parties). If you are voting by mail, be sure to request on your application which party's ballot you want. If you vote in person, you will be asked to choose when you check in.

This Voters Guide will help you pick candidates that align with you on issues important to you. You may want to visit Vote411.org, the electronic version of this guide, for responses to additional questions posed to the candidates, and possibly responses by candidates who did not respond in time for the Voters Guide.

Make informed choices and make democracy work. VOTE, it is in your best interest.



Madhu Sridhar

President, League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots, ALL-VOLUNTEER organization that promotes the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League is strictly nonpartisan; we never support or oppose any political party or candidate. Born more than a century ago out of the national movement to get women the right to vote, the League is open to everyone. The women and men who belong to the League share a commitment to encourage political responsibility.

The League is widely known and well respected for our nonpartisan and fair work in voter education. We also hold forums on important public policy issues, organize voter registration drives, sponsor candidate forums, conduct get-out-the-vote campaigns and work with area schools and universities.

Many citizens, unsure of their rights at the polls, choose not to participate. In 2018, the San Antonio League prepared the landmark Texas Voters' Bill of Rights in both English and Spanish (included in this Guide) to close the participation gap. The League has also put together a brochure, "*Frequently Asked Questions about Voting and Elections*," in English and Spanish that is available and can be downloaded from our website, www.lwvsa.org. Also on our website you will find guidelines for obtaining and completing a mail ballot application and voting by mail so they will not be rejected, as many have because of the new law.

The League of Women Voters operates at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well as in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. At all three

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

levels, we encourage informed and active participation of citizens in their government, educate citizens on major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

HOW THE LEAGUE GATHERED THE DATA

In compiling information for this Voters Guide, the ALL-VOLUNTEER League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area, other local leagues and the League of Women Voters of Texas sent questionnaires to all candidates in contested races. To follow up, candidates were contacted by email or phone.

The leagues formulated all questions asked of the candidates. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Due to space restrictions, candidates were given strict word limits. The software truncates answers at the limit in a form that candidates can see. All candidates were informed of this process.

The League assumes no responsibility for replies not received, or received after the deadline. Replies received after the deadline are available on [VOTE411.org](https://Vote411.org), the League's online resource for upcoming elections.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Voters Guide is put together by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area, a strictly nonpartisan organization, to fulfill its longstanding commitment to promote an active and informed electorate. The League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. This public service effort is designed to provide the voters with the information they need to help them make informed choices about the candidates and issues in the March 1 election.

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

VOTING INFORMATION

To vote in the March 1 election, you must have registered by January 31.

VOTE SAFELY

- Wear a mask
- Maintain social distancing
- Follow sanitation instructions from poll workers
- Make a list of your choices ahead of time and take it with you to allow you to spend minimum time at the polling booth.

VOTE CENTERS FOR ELECTION DAY

- Voters will be allowed to vote at any open voting site on Election Day, just as they do in early voting.
 - Early voting locations will also be open on Election Day
- Wherever you go, you will not be turned away if you are registered in Bexar County. Polling sites will be listed on the Bexar Elections Department website, <https://www.bexar.org/1568/Elections-Department>, after early voting ends, and in the Express-News immediately before Election Day.

Continued on Page 4

When you enter the polling place and reach the front of the line, hand your identification to the election official at the computer, who will check you in and have you sign the register. A poll worker will escort you to a voting machine. If you need instructions, you can ask the poll worker then or at any other time.

Make sure you follow the instructions to finalize your vote. Once you have done that, you may leave. (See instructions under Voting Machines below)

If you make a mistake on your ballot, you can ask for a new one before you walk away from the booth. Do not wait, because once someone else's ballot is loaded, your ballot cannot be retrieved.

VOTING MACHINES

Instructions for the Machines

- Feed the card given to you by the poll worker into the machine. The machine will display your ballot. Make your selections.
- Once you have made all your choices, press a button and the card is ejected.
- Check your card carefully to make sure what is printed is what you chose. If it is not, let a poll worker know immediately, before you leave the booth, so you can get a new ballot.
- Take the card to the tabulator, which looks like a large bin with a laptop on top and has a poll worker next to it.
- Feed the card into the slot. This is VERY IMPORTANT – that is when your vote is registered.
- Don't leave with your card or you have **not** voted.
- Once the tabulator has registered your vote, the card drops into the locked bin underneath.

Other Important Instructions:

- You can use the screen as it is, make the type larger or adjust the contrast for comfortable viewing.
- You may select an English- or Spanish-language ballot. You can also switch back and forth between English and Spanish ballots.
- The machines are also capable of selecting an audio ballot for the blind.
- Special machines can be taken outside for disabled voters who need to remain in their cars.

ACCESSIBILITY, LANGUAGES

All polling places must be accessible to people with disabilities. People with mobility problems are allowed by law to move to the front of the line. A sign will be posted concerning that.

Ballots are provided in English and Spanish. People who are not proficient in either language may select as an interpreter anyone who is not the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs. The interpreter must take an oath of interpreter.

A person who is physically unable to mark the ballot or read it may ask for assistance from anyone who is not the voter's employer, an agent of the voter's employer, or an officer or agent of a labor union to which the voter belongs. The assistant must take an oath of assistance. Two poll workers can also assist.

SHOWING IDENTIFICATION

All voters must show identification before voting. The preferred method is to show one of the seven acceptable forms of photo identification. They are listed on the back of the Texas Voters' Bill of Rights, on **Pages 29-32** of this Voters Guide. If you have one but did

not bring it, and you cannot return to the polls with it before closing, you can vote a provisional ballot. If you take your ID to the Elections Office within 6 calendar days, your vote will be counted.

If you do not possess one of the acceptable IDs and cannot reasonably obtain one, you can fill out a Reasonable Impediment declaration explaining why and show a document from another list, which is also on the back of the Texas Voters' Bill of Rights.

PROVISIONAL BALLOTING

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

More information about your voting rights is in the Texas Voters' Bill of Rights, **Pages 29-32**.

VOTING BY MAIL

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

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

To request a ballot, contact Bexar County Elections, 210-335-8683, or download an application from <https://www.bexar.org/3271/Vote-by-Mail> or <https://webservices.sos.state.tx.us/forms/5-15f.pdf>.

You can fill it out online but **you cannot submit it online**. You must download it, sign it and mail it. Completed applications must be mailed, with an original signature, so they are received by the Bexar County Elections Department no later than **February 18**. Faxed or emailed applications will be accepted only if followed by a paper application with an original signature within four days of sending the electronic application.

New this time is a requirement to provide either your drivers license number, state ID issued by DPS, or, if you do not have one, the last four digits of your Social Security number on both your ballot application and your ballot envelope. The number must match what you put on your voter registration. If you are uncertain which you used, it is suggested that you provide both numbers to reduce the chance that your application will be rejected.

Once you have received your ballot, you must complete it, seal it in the white envelope and then seal that in the self-addressed carrier envelope. Sign the envelope as instructed – that signature will be compared with the signature on your application for the ballot to make sure both were signed by you. Mail the ballot back as soon as possible. If your ballot is one page, one stamp is sufficient. If it is two pages, it may take two stamps. It must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day, **March 1**, or by 5 p.m. **March 3** if the carrier envelope is postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day in Bexar County.

TRACKING YOUR BALLOT

Track your mail ballot application and your completed mail ballot at the Bexar Elections website: [Bexar.org/elections](https://www.bexar.org/elections). Look for "Track Your Ballot" on the left side of the home page.

HELPFUL INFORMATION AND CONTACT NUMBERS

League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area

Phone: 210-657-2206

Website: lwvsa.org

League of Women Voters of Texas

Phone: 512-472-1100

Website: lwvtexas.org

League of Women Voters of the United States

Phone: 202-429-1965

Website: lwv.org

USE THE FOLLOWING TWO SITES TO:

- Download an application to register to vote
- Download an application to register name and address changes

- Find Early Voting locations and hours of operation
- Download a Ballot-By-Mail Application
- View a sample ballot
- View the election calendar
- View election results for previous and current elections

Bexar County Elections Department

Phone: 210-335-8683

Website: bexar.org/elections or Google *Bexar elections*

Texas Elections Department


Website: votetexas.gov

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE


2-year term. Writing bills and resolutions, offering amendments and serving on committees. How do they impact you? By answering directly to the relatively small group of people they represent and running for election every two years, as opposed to senators, who represent an entire state and have 6-year terms.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 20

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?	Do you believe federal election laws should be changed? Explain.	What laws should Congress pass regarding climate change, if any?
 Kyle Sinclair (R)	<p>Economy/Job/Taxes - Keep taxes LOW so small businesses can grow and create new jobs. We need to reform our tax system so that it's fairer and simpler to understand for everyone. Border/Immigration - We must ensure that our Border Patrol, Police, and Military have all the necessary resources and technology to protect our freedoms on the border. Healthcare - A proven leader in health care, we need to continue to look for free market creative ideas, fix the broken system.</p>	<p>Yes I believe Federal election laws should make it harder to cheat and easier to vote. Voting is an vital part of our democracy and should held with the highest regard for transparency and integrity. In order to gain the peoples trust in our election system we must do the following. I believe any legal citizen should have to produce a voter identification, signature verification, bipartisan ballot/poll observation and minimizing mail in ballot when possible. I do not believe in ballot harvesting</p>	<p>American needs to continue to focus on cleaning the environment for future generations and as a leader of the free world holding other countries accountable while not destroying our economy. I am for clean energy, renewable energy, especially when it becomes sustainable. I do not believe in climate change, global warming, or rising sea levels.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Joaquin Castro (D)			

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 21

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?	Do you believe federal election laws should be changed? Explain.	What laws should Congress pass regarding climate change, if any?
 Michael Alexander French (R)	<p>Finish the wall and start enforcing all immigration laws! A gargantuan and unrelenting tsunami of foreign nationals walk freely, without hesitation, through our southern border, immediately overwhelming Texas and our resources! We must take care of our federal debt and unfunded liabilities debt to the world, like China and the Middle East. Our debt is killing this nation! We are over \$200 trillion in total national debt. We must stop the spending! Support, defend, and fund more our military and law enforcement officers. Crime is growing rampant because of this un-American defunding movement! We are collapsing as a nation!</p>	<p>We cannot change the voting policies and laws from each individual states by handing that responsibility over to the politicians in Washington D.C. The Democrats will have complete anatomic control over all Local and State elections by Federalizing them. Washington D.C. will guarantee Democrat wins in every election because of: No voter ID verification for age, residency, and US citizenship; complete mail-in ballots, ballot harvesting, 24/7 voting, paper ballot drop boxes, illegal foreign national voting, death row criminal voting, etc! We must protect US citizenship voting only! We must make Federal elections more secure than ever before!</p>	<p>We need to use nuclear energy; it is proven to be the safest and cleanest form of energy. As a country and in individual households, we must decrease the amount of garbage waste that we produce. Give tax cut incentives for business that go green, recycle and reuse more; create a process that is green, safe and create products that do not harm the environment. For example, we must stop using plastic grocery bags and fruit containers and use biodegradable materials and bags that already exist and are used in other countries. There is so much that we can do.</p>



Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?	Do you believe federal election laws should be changed? Explain.	What laws should Congress pass regarding climate change, if any?
 Coy Gee Branscum II (D)	<p>We must pass the For the People Act, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and the Build Back Better Act, all of which are vital to the security of Democracy and the success of our citizens, but it's my hope that they are passed before we win in November. Three issues I would like to address: legalizing and decriminalizing marijuana to create influx of revenue and reduce the market for illegally sourced drugs, expanding education to offer better support for neuro-divergent students, and taking action to halt the effects of climate change</p>	<p>Election Day must be a federal holiday to guarantee every American a full day off to vote. We must make voter registration automatic, and provide easily accessible mail-in ballot drop boxes and 24-hour voting locations for those who work untraditional hours. While the idea is to minimize long lines to vote, it should never be made illegal to provide water and snacks to those waiting to vote. Lastly, we need to pass legislation guaranteeing no one is threatened by "independent vote watchers" or other groups of that nature with an intent to intimidate and harass voters.</p>	<p>It's my responsibility as your representative to fight for legislation that will address the climate crisis with bold action that achieves net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and makes clean energy accessible and affordable for all Americans. Many residents of TX-21 rely heavily on the natural landscape for tourism-driven income. From the inns and cabins along the Frio River to the countless wineries and wedding venues in Dripping Springs, our district's beauty fuels our economy and bold climate action is the only way to keep our communities beautiful for visitors drawn in by our Central Texas charm and each other.</p>
 Claudia Andreana Zapata (D)	<p>I would prioritize expanding food accessibility, ensuring that people have access to healthy food and grocery stores. No one should have to spend up to 3 hours commuting to their closest grocery store. I would prioritize environmental regulation to protect the beauty of Texas hill country and make sure folks have clean, drinkable water and air that is not contaminated by cement plants, rock quarries, and metal recycling facilities. I would prioritize universal healthcare and increased preventive and routine healthcare clinics in rural areas. Having insurance, Medicaid, or VA benefits does not benefit those who lack access to healthcare facilities.</p>	<p>We must address issues within our voting practices and mediums while protecting and encouraging civic engagement. Democracy is under attack, and we need to implement federal uniform voting laws that currently exist in the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. These Acts restore crucial protections against racial voter discrimination, create automatic and same-day voter registration, restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, combat voter suppression and gerrymandering. We must also overturn Citizen's United. Additionally, I champion unique policies such as post-office voter centers and public library cards qualifying as voter identification.</p>	<p>I support the creation of a Civilian Climate Corp to prioritize job security while promoting green energy and clean practices. TX-21 needs EPA guidelines and accountability mechanisms to end flaring. The District suffers from poor air quality due to cement plants and rock quarries; I would expand regulations and commission a study to determine the correlated impacts these practices have on rural health. TX-21 is located above Edward's Aquifer which is set to be pumped dry by 2070. I would call for non-sustainable pumping methods to be fined and held accountable for the long-term impact they have on the community.</p>
 Cherif Gacis (D)	<p>Infrastructure – Our roads and bridges are falling apart and we are not keeping up with the incredible growth that Texas is facing. Middle Class – We have to revisit the Build Back Better plan to alleviate the cost of living that is squeezing our middle class families and hindering the working class' ability for upward mobility. Immigration – Fix it once and for all, it will help both the other issues above by expanding our tax base and providing the manpower needed to rebuild roads and bridges and lower property taxes by building more homes at a faster pace.</p>	<p>We have to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is signed into law to protect the integrity of our democracy.</p>	<p>We have to advance our society and be at the forefront of innovation in reducing our carbon footprint. Other countries are way ahead of our country in adopting green initiatives, we could work with those countries to streamline our movement into the future to being a leader around the world in climate change and initiatives. We have the best technology and the best minds to reach that goal.</p>
 David Anderson Jr. (D)	<p>Education Reform - We are the best country in the world, but we have kids in High school that are reading on a third-grade level. Texas is the best state in America, but we are ranked 41st nationwide in classroom spending. Universal Basic Income- I believe that America needs a universal basic income of \$1,000/month, \$12,000 a year, for every American adult over 18. Medicare For All- America is one of the world's largest economies, and yet, too many of our citizens suffer due to healthcare issues. Healthcare costs have skyrocketed over the past few decades.</p>	<p>[Candidate did not provide an answer to this question.]</p>	<p>2020 is tied with 2016 for the hottest year on record. The earth is basically on fire. We need to take global warming more seriously before it is too late. We are burning forests, Antarctica's ice is melting, and we are getting record heat days daily. That is why if I get elected to Congress, I will support the Green New Deal. We have to save our planet before it is too late.</p>

“Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it.”



— Susan B. Anthony

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?	Do you believe federal election laws should be changed? Explain.	What laws should Congress pass regarding climate change, if any?
 Scott William Sturm (D)	<p>Healthcare – If every major industrialized nation can make health care a right and provide universal coverage to all, it is absurd to suggest that we cannot do the same. Clean Energy – In most states, renewable electricity would reduce the need to import coal and natural gas. Texas alone spends over 1 billion on net coal import. Renewable energy is new jobs, lower bills, and a cleaner planet. Minimum Wage – Far too many people are forced to choose between working for a paycheck and caring for a new child or sick loved one, or going to school.</p>	<p>In order to reduce the distorting influence of money in our politics, we need to undo the disastrous Citizens United v. FEC ruling and give Congress and the States the power to regulate campaign finance. We must return the voices to the millions of Americans who have been silenced by the special interests of the powerful and wealthy or we will continue to see a very small oligarchy gain ever-increasing political power.</p>	<p>America CAN lead the world in sustainable, profitable and innovative environmental solutions but we need to move quicker and get passed those trying to stop innovation and growth. We need to reduce carbon emissions and shift our current economic incentives from dirty fuels to clean renewable energy industries by ending subsidies to oil and fossil fuel companies, including any direct funding or tax giveaways that rig the game in their favor. I will fight for clean energy and be an advocate for green infrastructure improvements. It's time to move on from our present predicament to a more sustainable future.</p>
 Ricardo Villarreal (D)	<p>I support the right to a women's choice and funding planned parenthood because reproductive health is access to care. I will work to expand affordable housing projects because we need to think about the long-term effects this housing disparity causes to our communities. I support public, private, and non-profit solutions to address affordable housing in both rural and urban cities. Healthcare access is not merely about having health insurance; it also includes improving access to medical facilities through transit options, reducing costs of prescription drugs and out-of-pocket expenses related to health care, as well as the cost of insurance overreachingly.</p>	<p>I believe the John Lewis Voting Rights Act needs to be passed to restore federal pre-clearance. The bill would expand oversight into election seats and jurisdiction boundary changes, redistricting, voter I.D. requirements, multi-lingual voting materials, voter roll maintenance, voting locations, and voting opportunities. We have already observed how these areas can be manipulated to maintain power and systematically decrease the participation of certain voters. We want to have more people to participate in the voting process, not less.</p>	<p>My role with climate change is by accelerating the transition from fossil fuels into renewables. We are not going to shut off oil and gas without thinking about the people this affects. This transition needs to lead by creating higher-paying jobs in the renewable energy industry where oil and jobs are. We have to show ERCOT is accountable with the Texas grid, that it can ramp up to our energy needs and not fail ever again. I support energy independence and renewables in Texas to reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Robert Lowry (R), Chip Roy (R), Dana Zavorka (R)			

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 23

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?	Do you believe federal election laws should be changed? Explain.	What laws should Congress pass regarding climate change, if any?
 Alma Arredondo-Lynch (R)	<p>A. Our Country's Sovereignty, Open Border and illegal alien invasion B. Economic freedom, Implementation of Donald Trump policies Opening up and restoring our oil and gas independence and jobs associated with this Industry C. Putting Americans first over illegal aliens, reevaluate and help our senior citizens Meet their needs to a decent living with SS, thus the Pursuit of Happiness, support for prenatal to the natural death policies, and 2A</p>	<p>We need to have political integrity in our elections, verification of signatures, and purge the voter rolls every 60 to 90 days, severe penalties for Politiqueras-- vote harvesting</p>	<p>None, I don't believe in Climate change. If those that espouse climate change lead by example, which they don't. we go thru global cycles....we Allow 8 to 12 % of the population rule the rest of the American people!!!</p>
 John Lira (D)	<p>If elected, I will serve at the forefront of policies and legislation that matters most to the constituents of Texas-23 including the development of Rural Healthcare, the reemergence of entrepreneurship & local small businesses, and long-term, humane immigration reform and border solutions that reflect a nation of immigrants. I support vocational programs that will prepare our youth to enter the workforce and that prepare our mid-career workers for promotions.</p>	<p>Casting undue cost, burden, or doubt on the elections is un-American and anti-Democratic. Americans are demanding more access not only to polling stations, but also to vote-by-mail, 24-hour voting locations, same-day registration, and other options that make it easier to vote, reduce lines, and improve verification and certification processes. Congress must enact legislation to ensure access to the ballot box for all citizens, reduce voter fraud and voter suppression, and get money out politics.</p>	<p>America is a majestic land and we should do all we can to protect it from any man-made or natural threats that pollute or destroy our precious environment. Congress has a responsibility to mitigate the impacts of environmental pollution and destruction of our environment and advance laws that call for cleaner air and drinking water, access to reliable and low-cost energy, and more resilient community infrastructure to withstand extreme weather. We must regain our role as global leaders.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Tony Gonzales (R), Alía Garcia (R), Priscilla Golden (D)			

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 28

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?	Do you believe federal election laws should be changed? Explain.	What laws should Congress pass regarding climate change, if any?
 Cassy Garcia (R)	There is a crisis at the border. I will support our Border Patrol, ensuring they have the required personnel, technology, and infrastructure; Every child should be able to receive a quality education, regardless of zip-code. I support American families enrolling their children in the school of their choice; Texans know firsthand the importance of trade, especially with Mexico. When elected to Congress, I will ensure policies benefit Texas' farmers, ranchers, manufactures, and small businesses.	I believe we need to protect the integrity of the democratic process. We need to restore Americans' trust in our election system and respect each state's independence in how its elections are conducted. We must protect voters and ensure election integrity, implementing common sense measures that protect verified voter identification, defining mail-in ballot voting, ending ballot harvesting, and maintaining transparency and accountability in the election process.	Congress should focus on conservation and strive for U.S. energy independence. Texas is the national leader in oil and natural gas production, and laws should allow for increased domestic energy protection throughout the U.S. There are thousands of blue-collar jobs that depend on a thriving energy industry and Congress needs to work across the aisle to support environmental policies that protect public health and ensure economic viability.
 Sandra Whitten (R)	Border Security/Human Trafficking -our southern border is more than just a talking point it is my life, and we must protect those who are being sold and harmed in the disorder on the border. Clean Bills and Spending Packages- no more stuffing bills with things that are unrelated! Let's make sure our federal employees are no longer in fear of not getting paid because of political games. America First - its time to stop putting the focus on building other countries bring back jobs and independence	I believe that elections are the state's responsibility and we must make sure that the states are doing their part. The Constitutional amendments of 15, 19, and 26 did a great job explaining who can vote, so we must make sure the states see to it that the voter requirements are met. The downfall is in the 26th section 2, now Congress feels they can play the omnipotent role of elections. The only standard in elections is making sure the voter has been verified, every time.	Unless Congress is suddenly in the creation of natural laws business there isn't anything they can truly do. Climate changes, it always has, don't believe me? Ask the dinosaurs... Do your part as a resident of planet Earth. Oil & Gas and other natural energy sources are not the enemies in the climate battle...neither are cows.
 Ed Cabrera (R)	Our communities in South Texas are being ravished by illegal immigration and the influence of the drug cartels. From Washington, we are being attacked through failed Biden and Pelosi liberal policies. As a Cuban immigrant, I can see the direction of our country and I can see socialism sprouting. We must turn the House Red. The three main issues I would address if elected would be: *Strengthen border security *Create high-paying jobs *Improve services for our veterans and military officer	Yes, term limits need to be instituted and campaign financing laws must be revised. Our election system is fraught with big money and career politicians. Politicians have lost sight of the concept of public service and are focused on catering to special interest.	Everyone wants a healthy planet. However, we must be certain that weather conditions are not cyclical before we consider the harsh economic hardships from New Green Plan. Fossil fuels are the foundation of our economy and it's the cheapest and most dependable source of energy. We must protect the high paying job for Texans.
 Willie Vasquez Ng (R)	As a business owner, I know how high taxes can hurt the community. I'm for low taxes and fewer Federal regulations which means more jobs and a better economy. As a veteran police detective and professional firearms trainer, I oppose the restriction of our 2nd Amendment rights. There's no better way to serve my neighbors than be willing to sacrifice my life to keep them safe. That's why I became a police officer and why I stand with law enforcement against those who seek to defund the police.	Without transparent, just, and secure elections, our Republic is built on sand. In 2020, Republicans all around the country were shocked by the irregularities, the discrepancies, and the outright fraud. But sadly, none of this is surprising to anyone who grew up in South Texas. We need to make this year different. That's why ballot integrity is one of my top issues: we need Federal election reform!	In 2019, America was energy independent: we produced more energy than we consumed. But when Democrats took office, they turned back to the past. They ramped up regulations that hurt domestic energy production and ravaged the US economy. In Congress, one of my priorities will be putting America back on the road to permanent energy independence by rolling back regulations and supporting domestic energy production.
 Jessica Cisneros (D)	In Congress, I'd prioritize health care, economic recovery, and reproductive rights. I believe in recognizing health care as a human right through Medicare for All because no family should lose a loved one because they can't afford care. I'd fight for a \$15 minimum wage and good paying union jobs because it's hard for families to make ends meet as costs rise and wages stay the same. I'd fight for reproductive freedom because everyone deserves freedom and dignity to decide when to start a family.	Voter ID laws, gerrymandering, long lines at the polls, and polling place relocations are all barriers to voting rooted in a long history of efforts to suppress the votes of women and people of color. I support the For the People Act because it's time for substantive democracy reform to end voter suppression and ensure fair elections in America. The act would improve processes determining how people register to vote, how ballots are cast, and how states conduct elections.	We need a just transition into green energy that empowers states like Texas and guarantees opportunities for workers. I will center workers in the fossil fuel industry in any kind of climate proposal to ensure no one gets left behind. I support the values championed by a Green New Deal because I believe it will create new jobs in our community, protect our planet and the future of South Texas while diversifying our workforce, and make a renewable power grid that is cheaper and more reliable.

Candidate	What are the top three issues you would like to address if elected? Why?	Do you believe federal election laws should be changed? Explain.	What laws should Congress pass regarding climate change, if any?
 Tannya Judith Benavides (D)	First & foremost, creating fair, livable wages will provide us a thriving economy we can count on, even in the midst of another global pandemic. Secondly, addressing the healthcare system— the lack of insured folks & the infrastructure that provides medical services in our district- so we can create healthier & more prosperous communities. Lastly, as a teacher myself, investing in free & public education to ensure there are proper resources being brought to our school communities.	I believe that we can improve our federal election laws to ensure that we fully protect our right to vote & recognize for what it is-- a right & not simply a privilege. One first step we could take would be to make Election Day a federal holiday so that every citizen, despite their work schedule, can exercise that right. Texas would benefit the most from federal legislation to address voting rights since our state legislature & current governor have limited our access to vote in recent times.	In order for us to properly address the challenges that come with climate change, Congress can end fossil fuel subsidies and move towards 50% emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030, especially by incentivizing big corporations to contribute to the effort. Only 100 corporations account for over 70% of the total global emissions, so even if the first step was for them to lower their emissions by half, that would put us closer to the 50% target we must hit before the earth warms one more degree.
 Henry Cuellar (D)	The top three issues we need to address are improving healthcare outcomes, providing local students with a world-class education, and strengthening public safety, which includes supporting our homeland security, police and Sheriffs. South Texans work so hard to make a better future for their families and delivering on each of these issues is critical in supporting them day after day. And if we can do all of that while keeping taxes low, that is the recipe for success.	The right to vote is fundamental for the functioning of our Democracy. "One person, one vote" means fighting so that every citizen has access to the ballot. That's why I voted to strengthen the Voting Rights Act and voted for the For the People Act to expand voting rights, change campaign finance laws to reduce the influence of money in politics, and ban partisan gerrymandering.	We have to take on the challenge of climate change with the seriousness it deserves. As a Member of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, I have supported numerous initiatives to combat climate change. In the most recent budget, we secured \$109 million to mitigate emissions and improve carbon capture technology and \$1.2 billion to help clean up Superfund sites. We must address climate change while balancing the needs of South Texas's energy industry and the nation's need for low cost energy.
No response received by print deadline: Steven Fowler (R), Rolando Rodriguez (R), Eric Hohman (R)			

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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 35


Candidate	As the U.S. representative for the reconfigured District 35, how will you dedicate your time and efforts to the populations of downtown San Antonio, suburban Austin and the I-35 corridor between the two?	Do you believe federal election laws should be changed? Explain.	What laws should Congress pass regarding climate change, if any?
 Dan McQueen (R)	<p>The Austin (technology) to San Antonio (cyber) corridor requires a candidate that understands this is the National Security corridor for the world. It requires a candidate that holds the credentials to support and represent the brightest in the technological industry. My background will allow me to efficiently and effectively communicate and unite this global location for the betterment of America and Texas. The 35 corridor is idealistic for Elevating all America and inspires FAITH! Balanced!</p>	<p>The guidelines for elections are in our constitution. I believe they need to be followed and the accountability of our elections needs to be reviewed at a bipartisan level to insure that the highest level of integrity has been met to eliminate any thoughts of impropriety. Major Media has squid the reality for the America public and created the impression of election misconduct. The public, such as myself, do not have the actual data to understand truth from false reports.</p>	<p>Several aspects of climate change have not been forth coming to express the reason for temperature increases. Knowing that the earth axis is shifting causes some of the deviations in locational temperature changes. In addition, understanding that the volcanic action is caused by heat increase and pressure, which is not causing any earth core impact. This being said, science has not provided all the data required to satisfy my view or understanding. I am in agreement on alternative energy, but</p>
 Bill Condict (R)	<p>Covering these two great cities and those living between, is a few hours worth of driving. In a week's time, there are plenty of opportunities to meet with the people of this district. Scheduling meetings (townhalls), spontaneous visits, zoom calls, are all great ways to stay in touch within our district. I'd love to knock on the door of an unsuspecting person (whether they support me or not) to see what they have to say. I'm always looking for ways to amplify the voice of the 35th District.</p>	<p>Elections are spelled out in the Constitution. Time, place, and manner are determined by the individual, sovereign states. Unless a state, or states, violate provisions set forth in the Constitution, or since ratified Amendments, the federal government shall have no influence. If amendments to the Constitution are proposed and ratified, those changes I support. Only natural born and fully naturalized citizens are allowed to vote.</p>	<p>None. There is no SCIENTIFIC evidence that human activities are causing our climate to change. Consensus is NOT science. Our planet has progressed through periods of cooling and warming. The Miami Valley of Ohio was once under a sheet of ice a mile thick but is now a lush land for growing crops. Our God has blessed us with a planet that can take care of itself. We do need to be responsible in what we do, but carbon taxes will kill our economy and hurt the working class.</p>
 Alejandro Ledezma (R)	<p>Speak with local businesses and ask how I could be of assistance.</p>	<p>Mail-in ballots should be abolished.</p>	<p>I'm not educated enough on climate science to opine on this topic.</p>
 Dan Sawatzki (R)	<p>I will strive to represent to peoples of this constituency. John Lydgate wrote "You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all the people some of the time, but you can't please all the people all of the time." With this in mind, finding out what are the issues that the people in district 35 concerned about, I will make decisions in line with their will. I'm not here to win a popularity contest but to represent the will of the people, as diverse as they are.</p>	<p>The state legislatures, not election officials, should create the laws at the state level for elections, and not the Federal government. The motor voter bill (NVR) puts a check box on the driver's license application for those wishing to be registered to vote. It is too easy for a person to simply check a box, even those who are noncitizens and get a ballot. Are black box voting tabulators really needed? Each precinct should tabulate the results, send them to the next level</p>	<p>Using climate change as a political tool should be discouraged. For the past 40 years, every 10 years someone says we only have 10 years to live on the planet. Thus far the political prophesies have not panned out. Former President Nixon created the Environmental Protection Agency. That was a start, Auto emissions are much cleaner today than in the 1970s. We have a choice of using electric vehicles. We as a country are going in the right direction using private sector innovation with subsidies.</p>
 Asa George Kent Palagi (R)	<p>The reconfiguration of the 35th will not create an issue for me as a leader. The hallmark of a good congressman is availability. I will divide my time between the two locations weekly but more importantly, I will be available to my constituents via social media, and email for conversations about what they need from their representative.</p>	<p>A federal election agency should not be established. The foundation of America, and a reason it has great prosperity, is due to its diversity. I believe individual states should, for the most part, be in charge of their own election systems. This creates balance, order and stops power from centralizing into the federal government- a recurrent theme of my campaign.</p>	<p>China creates approximately twice as much pollution as the US. I would support efforts to control China's negative impact on the environment. In addition, entrepreneurship will be the way forward to create a more environmentally friendly world. New technology and ideas will come from the American people and not from the politicians. As your representative, I will empower this innovation.</p>





Candidate	As the U.S. representative for the reconfigured District 35, how will you dedicate your time and efforts to the populations of downtown San Antonio, suburban Austin and the I-35 corridor between the two?	Do you believe federal election laws should be changed? Explain.	What laws should Congress pass regarding climate change, if any?
 Jennifer Sundt (R)	<p>I have lived in big cities in this country and abroad and I am comfortable and familiar with the dynamics and needs of big cities like Austin and San Antonio. I would relocate to New Braunfels so that I could be centrally located between the cities for frequent visits to meet the needs of constituents in all three areas. I think the key to effectively representing the diverse populations is to listen to their diverse perspectives and find solutions that most adequately serve everyone's needs.</p>	<p>I support the electoral college voting system, as well as requiring voters to show identification at the polls. Voting is our most sacred right and responsibility so we should be doing everything we can to both promote and protect election integrity. I do not support allowing non-citizens to vote in any public election.</p>	<p>I support programs including large scale recycling, planting trees (especially in urban areas) to absorb carbon emissions, offering corporations tax credits for researching and implementing carbon capture technologies.</p>
 Greg Casar (D)	<p>From San Antonio to Austin, families need increased wages, affordable housing, and a functional electric grid. I am committed to opening offices both in Austin and San Antonio. I'm proud to have the support of community organizations, unions, and elected officials in San Antonio, and I will work diligently to address the needs of working families who too often get left behind across Bexar County.</p>	<p>Our democracy is under attack, especially here in Texas. Whether they are rigging the game through gerrymandering, suppressing votes, falsely claiming voter fraud, or allowing corporate money to control our elections, we must put it to an end. Immediate federal action is needed to protect our democracy. We need to pass legislation restoring the full weight of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to protect and expand our democracy.</p>	<p>Texas is on the front lines of the climate crisis, but we are also a leader in renewable energy. We can create good paying union jobs in renewable energy that do not pollute our environment. We need aggressive federal action to tackle climate change, and we must fix the electric grid, by strengthening federal oversight and connecting to the national grid. We should invest in good jobs, clean energy, and electric public transportation.</p>
 Rebecca Viagran (D)	<p>During my four terms on the San Antonio City Council, I served in a culture of collaboration with stakeholders, colleagues, and constituents alike. I will rely on constant communication with local leaders and advocates, utilize technology like video conferencing, and meet in person when safe to do so. I will fly to the district for weekend meet and greets, and will insist on instituting an "open door" meeting policy. I will work tirelessly to ensure the constituents of TX-35 are represented.</p>	<p>Federal election laws desperately need to be changed, starting with the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. Our democracy is under attack and decades of progress on civil rights has been undermined. The Supreme Court made a grave error in eliminating the most impactful parts of the Voting Rights Act, especially preclearance. We need national universal vote by mail and automatic voter registration, and the Senate needs to abolish the filibuster so the new VRA can be passed immediately.</p>	<p>Our federal government's response to threats facing our planet hasn't been substantial enough. Climate change disproportionately impacts people of color, and low-income families. Democrats in Congress should support legislation that promotes energy efficiency, reduces carbon emissions, and increases investment and reliance in renewable energy sources. Texas should be a proud leader in creating renewable energy jobs and Congress should act now to get the fossil fuel industry out of our elections.</p>
 Carla-Joy Sisco (D)	<p>I will work to ensure that resources are made available to the constituents in the District 35, such as, the following segments of the new Infrastructure Bill and Jobs Act (HR-3684): 1. Title I - Section 11119 - Safe School Routes Provision, 2. Title III - Research Technology and Education, Section 13007 - Workforce Development, Training and Education, and 3. Title V - Research and Innovation - Section 25020 - Transportation Workforce Development - Section 25002 - Smart Community Resource Center</p>	<p>The federal laws that govern campaign financing are filled with loopholes, and according to the Brennan Center for Justice, there were more than 440 restrictive voting bills drafted in 2020-2021. These are some of the reasons why I support changing federal election laws. Everyone who wants to exercise their right to vote should be able to do so freely. It is the responsibility of the federal government to ensure that, that occurs.</p>	<p>To reverse the impact of climate change in the U.S and abroad Congress should pass laws that protect our nation's natural resource which will help to minimize climate change, pass laws that reduce carbon emissions and investment more in renewable energy, and pass H.Res.755 - Expressing support for the United Nations Climate Change Conference and reaffirming the United States commitment to participate globally in combating climate change</p>
Eddie Rodriguez (D)	<p>I have deep roots in San Antonio--although Austin is where I currently live, I attended St. Mary's University, my mother is from San Antonio, and one of my first jobs was working as a server at a local San Antonio restaurant. I plan on having an office in San Antonio if elected and would plan to spend half of my time at the San Antonio office</p>	<p>I believe that the Governor of Texas has made it clear his intentions regarding voter suppression and I believe that we need Federal safeguards to ensure that voters are protected regardless of who is in power. I would support the John Lewis Voting Rights Act in Congress and would support any federal legislation that strengthens these protections.</p>	<p>Our climate is quickly changing and as we saw earlier this year, our winters are colder than ever. We must continue to invest in green infrastructure to work to combat climate change but we also must make smart investments in energy early. Throughout my time in the Texas Leg, I have fought against Republicans again and again when they introduced legislation that put our climate at risk. In Congress, I will continue to be a champion for climate and will fight to bring more green jobs to Texas.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Marilyn Jackson (R), Sam Montoya (R), Jenai Aragona (R), Michael Rodriguez (R)			

TEXAS GOVERNOR

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

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?	How would you ensure election laws do not create barriers to Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?	What is the role of the state government in enforcing federal immigration laws?
 Danny Harrison (R)	Current Small Business owner and manager of a \$6 million dollar per year business that is growing in size every single year. Former: Texas State Historical Commission; Former Luxury hotel manager. Former Rural Development Specialist	I would propose making our local national guard units conduct fair and secure elections for all counties.	We need a human shield and our national guard should be used as a wall until we can get one built. Point blank--if the Federal government is not going to protect our border then Texans will and if we need to deputize and train Texans to serve and defend our border then I say that we do it.
 Kandy Kaye Horn (R)	I am an educated and successful businesswoman, able to make decisions, delegate responsibilities and hold people accountable for their results. I have compassionate and empathetic concern for post Pandemic Texans experiencing hardship. I bring Hope.	As Texans are allowed to vote by mail, every vote must be validated as true and correct to ensure accurate results. It should be electronically possible to verify the identity of voters. Election laws cannot be passed that would prevent Texans the right to cast a vote in an election, regardless of mailing in a ballot or voting in person at precinct.	The federal government has neither the manpower or the ability to stop illegal immigrants from crossing our vast border without cooperation of state law enforcement personnel. People who pass through our border without proper documentation are breaking the laws of immigration and shortcutting the path to citizenship. Illegal immigration is an intentional crime.
 Rick Perry (R)	Originally the founding fathers set up our form of Government for citizen legislators to serve. We need more citizens to step up and less "experienced" politicians. I am qualified for that reason. I believe in the Constitution and will fight for it.	It is extremely easy to vote in Texas. Texans need to have confidence their lawful votes will be counted and be assured that people who commit fraud are punished. Many jurisdictions now cannot be audited because there is no paper trail. We need auditable elections and harsher penalties for vote harvesting and voter fraud.	The Federal Government was created by the States. Texas is a sovereign State that is being invaded by hordes of immigrants that have no desire to make America any better than where they've come from. Texas has a duty to her citizens to secure the border and resist the Federal officials who are trying to undermine that duty.
 Chad Prather (R)	20 year resident of Texas 49 years old Current: Television host, Blaze TV and Blaze Media Former: Executive with Granger Industrial (Fortune 300 company) Senior church pastor in Georgia and Alabama	We must ensure legal, valid voter rolls. Texas must focus on in-person voting with absentee ballots utilized when legally necessary. We must not allow the practice of mail in voting or ballot box drops. Polling places must be easily accessible and a valid ID should be required. Ballots are to be counted manually and forensic audits should be utilized.	State government must establish state sovereignty which includes protecting state borders from illegal crossings. Article 4 Section 7 of the Texas Constitution states that the governor is the commander in chief of the state with direct authority to enforce such immigration.
 Paul Belew (R)	Although possessing no political experience, I am a criminal defense attorney and as such have a very strong personality and strong presence. My ability to navigate through many jury trials have given me the proper tools and education to be elected.	We should all want secure yet accessible elections. I believe voter id and poll watching are viable non-restrive options. Also I am not opposed to expanding voter locations IF properly secured and against voter fraud. We all should strive to make voting accessible, yet those elections should be valid and elections with integrity. THOSE elections we can trust as valid.	State government especially a border state such as Texas should have great authority in enforcing federal immigration laws, however, in reality we as a state do not. The Feds normally prosecute illegal aliens. Our hands are tied somewhat in that if we take a position contra to that of the Feds, the Feds threaten and do at times with hold certain state funding; unacceptable.

Candidate	What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?	How would you ensure election laws do not create barriers to Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?	What is the role of the state government in enforcing federal immigration laws?
 Rich Wakeland (D)	Licensed Engineer & Attorney & Business Owner; Policy Advisor to Commissioner Anderson, Public Utility Commission of Texas April 2013 - April 2018; Retired nuclear submarine Navy Reserve Captain w/ 4 Commands; Power generation and ERCOT expertise.	Trust but verify! Make registration simple, secure and verifiable. Increase the time period for early voting. Remove restrictions on Church organized voter turnout efforts and restrictions on Church organized voter transportation. Enable Church based efforts to register their parishioners and deliver them to the polls.	None, Both party's administrations have been inept at stopping illegal immigration; therefore do not follow the federal government's approach. Immigration is caused by economics. Texas must build an economic wall, not a physical wall. If we make them pay to be in Texas, we will reduce illegal immigration. Don't wait on the Feds, Texas can take its own economic action.
 Beto O'Rourke (D)	Beto O'Rourke is a fourth-generation Texan, born and raised in El Paso where he has served as a small business owner, a city council member and a member of Congress. He founded Powered by People, a Texas-based voting rights and service organization.	We can't have fair, safe, and secure elections if our laws are designed to make it harder for communities of color to vote. We must repeal SB1 and then pass online and same-day voter registration, establish nonpartisan redistricting commissions, require the convenient and fair allocation of voting sites, and expand eligible forms of voter ID.	We need predictability, order, and the rule of law at our border. We need a governor willing to collaborate with, not work against, the federal government to enforce our immigration laws and update those laws when they don't meet the challenges of today.
 Joy Diaz (D)	Learned about public service from missionary parents who served people who lived in garbage dumps in MX City. Former public school teacher & public radio reporter who learned about the intricacies of TX from the stories of Texans. Graduated UT's LBJWCS.	In a Joy Diaz administration, we will ensure that everyone who is entitled to vote, has access to safe and secure elections. Recent restrictions in Texas affect families like mine. My husband is a naturalized US citizen - the perfect target for some of the state's recent voter purges that only serve to intimidate and even suppress the vote. Those laws have to go.	The Constitution establishes the federal government controls the border - therefore immigration has been and always will be a federal responsibility. But, Texas has a role to play. We need to partner with both the US and MX governments. At the moment, TX has not been a helpful partner. Instead, state policies have contributed to the chaos for political gain.
 Michael Cooper (D)	I was the President of the Southeast Texas Toyota Dealers association when I secured the naming rights of the Toyota Center. It is we're the Houston Rockets play. My team had great confidence that I could secure the more than 100 million \$ contract.	I was arrested in Washington DC fighting for voter suppression bills that are now Law. As Governor I will beto those bills and call special sessions to revoke those bills.	It is the federal Governments job to secure the boarder. We can work alongside them, but we should not spend 250 million dollars on a fence that does not work. We need to spend any extra money or donated money on teachers pay raise, repairing Dilapidated schools and money for pre-K for all children. We should make all remaining non-citizens - citizens sooner than later.
No response received by print deadline: Don Huffines (R), Allen B. West (R), Greg Abbott (R), Inocencio (Inno) Barrientez (D)			




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TEXAS 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.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What further changes, if any, are needed to ensure that Texas has sufficient power in times of extreme weather conditions?	Under what circumstances should the federal government limit the authority of elected state officials? Under what circumstances should the state government limit the authority of elected local officials?	What are some solutions to enhance public safety in Texas? How do we balance these solutions with protecting civil rights?
 Aaron Sorrells (R)	Winterizing the grid is borderline impossible and ultimately won't work because when the roads are frozen, nothing can move on the road. We need to move away from green energy and start utilizing the resources of Texas like Natural gas plants, Clean Nuclear, and coal. No one is going to make those plants though when they are only utilized in an emergency. Too expensive.	The federal government only has authority delegated to them by the Constitution. Anything outside of that belongs to the State. It's that simple. We no longer follow those rules and that's why we are in this position today.	There are no solutions to enhance public safety. Safety is an illusion. Our government was not meant to keep us safe and protected. It was meant to keep us free. The government needs to stop interfering in our lives and we will have less civil rights problems because most people just want to go to work, live their lives, and be left alone.
 Todd M. Bullis (R)	We need to oppose the federal Gov, rules and regulations. Nullification would work just fine.	I believe Texas needs to oppose the federal Gov and leave the USA. It is time for Nullification to start with while we work on Secession.	I believe we harshen many of the criminal penalties. Abortion, rape, murder, molesting, and attempted murder should be death penalty crimes. No more housing and parole for death penalty crimes. We need to allow everyone that is not in jail to carry a gun.
 Zach Vance (R)	I believe we can have both affordability AND reliability. Energy companies and gas providers make enough money to ensure that they are prepared and protected from extreme weather WITHOUT additional costs to the consumer. If elected I will charge the "Temporarily Winter Storm Surcharge" on your utility bill to gas providers that posted profits of 20 percent or higher.	The balance between Federal, State, and Local control is a tight line to walk. The line breaks though when ANY of the elected officials stop doing what is in the best interest of the whole and only do things to appease their base. I believe most authority should remain under local control, but it depends on the issue. I believe city and county leaders know what is best.	We need to severely punish violent criminals, thieves, sex criminals, and people who use a firearm to commit offenses. Helping women get out, and stay out, of abusive relationships will be a top priority of mine. As well as severely punishing the offender/abuser while doing a better job of protecting the victims. Texans safety is of the utmost importance to me!
 Michelle Beckley (D)	The 87th legislature did not do enough. Texas needs to reverse the course of deregulation and consider the option of connecting back to the national grid. El Paso & Texarkana did not lose power like the rest of the state, both are connected to the national grid.	Texas has been controlled by the GOP for over 25 years. State officials are running amuck due to checks & balances that no longer exist. The federal government needs to address the Voting Rights Bills. We saw our freedom to vote diluted as well as extreme gerrymandering in 2021. The state government should not interfere with local health regulations.	I had a city come to me with the issue of a police officer that had been fired with cause now working at a neighboring city. Municipalities should be able to know this information upon hiring or the problems can't be addressed and will continue. Texas needs to look into solutions to address these issues and solve them.
 Mike Collier (D)	For years, our state leaders were warned about the grid's vulnerability and did nothing. As a result, Texans froze, Texans died, and corporations got rich. We must winterize our gas supply, invest in smart grid technology, and increase power storage. We must also ensure that Texas families do not pay more when companies pay less for an unreliable grid.	If the behavior of any official is inconsistent with our constitutional rights, then it is the responsibility of the federal government, particularly the courts, to step in. That said, local control is key to accountability, and it's at the heart of a healthy democracy. So, as Lt. Governor, I will work closely with duly elected local partners—not against them.	Mike will work to reverse laws that allow criminals to access firearms and put our communities and law enforcement officers at risk. Further, we all want law enforcement that we know, trust, and are accountable to our local communities. We must also invest more in mental health training and restorative justice to create safer, more prosperous communities across Texas.

Candidate	What further changes, if any, are needed to ensure that Texas has sufficient power in times of extreme weather conditions?	Under what circumstances should the federal government limit the authority of elected state officials? Under what circumstances should the state government limit the authority of elected local officials?	What are some solutions to enhance public safety in Texas? How do we balance these solutions with protecting civil rights?
 Carla Brailey (D)	<p>We must fully weatherize our grid to prepare for extreme weather conditions. We need to fully accept the recommendations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and prepare all of Texas for climate change. We must build better oversight, accountability, and transparency to insure Texans from another failure.</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of each government entity to work together for the benefit of the people that they serve. We live and serve in a representative democracy and to limit the authority of a government to do what is best for the people is taking away their representation.</p>	<p>Every community should feel safe in their own home and neighborhood and experience their civil rights and liberties. We must start with continuous training for our officers with emphasis on inclusion and diversity, including (1) recruiting, hiring, and promoting women in leadership and (2) increasing community-centered policing, particularly in communities of color.</p>


No response received by print deadline: Daniel Miller (R), Dan Patrick (R), Trayce Bradford (R)

TEXAS 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.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?	What is the Attorney General's role in protecting Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?	As Attorney General, what would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
 Rochelle Mercedes Garza (D)	<p>I have experience in immigration, family, criminal, and constitutional law. My work has resulted in the "Garza Notice," a requirement that teens in immigration detention have a right to access abortion, reinforcing a constitutional right nationwide.</p>	<p>As AG, I will dismantle the wasteful "election integrity unit" — which is really about enforcing the GOP's voter suppression measures, instead of protecting voting rights — and replace it with a voter protection unit under a fully funded civil rights department. I will ensure voting rights are protected, not undermined, especially for voters of color.</p>	<p>As AG, I will fight for our Texas families. This means protecting constitutional rights, including voting & abortion rights; consumer protection, so our energy grid doesn't fail; and prioritizing public health, so municipalities & schools can protect people in the middle of a pandemic and our rural communities have the infrastructure they need, like clean drinking water.</p>
 Mike Fields (D)	<p>I am a former Harris County Assistant District Attorney, former Assistant Texas Attorney General and Retired Judge of twenty years. I have a Criminal Justice degree from Texas State University and a Law Degree from St. Mary's Law School.</p>	<p>The Attorney General should ensure that all laws passed concerning voting rights and redistricting pass Constitutional muster. If they don't, the AG should work to see that they do.</p>	<p>Texas is seeing unprecedented population and economic growth due, in large part, to our business friendly laws. My highest priority would be to ensure that laws regarding voting, equal rights, reproductive rights and civil rights for all, including the LGBT community, continue to encourage that growth.</p>
 Joe Jaworski (D)	<p>Licensed TX attorney; 30 years' experience in trial/appellate litigation in TX state and federal courts. TX mediator; 8 years local govt. experience: councilmember, mayor pro tem and mayor of Galveston, TX. Mentored by my grandfather Leon Jaworski.</p>	<p>I will form a voter access unit from the ashes of the AG's fake voter fraud division because TX voters should turn to the AG's office when their voting rights are suppressed. District and County attorneys may initiate fraud prosecution to keep our elections safe, but access is the key. I will ensure principals are registering high school seniors. Elec. Code 13.046(d)</p>	<p>On day one of my administration, I will dismiss any lingering lawsuits brought by the Texas AG against the ACA before lunch. I will testify in the 2023 Legislature for cannabis legalization (for jobs, to help our veterans, and to give our police a break so they can fight real crime). I will ensure principals register every 18 year old pursuant to Tex. Elec. Code 13.046(d).</p>



Candidate	What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?	What is the Attorney General's role in protecting Texans' freedom to vote while maintaining safe and secure elections?	As Attorney General, what would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
S. "TBone" Raynor (D)	Fresh out of SMU Law School, I became General Counsel at a nationwide financial group involved in hundreds of lawsuits. I jawboned many Sec. of State. Managed two Pro Bono Legal Clinics. General Practice. I believe in balancing Science and Economics.	The A.G. needs to promote access and justice allowing each citizen to vote and for each vote to count equally. Five years ago, I donated \$10,000 to The Carter Center for election monitoring. A.G.'s role is not to subvert democracy wasting millions. A role of the A.G. should be to help unvaccinated disabled citizens get current ID's through home visits so they can vote.	Choosing what laws to enforce using Micah 6:8, not through political corruption requiring loyalty oaths of Collin County Judges. Using the Courts/media to fairly reduce: jail populations by mental health treatment; foster care sanctions using churches who have successful people who know how to help; our property taxes. Jail people committing fraud; collect child support.
 Lee Merritt (D)	I have spent my legal career doing the work of the "people's lawyer" and running one of the leading constitutional firms in the country. My work has been recognized by Our Revolution, NAACP, ACLU, Innocence Project, National Bar Association, and SPLC.	I am committed to engaging more voters, fighting gerrymandering, providing felons with the right to vote, making election day a federal holiday, providing drive through voting, and opposing voter ID legislation. I would also challenge voter suppression laws using, inter alia, the Americans with Disabilities Act.	My highest priorities are to improve voter protection, ensure women's reproductive rights, and to protect our public schools. I will focus on engaging new voters through community outreach and work towards public financing of elections. I will cooperate with state and federal legislators to codify Roe vs. Wade. I plan to fight for policies like the College Act.

No response received by print deadline: Ken Paxton (R), Eva Guzman (R), Louie Gohmert (R), George P. Bush (R)

TEXAS 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.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?	In your opinion, what is the proper balance of tax revenues sources to fairly fund state government, including public schools?	As Comptroller, what would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
 Mark V. Goloby (R)	I have a BBA in Accounting from Texas A&M and began my career with Dresser Industries in Internal Audit and then worked as Texas Region Controller for GTE Mobilnet. Before starting Total Cellular Technologies later shortened to TC Technologies.	Current property taxes are out of control. But that is the fault of a fundamentally flawed appraisal district process and local taxing authorities that refuse to lower tax rates to at least offset some of the increase in the tax base. It is unconscionable that Texans are getting taxed out of their homes while Chapter 313 is giving 37.5% discounts in ISD taxes.	The comptroller should be a watch dog on how the financial resources entrusted by the taxpayers to Texas as spent judicially. The legislature sets the spending plans, the Comptroller is in oversight to let the legislature know if the state is getting the best utilization of the taxpayer's dollars. Taxpayers know government needs funding, but not corporate bottom lines.
 Glenn Hegar (R)	I have served as Texas Comptroller since January 2015. I began as a member of the Texas House in 2003 and continued my service as a member of the Texas Senate until my election as Comptroller. Working our family farm taught me hard work and integrity	Funding public schools in Texas has been a shared burden split between state funds and local property taxes. Until recently the local share was allowed to grow unchecked creating increased pressure on local property taxes. I helped compress local property tax rates and rebalance the burden between state funds and local taxpayers. But now more must be done to lower taxes.	I will continue to focus on the core constitutional duties of my office and that means maintaining my attention on the Texas economy. Navigating the last 2 years has been incredibly challenging, but I have always remained focused on the trends, challenges and opportunities in our state economy. We must fight to keep Texas a place where freedom creates new opportunities.

"Every election is determined by the people who show up."


— Larry J. Sabato

Candidate	What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?	In your opinion, what is the proper balance of tax revenues sources to fairly fund state government, including public schools?	As Comptroller, what would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
 Angel Luis Vega (D)	I am a purpose-driven professional offering over 20 years in business strategy, finance, operations, managing multimillion-dollar budgets, and large groups of people. Bachelor of Business Administration & Master in Management & Leadership.	Suppose we focus on boosting Texans entrepreneurship, attracting new business opportunities, eliminating the corporate tax loopholes, and reducing the unemployment rate to under 3%. In that case, the proper balance of tax revenue could be at 145 billion. For the spending budget, 140 billion annually, including public school funding and health care.	I would focus on transparency, accountability, efficiency, optimizing the office's capabilities, boosting entrepreneurship, attracting new business opportunities, thriving jobs, and reducing unemployment under 3%. Guarantee retirement security & protect pensions. I will make decisions in the interest of all the people of Texas, not the special interest groups.
 Tim Mahoney (D)	Trained as a journalist in the 1970's (Texas Observer and DMN), went to the LBJ School of Public Affairs (UT-Austin) in the 1980's, then to Law School. I have been a practicing attorney since 1992.	The proper balance between tax revenues and the proper funding of state government has been a wrecking ball. Texas officials have played a game of hide and seek regarding tax revenues and the adequate funding of state government for decades, especially including public schools. We need to break out of the secret codes and share information with our fellow Texans.	The Texas Comptroller is the largest public data center in Texas, and we should begin to produce information in a transparent form that enhances every region in Texas. If we understand that there is more power in collaboration than in division, we can begin to build a Texas government that belongs to all Texans. Our Redistricting process should result in compact districts.
 Janet T. Dudding (D)	I'm a certified public accountant (CPA) who's spent my adult life in governmental accounting, auditing, administration and even investigations.	The Texas Legislature added \$6.5 billion dollars in funding to public schools in 2019. Yet per a 2021 SPLC report, Texas currently ranks 40th in the nation. New revenue streams are needed. Legalizing adult-use cannabis could bring \$1 billion in tax revenue (and decriminalization could save \$300 million). Look at "green" taxes to build revenue streams from green energy.	Comptroller has the bully pulpit on how our money is spent. Expanding mental health & healthcare to 1.4 million adult Texans saves \$100 million in state tax and our property taxes. Work with local governments re broadband as a local utility, keeping the costs down and creating an income stream. Work with state agencies, reduce methane emissions on state property.

TEXAS COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Four-year term. As head of the general land office, the commissioner manages the leasing and sale of 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.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	When federal funds for natural disaster relief and mitigation are allocated, how would you ensure that communities with the highest needs are prioritized?	As the head of the agency that manages the Alamo, what story do you believe it should tell?	As Land Commissioner, what would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
 Don W. Minton (R)	The highest need communities are best prioritized when communications with federal, state, and local officials are clear, candid, and concise. Having worked in the executive branch of both federal and local governments, I have the expertise and motivation to remove barriers and cut red tape to ensure that those communities in the greatest need receive the highest priority	The story of the Alamo is critical to our identity as Texans, and indeed what makes the Lone Star State unique. That story includes the story of the 200 souls who made the ultimate sacrifice in March 1836 on behalf of our new Republic, along with the countless other souls who walked those hallowed grounds in the years prior (and indeed after).	1. Revamp the VLB to provide a mortgage route for Texas Veterans which is superior to a VA Loan. 2. Leverage critical minerals from Texas Public Lands, simultaneously increasing the Permanent School Fund while reducing our nation's vulnerability to its enemies. 3. Ensuring that every soul which has graced the grounds of the Alamo has his or her story told.



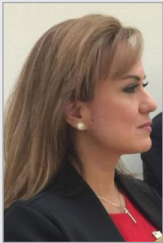


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Candidate	When federal funds for natural disaster relief and mitigation are allocated, how would you ensure that communities with the highest needs are prioritized?	As the head of the agency that manages the Alamo, what story do you believe it should tell?	As Land Commissioner, what would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
 Rufus Lopez (R)	As Land Commissioner receipt and allocation of funds for natural disasters is very important, since they effect our tidelands, gulf coast, oil & gas industry. Where our state lands and resources are involved, the funds would be prioritized to the areas most affected, such as the gulf coast and wind damage industry and development off shore.	The Alamo is our single most treasure of Texas Independence and the story should continue to be told of the defense needed to allow Sam Houston the time needed to fight the ultimate battle. The story is one of bravery by all the defenders to stall the army of Santa Ana in the fight for Texas independence.	Promote and Protect the investments of the Permanent School Fund, through careful investments to increase the maximum returns. Promote the Oil & Gas drilling in the Texas owned lands by encouraging this development Promote greater benefits to the Texas Veterans by encouraging housing and land purchases Encourage the sale and development of state-owned lands. Promote Parks
 Jon Spiers (R)	There are many metrics utilized to determine where best to allocate funds; each community and group will have their favorite. To best address specific needs, impacted regions will be subdivided into small areas of action and administration. To avoid the temptation to divert funds to other projects, performance markers will be tied to fund release and waste recouped.	The Alamo is famous for the 13 day Battle of the Alamo. It is an enduring symbol of Texas grit and willingness to stand fast in the face of oppression. This is the story known around the world, inspiring Liberty-loving people everywhere. This is the story that must always be central to the Alamo narrative.	We must restore the GLO's reputation with citizens and other state agencies. The GLO should adopt the role of a collaborative ally instead of a competitor. This would boost relations between the GLO and the public, restore faith and transparency in the operation of the Alamo, improve tarnished relations with Texas Veterans, and enhance Permanent School Fund performance.
 Weston Martinez (R)	1 I have a plan for a new process in to deploy where we put Texans 1st. 2. The process is broken, FEMA reports that 30-70 % of flooding zones are under or unreported...so you have no way to provide real relief, because you're not using real data to solve problems. This is why, using my engineering, water development, infrastructure, disaster recovery background is vital	I am the only native of the Alamo city (San Antonio) running to serve & I know we should tell the heroic story of the 13 day battle of the Alamo at the Alamo. Day 1 *I will return the annual prayer service to the Alamo. *I will advise the united nations they are no longer welcome. *I will end burials taking place in the alamo grounds allowing remains to be comingled	We have an Alamo that is under siege, we have veterans nursing homes in Texas that suffered twice the death rate of the national average, we have a border that is unsecured, and we have school financing For both grade school and public universities that must be maintained but reigned in. We have veteran cemeteries that must be honored. visit www.westonfortexas.com
 Tim Westley (R)	I would have liaisons ready to work with mayors before disasters strike to map areas that fit into U.S. Depart. of Housing & Urban Development's (HUD) basic requirements for fund disbursements. Next, I would recommend placing them on a mapping database so that as disasters happen, they are quickly identified by area. Finally, ensure funding procedures are known by all.	The Truth. As Historian of the Republican Party of Texas, the story of the Alamo has already been written and told. It does not require a rewrite or revision. Such history I have shared in the city of San Antonio and beyond. This historical story is one I've told publicly at the foot of the Cenotaph in the Alamo footprint on many occasions and will continue to tell.	Identify all public lands on our 1254 mile southern border and Partner with other organizations to secure it. Help advance oil, gas, & mining exploration through increased land lease opportunities so that Texas leads the way to energy independence while providing jobs for Texans. Ensure the \$43 billion Permanent School Fund is used properly to raise level of education.
 Victor Avila (R)	Flood mitigation must be our first priority. For every dollar we spend mitigating flooding or other factors, we save several times that amount in relief, as well as avert the human costs of natural disasters. Furthermore, by lowering the risks associated with natural disasters, we can drive down outrageously high flood insurance in coastal Texas.	I am proud of my Mexican-American heritage. No matter what others may say, the Alamo is a symbol of Texan courage and fortitude. It reminds us there are causes greater than ourselves for which we should be willing to lay down our lives. Recognition of the values that bind our nation together should be used to heal and unify, not to divide.	We must secure the border by constructing the Texas wall. Construction of this wall is already underway, and the General Land Office is playing a key role as much of the wall is being built on public lands. After years of supervisory experience in the Department of Homeland Security, I have the knowledge and experience necessary to ensure Texas gets this project right.

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Candidate	When federal funds for natural disaster relief and mitigation are allocated, how would you ensure that communities with the highest needs are prioritized?	As the head of the agency that manages the Alamo, what story do you believe it should tell?	As Land Commissioner, what would be your highest priorities for the next four years, and how do you intend to accomplish them?
 Dawn Buckingham (R)	I would immediately identify what communities were hit the hardest by a storm and also identify which communities have the most daunting path to recovery. We must ensure that these federal funds are going to communities that are directly impacted or are prone to be affected by the next storm on the horizon. Using the benefit of hindsight, we can plan before it's too late.	There will be no reimagining the Alamo under my watch. As a State Senator, I initiated the legal challenge that kept the Alamo Cenotaph in its rightful place, out in front, and passed the only piece of legislation protecting our historical monuments. The GLO is the tip of the spear in defending our rich Texas history we know and love, and I will always fight to protect it.	I'll secure our border by identifying available state lands on the border and begin building a border wall as soon as possible. I'll also continue to fight to preserve the Alamo as we know it for generations to come and keep our commitment to our Veterans and children by providing them with quality care and education through the Veterans Land Board & Permanent School Fund.
 Jinny Suh (D)	State agencies should not play politics with the lives and livelihoods of Texans. Distribution of disaster relief funds should be managed with everyday Texans who need it the most treated as the priority. No Texan should be waiting for years with a tarp roof due to unfair biases, mismanagement, and inefficiency.	History should not be politicized or used by state leaders to score political points. The story the Alamo tells must be a full and honest history based on facts, evidence, and the standard academic understanding. That story includes the perspectives, contributions, and experiences of all individuals involved—Anglo, Tejano, Mexican, Black, and indigenous peoples.	I aim to bring all stakeholders to the table to craft proactive solutions including incentivizing development of renewables, preparing our state for weather disasters, and increasing funding for public schools by maximizing revenue generated by state contracts and advocating for an increase in the amount directed to the Permanent School Fund.
 Sandragrace Martinez (D)	Establish meaningful partnerships with all local governments and develop comprehensive insights on potential strains in our communities, is how we can pro-actively begin to manage and prioritize effectively. Mitigating and allocating relief from a natural disaster will depend on the areas hit, the socioeconomics in that region, and their resources.	When I visit other cities or a different country, and I tour their historical structures and monuments, my initial questions are always, 'how did it get here, who built it, and why?' In essence, the story of the Alamo can only begin at that point due to chronological logic, so by default the story will have to involve explanations on how that evolved.	Disaster readiness and prevention with fine tuning the logistics involved are paramount. Honoring our Veterans with the same level of devotion and allegiance that they made to this country, and applying that same devotion to their benefits and healthcare. I want to create more programs and initiatives to help provide funding for public education.
 Michael Lange (D)	Federal Funds Allocation should be prioritized by where people are suffering the most from the disaster. It is never a political decision. It is a human needs decision. Disaster Priorities are based on human needs. When people get hurt by disasters, they need immediate help to rebuild and more. The people who need it the most get it first. Prioritize according to need	The Alamo is the Shrine of Texas Liberty and an essential part of the Spirit of Texas. The Alamo Defenders gave up their tomorrows so we could have Better Lives today. Most of the Alamo Defenders were Immigrants, like my family. People forget that The Alamo is the symbol of Texas, the world knows. To be preserved for future generations.	1. The Safety of the People of Texas. 2. All People Treated with Equal Respect 3. Be a Man for Others. 4. Work constantly to Better the Lives of All Texans. Ensure Texas Veterans and Gold Star Families have the best state benefits in the nation, my plan TEXAS HAS YOUR SIX. Improve Reading levels in K-12. Currently 45th in the Nation. Unacceptable. Small Business Champion.
 Jay Kleberg (D)	I would use the GLO's discretion to administer federal funds to ensure that dense, urban areas are not penalized and that damage claims for lower income homeowners and renters are not ignored. I would also send teams into damaged communities to ensure the timely disbursement of FEMA funds and application for longer-term allocation of funds.	The Alamo is a symbol of Texan and Tejano pride and we should honor their contributions to the state. We should also consider the role of early Black Texans and slavery in Texas' history, as well as indigenous groups who inhabited the site for centuries. As for the battle, the GLO should tell the comprehensive story and honor the facts of those historic events.	My top priorities for the next four years are to adequately fund our Texas schools through the General Land Office's contribution to the Permanent School Fund, address the effects of climate change and diversify our state's energy portfolio to strengthen our grid, and to prepare for future natural disasters by fortifying our coast and other vulnerable areas of our state.
No response received by print deadline: Benjamin Armenta (R)			

“The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter.”

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower

TEXAS COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

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.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	Immigrants have been a vital part of the agricultural industry in Texas. How would you balance the needs of Texas agriculture with federal immigration policy	As water resources become more scarce, how do we balance the needs of farmers and the growing demands of urban areas?	What are the three most challenging issues for Texas farmers for the next four years, and what are your plans for dealing with number one on your list?
 Carey A. Council (R)	<p>* Tighten immigration * Stream line process for legalization and work visas * Migration based on merit</p>	<p>* Water desalinization in plants along the Texas coast Until then, water resources, when in high demand, must be limited in urban areas. No water for agriculture means no food for Texans and the United States.</p>	<p>1. Disparity between consumers and producers. Solution: The disparity is with the top 4 in the packing industry. Texas must create a farmer co-op packing house. With the help of the Beef Check Off Program, a co-op could be established. 2. Water Rights 3. The border crisis that is directly affecting south Texas rancher/producers and indirectly all Texas rancher/producers</p>
 Sid Miller (R)	<p>We need immigration reform, a new and workable guest worker program.</p>	<p>We use technology improvements, de-sal plants, rainwater harvesting, and recycling of our water.</p>	<p>government over regulation, trade wars, and Mother Nature. I will continue to search for new agriculture markets and fight back against over regulation.</p>
 James White (R)	<p>Following current law, I will facilitate the existing agricultural visa program, H-2A, which Congress passed in 1986. H-2A visas discourage foreign worker exploitation, protect wage-earning power of US workers, and is consistent with maintaining homeland security. https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/temporary-workers/h-2a-temporary-agricultural-workers</p>	<p>We must balance science and technology, championing property rights, and collaboration. We must continue laying the groundwork for desalinization expansion and brackish water use. Many agricultural producers own senior water rights. We must allow thoughtful discretion to maximize their farm income. More intrastate and interstate collaboration on conservation and flows.</p>	<p>Securing South Tx farms/ranchers from narco-transnational gangs (constructing barriers & funding law enforcement); meeting water needs (see above); avg age of producers is 59 yrs old (facilitate more youth and veterans to become producers); burdensome regulations (decrease state regulatory footprint & pushback against federal regulations); infrastructure (See above)</p>
 Susan Hays (D)	<p>Federal immigration policy is broken and needs to be torn down to the studs. We need to be honest about that fact that Texas agriculture needs the labor. As commissioner, I will advocate to transform to a policy driven by our economic needs and implemented with humanitarian principles and compassion--just like we learned in Sunday School.</p>	<p>The Republicans have failed to even try to solve this problem. The Department of Agriculture (IDA) can research & promote sustainable practices and less-thirsty crops, but must work across agencies such as the Land Office, the Water Development Board, local water districts & others, and with the Legislature for a comprehensive plan to protect water quality and supply.</p>	<p>Economic survival, rural health care & climate change--and they are intertwined. I will look for opportunities, analyze the data, advocate to the USDA to change counter-productive policies, and help producers find a path to prosperity & environmental sustainability. Failing rural hospitals are an existential threat to rural communities and must be saved.</p>
 Ed Ireson (D)	<p>If ranchers and farmers can't hire enough workers to meet market demands, we all suffer. I'll advocate for an immediate expansion of the H-2A visa program, so that we can alleviate labor shortages to help counteract the supply chain constraints faced by all Texans.</p>	<p>Texas farmers and Texas city-dwellers are deeply interconnected. The food, wood, raw materials, and water that comes from our rural environments are critical to the urban lifestyle. As Ag Commissioner, I'll support programs that work with farmers to promote efficiency around their water use, including crop rotations and rotational grazing for livestock.</p>	<p>1) Infrastructure 2) Supporting the next generation of farmers and ranchers 3) Access to financial and grant opportunities for rural Texans Our infrastructure is both expensive and slow — livestock trailers stuck in traffic jams because of failing roads and bridges, and slow or no internet in the homes of our young Texans limiting their educational opportunities.</p>


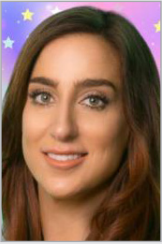



"Not voting is not a protest. It is a surrender"

— Keith Ellison

TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

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

For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	Since candidates for Railroad Commission often raise money from the oil and gas industry, how can citizens be assured that campaign donations will not influence how commissioners regulate that industry?	How important is the impact of methane emissions on climate change?	What further changes, if any, are needed to ensure that Texas has sufficient power in times of extreme weather conditions?
 <p>Marvin 'Sarge' Summers (R)</p>	I can't speak for the other commissioners or the candidates that oppose me in this race. I can not be bought.	It is very important. We must capture these emissions and mitigate these gasses.	What happened this past February with ERCOT must never happen again. Every effort and precaution must be employed to make sure our facilities remain operable and ready to serve the citizens of this great dtste.
 <p>Sarah Stogner (R)</p>	I'm not accepting donations because our current regulators are bought by the industry they are charged with regulating. Plain and simple - the current regulators have enriched themselves and their friends at the expense of Texans. We're having earthquakes and losing our freshwater aquifers. Texas must handle or the federal government will intervene. End crony capitalism!	We should not be venting or flaring methane. It's a vital energy source that should be put to beneficial purposes. We should incentivize leak prevention. We should incentivize alternative uses (such as cryptocurrency mining). And we have to hold bad actors accountable. Climate change will be the least of our concerns if we don't fix our groundwater and seismic issues.	Natural gas facilities are vital to maintaining the integrity of the Texas grid. We need to consult with experts on how to properly winterize facilities and ensure we do not have a repeat winter where Texans die. But we cannot foist this expense on the taxpayers either. Operators should not be able to opt out of vital winterization of natural gas facilities.
 <p>Dawayne Tipton (R)</p>	I've had to work hard for everything I have. My ideals and dedication cannot be bought or sold. I don't have aspirations for higher office and I don't have vested business interests to profit off of. I'm just a regular guy that has a set of skills to fit well in this role and give Texans the expertise they need to utilize resources and protect jobs for the middle class.	In my work experience, I've worked in ways to be the most efficient and resourceful. I would reduce methane emissions by putting it into production instead of being released. If that's not an option, then there are ways to reduce emissions further (like vapor recovery units and ECBs). For me, the real goal is to eliminate waste, which is also good for the environment.	First, remove natural gas producers' abilities to exempt themselves as noncritical. Second, we need to understand the critical path for power generation with regard to our natural gas grid. Once there is a clear consensus on the most critical infrastructure from exploration to power generation, we put forth a winter storm plan that goes into action when storms are forecast
 <p>Wayne Christian (R)</p>	Campaigns cost money to run, so all candidates for all offices must raise money. The standards for RRC are no different than any other office. My job is to represent the people of Texas and ensure they have access to cheap, plentiful, reliable energy. Contributions have not and will not impact my dedication to doing what is right for the people of Texas.	A clean environment & a thriving oil & gas industry are not mutually exclusive. Since 1970, the six major pollutants regulated by the EPA have decreased 77% while our economy has grown 285%, population has grown 60%, & energy consumption has grown 48%. We've reduced flaring/methane from 2.38% in Jan. 2019 to 0.21% in Sept. 2021 under my leadership w/out overregulation.	The RRC recently designated natural gas facilities as critical during energy emergencies and put in place weatherization requirements to ensure our oil and gas assets are prepared for emergencies. We must also ensure we are prioritizing energy generation from reliable sources through eliminating subsidies and preferential treatment for less reliable forms of energy.
 <p>Tom Slocum Jr. (R)</p>	I have not taken any campaign donations from oil and gas, but I also do not have any conflicts of interests. I do not own minerals or royalties, or working interests in wells. I will not allow cronyism to grow in Texas at the RRC and I will not take donations in return for favors down the line!	Eliminating methane emissions from flared gas and vented gas can be done without implementing further regulations. By repealing the flared gas tax we can eliminate almost ALL of the flared gas in the state! Free market solutions to eliminate flared gas and secure our grid with more electricity is what we will bring if I am elected. Smart regulations benefit all Texans.	Texas must audit our Nat Gas power generation critical points and listen to experts hired by the RRC, who are from INSIDE the industry. There are Texans who can help us achieve energy freedom and keep us away from another February disaster. Leadership in Austin must listen and have a PLAN in PLACE. Our base-load power must be secured. We can't allow another black out!
No response received by print deadline: Luke Warford (D)			

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VOTING FOR JUDGES

More judicial races: Pages 35-43 and 45-52.

Although in some states judges are appointed, most judges in Texas are elected. Voting decisions in judicial races are among the most important that a Texas voter makes.

WHY ARE JUDICIAL ELECTIONS IMPORTANT?

Judges make decisions about fundamental issues that affect all of us — family life, education, health care, housing, employment, finances, discrimination, civil rights, public safety, and government actions. Those decisions can have long-lasting impact on individuals, groups, and the public as a whole. It is critical that our judges make fair decisions based upon open-minded and unbiased consideration of the facts and the law in each case. Judges must know the law and not be influenced by any external political and economic factors.

WHAT SHOULD VOTERS LOOK FOR WHEN ELECTING JUDGES?

According to the American Bar Association, these are principles to consider in selection of judges:

- Judges should uphold the rule of law.
- Judges should be independent and impartial.
- Judges should possess the appropriate temperament and character.
- Judges should possess the appropriate capabilities and credentials.
- Judges and the judiciary should have the confidence of the public.
- The judicial system should be diverse and reflective of the society it serves.

- Judges should be constrained to perform their duties in a manner that justifies public faith and confidence in the court.

Unlike candidates for most political offices, judicial candidates cannot make promises about decisions they would make when certain issues or types of cases come up in their court. Questions posed to judges, therefore, focus on improvements they would make to their court, the need for impartiality and how they would increase access to justice.

HOW IS THE TEXAS COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZED?

The Texas court system is made up of a statewide network of trial courts and appellate courts. 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 an appellate court where judges consider what happened at the trial court, evaluate legal arguments, and then decide if a mistake was made. See <https://txcourts.gov/media/> for a chart of the Texas court structure. The state's two highest courts, the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, have both administrative and appellate responsibilities. The Supreme Court is the final court of appeals within Texas for both civil and juvenile cases. The Court of Criminal Appeals hears criminal cases that are appealed from one of the 14 Courts of Appeals and death penalty cases that by law go straight to the Court of Criminal Appeals.

All members of each court are elected for six-year terms, with three elected every two years. Any vacancies are filled by gubernatorial appointment until the next general election.

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT

Six-year term. A justice is one of the nine-member Supreme Court, which issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues certain orders to governmental officials to act and to individuals to appear before the court, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgements of trial courts, if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT, PLACE 3


No response received by print deadline: Debra Lehrmann (R), Erin A. Nowell (D)

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT, PLACE 5

No response received by print deadline: Rebeca Huddle (R), Amanda Reichel (D)

JUSTICE, TEXAS SUPREME COURT, PLACE 9

Candidate	What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?	What issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?
 David J. Schenck (R)	I've served as a justice on the state's largest intermediate court. I clerked for the Chief Judge of the 5th Circuit, led a major appellate practice at Jones Day, am broad certified in civil appellate law, and chair the commission on judicial conduct.	I believe that any system of gov't that targets groups for disparate treatment — whether for malign or benign motives — implicates the equal protection clause. All Texas citizens are entitled to equal access to the courts, and I'm proud to have received the Texas Bar's highest award for promoting access to pro bono legal services to those who cannot afford it.	Until the foregoing is resolved, there is very little of significance that the Court can achieve. Judicial decisions are followed only because — and to the extent — the public accepts that they are based on reason and principle. They've lacked that confidence for over a decade. Separately, the Supreme Court must show that the judiciary is independent of other branches.

Candidate	What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?	What issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the Texas Supreme Court?
 Evan Young (R)	Texas Supreme Court Justice; law clerk, Justice Antonin Scalia; Counsel to U.S. Attorney General; U.S. Government rule of law mission in Iraq; many arguments at U.S. & Texas Supreme Courts and other courts; UT law professor; Texas Judicial Council.	Ensuring open courts is fundamental to public confidence in our judiciary and to protecting individual rights. The Access to Justice Commission, Texas Legislature, and Texas Supreme Court have made great progress in marshaling public and private support for expanded representation of underprivileged Texans and making judicial proceedings more efficient and comprehensible.	Among the most pressing work for the Supreme Court will be ensuring, even in times of crisis, and without fear or favor, that the limitations of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions are respected—the lines between different branches of government, between the state and local governments, and between government power and individual liberty.
No response received by print deadline: Julia Maldonado (D)			

JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS


Six-year term. A justice is one of the nine-member Supreme Court, which issues final decisions on civil and juvenile appeals, issues certain orders to governmental officials to act and to individuals to appear before the court, and has jurisdiction over orders or judgements of trial courts, if the Supreme Court determines them important to the jurisprudence of the state.

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TEXAS JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 2

No response received by print deadline: Mary Lou Keel (R)

TEXAS JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 5

Candidate	What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?	What is your judicial philosophy?	What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?
 Clint Morgan (R)	In nine years as an appellate prosecutor I have written nearly 400 appellate briefs and presented 39 oral arguments. Before that I worked at the Court of Criminal Appeals as a clerk and staff attorney. I am board certified in criminal appellate law.	I am an originalist. I believe constitutions and statutes should be interpreted by giving words the meaning they had at the time of adoption. This approach ensures it's the legislature and voters—not judges—who make the law.	The criminal justice system provides justice by protecting victims, punishing the guilty, and allowing people to live in safety. We must punish those who prey on the underserved as harshly as we punish other criminals. Everyone should have the opportunity to live in safety. As a judge, I will treat all who appear before me equally and fairly.
No response received by print deadline: Scott Walker (R), Dana Huffman (D)			

TEXAS JUDGE, COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS, PLACE 6

No response received by print deadline: Jesse F. McClure, III (R), Robert Johnson (D)

“For this nation to remain true to its principles, we cannot allow any American’s vote to be denied, diluted or defiled.”

— President Ronald Reagan

TEXAS 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. Members of the board do not receive pay, but are eligible for reimbursement for expenses incurred in the course of official business. Current salary: No salary, but are reimbursed for expenses to attend meetings.


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TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 1

Candidate	As the developer of Texas public school curriculum, how would you ensure a comprehensive history education that addresses the needs of all students?	What can the State Board of Education do to assist local school districts to develop programs so that students who fell behind from the pandemic can recover?	What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the State Board of Education?
Michael 'Travis' Stevens (R)	Any curriculum that I would vote in favor of, would have to be based entirely on historical fact. Curriculum presented as comprehensive history, would need to be supported by factual evidence from verified sources. All curriculum that students would be required to master, would need to be free of bias, opinions of the author, and political agendas.	The SBOE needs to provide common sense programs that measure a students ability to master grade level content and not serve as a box to be checked off by an ISD for completion. Programs similar to Credit Retrieval could temporarily be set up to help students across all grade levels, attain and demonstrate the needed skills to pass to the next grade.	Standardized testing and school choice are pressing issues for the SBOE. Some students suffer from testing anxiety and the SBOE needs to discuss alternative methods to assess these students. Parents also should decide what school is best for their child, and the SBOE needs to find a way to give parents a voice, without taking away a local ISD's funding.
 Laura Marquez (D)	I would immediately work with legislative colleagues to repeal harmful anti-CRT legislation while ensuring current policies are not applied more broadly than allowed. I would also partner with education stakeholders to navigate within the scope of current public policy to find alternative mechanisms for supporting inclusive education.	In this respect, I would use my background in grassroots networking and community non-profit work to partner with school districts to find ways to develop or utilize existing programs that address student needs in a holistic manner. Especially as students continue to navigate through the trauma and uncertainty of an ongoing pandemic.	We are at a moment in time where education is being positioned at the forefront of partisan politics. Sadly, this has placed every issue faced by the SBOE on tenuous ground. Now, more than ever we must remain balanced and responsible to support schools, students, educators, and the collective interest of the community to ensure an equitable and just education system.
 Omar Yanar (D)	As a former social studies teacher, I believe the TEKS as they are currently written allows for a multi-perspective comprehensive view of history. However, I would be open to a deeper dive conversation around that to see what specific historical events we may need to unpack more delicately as a multi-perspective view of history is key to inclusiveness with students.	Our middle schools focus on highly underserved students, who are several grade levels behind and accelerate their academic growth by 2-3 years in one school year. We are ranked a top academic growth public school in Texas and these strategies can work across the state. Flexibility of schedule, innovative in-school MTSS and small learning communities are just a few.	The state board should do a deep examination into school culture and mental health. Student performance and attendance are affected when a student is happy, safe and feels their needs are addressed. With bullying and violent incidents on the rise, it's imperative to look at the root cause and design cultures that support student success as well as teacher/staff wellness.

No response received by print deadline: Lani Popp (R), Melissa N. Ortega (D)

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 3

Candidate	As the developer of Texas public school curriculum, how would you ensure a comprehensive history education that addresses the needs of all students?	What can the State Board of Education do to assist local school districts to develop programs so that students who fell behind from the pandemic can recover?	What other issues do you believe will be the most pressing for the State Board of Education?
 Ken Morrow (R)	I believe that Texas public school children should be taught American History, World History, Texas History and most importantly The Constitution of the United States of American.	The first thing we can do is keep the schools open. If a student elects to do some work remotely, we need to have course material online both for review, and recovery from falling behind. If we had a statewide online learning system K-12 it could support teachers efforts in the in the districts without having the burden falling to individual teachers	For the State Board of Education I believe that policies that support Teachers and Administrators which emphasize excellence: a joy for lifelong learning, and telling kids they can be anything they want to be if they work hard and make honest effort. Parents and teachers should never give up, and help the students love learning so they can be successful in life.


No response received by print deadline: Lana Jean Holland (R), Marisa B. Perez-Diaz (D)

TEXAS STATE SENATE

4-year term. Responsibilities include passing bills on public policy matters, setting levels for state spending, raising and lowering taxes, voting to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes. Senate holds impeachment trials. Bills originating in the Senate, when approved, go to the House for a vote. Bills passed by the House go to the Senate for a vote.

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STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 19


Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 Roland Gutierrez (D)	<p>Education - I have voted to continue funding our schools as laid out in HB 3 (86R). I have always been a staunch advocate for fully funding our public schools and I will continue to support that cause. Healthcare - Texas needs Medicaid Expansion for working families. We must open more hospitals and health facilities in rural communities and expand access to telehealth. Economy - I will continue to work hard to get higher paying jobs into SD-19. Working families deserve better wages.</p>	<p>Absolutely. Texas is the state with the highest rate of uninsured citizens. We are wasting money from the Federal government by not expanding Medicaid. This is something that we should have done a decade ago to provide for our citizens, especially in light of the pandemic. Working families deserve to have access to affordable, quality healthcare.</p>	<p>Every woman deserves the right to make the healthcare decisions that are right for her. The reasons that women seek or require abortions are myriad and are ultimately a private decision between a woman and her healthcare provider. I have been a champion for a woman's right to choose and I will continue to support women's choice.</p>

No response received by print deadline: Robert Garza (R)

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 21

See "Unopposed Candidates" on Page 58.

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 25


Candidate	What future changes, if any, are needed to ensure that Texas has sufficient power in times of extreme weather conditions?	How would you ensure election laws do not create barriers to Texans' freedom to vote while ensuring safe and secure elections?	Under what circumstances should the federal government limit the authority of elected state officials? Under what circumstances should the state government limit the authority of elected local officials?
 Channon Cain (R)	<p>We must address Texas' power grid reliability. Completing projects in progress should be expedited. Removing the ability for power plants to "opt out" of legislative fixes passed in 2021 is priority. We must explore building more power plants that produce ample energy from traditional and dependable power sources, like Texas Oil & Gas. ERCOT should propose a longer-term vision with input from multiple stakeholder areas, including diversified energy sources and incremental increase plans. Also needed is a communication plan to keep Texans informed in dangerous situations that doesn't rely on the grid to receive those critical communications.</p>	<p>I do not believe that existing election laws create a barrier to voting. A Photo ID is required for the basic functions of modern society. The enforcement of existing laws at the county level (election judge ballot signatures, sequentially numbered ballots, observer access, etc.) will help to ensure that our elections are secure without detrimental effects on voters. Texas must also invest in, and make having accurate, cleaned, and current registered voter rolls a top priority. Suspected election tampering should also result in appropriate audits & investigations. Secure elections are essential for the public's trust & government's legitimacy.</p>	<p>I believe that it is government closest to the people that governs best; however, tyrants who believe they are above the rule-of-law exist at all levels of government. Accordingly, the federal government should intervene when state governments are infringing on Americans' constitutionally-protected rights & freedoms. And Texas officials should intervene when local officials are infringing on rights/freedoms protected by the Texas or US Constitutions. Further, local officials have a duty to stand up to any anti-liberty state or federal tyrants, and Texas officials must oppose the despot White House regime's attacks on our Texas way-of-life.</p>

No response received by print deadline: Donna Campbell (R), Robert Walsh (D)

"It is not the hand that signs the law that holds the destiny of America. It is the hand that casts the ballot."

— President Harry S. Truman

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 26

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 José Menéndez (D)	SD26's diverse issues include battling COVID-19, protecting the right to vote, and having a quality education system. The pandemic caused shortages and mental health issues across the workforce. Policies that suppress voters attack us all, especially those with disabilities and our elderly. Texas' education system ranks one of the lowest in our nation and doesn't offer fair wages. I'll continue to support policies to combat COVID-19, protect our right to vote, and ensure all a quality education.	Yes, absolutely, Texas should expand Medicaid. Our State is considered one of the few "holdout" states for refusing to expand Medicaid. If we chose to expand, we could provide more constituents with health coverage and the State could receive billions of dollars from the federal government. The refusal to expand Medicaid is a result of partisan politics and lack of leadership. I will continue to support Medicaid expansion.	The Supreme Court of the United States is the ultimate law of our land. The precedent of Roe v. Wade is extremely important to both our country and our democracy. Not only would overturning this important case be unprecedented, it would impair our democracy. With or without this result, an acceptable law is healthcare coverage for all. The decision on a person's healthcare should be between them and their doctor, laws should not be governing bodies.
No response received by print deadline: Ashton Murray (R)			

TEXAS STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



2-year term. Representatives make new laws; change or update existing laws; make decisions about funding for schools and district improvements, mental health issues.

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 116

See "Unopposed Candidates" on Page 58.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 117

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 Aaron Schwope (R)	CPS Power - Work with ERCOT to provide better oversight of each supplier and each grid section they provide to. Elected official integrity- Work with fellow law makers to hold everyone accountable for their actions. Education - Work with TEC representatives to try and help improve policies for children with special needs. Also help implement a guideline for high school seniors to be prepared for life after high school.	I feel that the current guidelines are acceptable but I am open to looking at changes if needed.	I don't believe the government - federal or state- should tell you what you can or cannot do with your body.
 Philip Cortez (D)	House District 117 residents and local advocates assisted our office in identifying the most critical issues in our district: Public Education, Public Health, Veterans, and Senior Citizens issues. Throughout the 87th Legislative Session, I prioritized filing and passing legislation that benefited residents in my district directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.	Texas should explain Medicaid coverage since our state has the highest number and percentage of uninsured children in the country. Until then, I will continue to advocate to ensure that those eligible receive coverage. After two sessions, I finally passed a House Bill (HB) 290 with tremendous bipartisan support. HB 290 was filed to improve the system by providing eligible children with two six-month segments of Medicaid coverage	A top priority of mine is to ensure all Texans have increased access to effective health services. Throughout the 87th Legislative Session and the special sessions that followed, I consistently opposed legislation that imposed additional restrictions on reproductive health services. I will always advocate for a woman's right to choose the best option for herself.



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 118

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 John Lujan (R)	<p>1. Education - As Texas State Representative for District 118, I am organizing an Ed committee to address issues facing our districts. Failing school districts - we deserve better. 2. Child Welfare Reform - As a father of 3 adopted boys, I have experienced the difficulties within our system. I have a team assembled working on issues we can address immediately. 3. Workforce Development - I consider this my strongest topic. I take pride and joy in bringing opportunities to our district.</p>	<p>This is a very difficult question for me because of the astronomical spending caused by the Open Border policies of the Federal Government - hospitals, education, law enforcement, jobs, etc.... I believe we need to look into expanding Medicaid and it would be much more feasible if we weren't spending so much money on border issues....</p>	<p>I am a pro-life candidate. As we all know, The Texas Heartbeat Bill passed and has been signed into law.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Frank Ramirez (D)			


STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 119

See "Unopposed Candidates" on Page 58.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 120


Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 Barbara Gervin Hawkins (D)	<p>1) Education slide - I plan to assemble and engage District educational stakeholders and work out a year-round educational initiative that incorporates academics 2) Reduce youth crime - work with my colleagues to identify best practices across the state related to youth crime and criminal justice to initiate opportunities that can work with law enforcement in reducing youth crime. 3) Property tax escalation - the concern is related to gentrification, I will work on a plan for legacy homeowner</p>	<p>Yes, Texas should expand Medicaid. It is important that we take care of the citizens of our great state. Medicaid expansion will allow those in need to have access to quality healthcare.</p>	<p>If Roe v. Wade is not upheld, the Texas law should at a minimum provide exceptions for rape, incest and criminal pregnancies as well as protections for those that perform abortions. Let's not make it illegal or weaponize private citizens to hunt people down for rewards. Going back to the days of old is scary and not right. I don't believe any level of government should interfere in the personal lives of its' citizens, especially in a case of women's rights which is truly a personal choice.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Ronald Payne (R)			

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 121

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 Michael Champion (R)	<p>1. We're being invaded with the help of the federal government. Strong measures to cut this flood needs to be instituted. My suggestion is to block all entries and return illegal immigrants back to their origin. I welcome legal immigration, but not flooding Texas the way the federal government is allowing, it is criminal. 2. PROPERTY TAXES. We need to get rid of it. 3. School choice and a voucher system that is State funded. Not based on property taxes</p>	<p>Medicaid is a financial loser. Unless it is structured to pay actual costs versus parasite pricing (meaning reimbursement less that it costs to provide), the system will continue to fail. Expansion would only cause it to fail earlier and less care is paid for. I would support using that money for catastrophic care coverage and have individuals be responsible for their own basic healthcare visits.</p>	<p>I am pro-life. The States should be deciding this because the federal government has overstepped its bounds by creating a "fictitious" right. If you read the enumerated powers clause, you'll see the exact responsibilities the federal government has. Anything else is reserved to the States and the People. My aim would be on prevention (non-abortion) and promoting adoption. Its harder to adopt a child in most States and that needs to reasonably change.</p>

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 Rebecca Moyer DeFelice (D)	Financial stability - working Texans in District 121 would be best served by lifting our property tax burden and healthcare costs, which can be addressed by passing the Medicaid Expansion and ensuring that Recapture dollars are not used to reduce the state's responsibility to fund public education. Public safety - prioritizing the expansion of mental healthcare access, closing background check loopholes for firearms purchases Environmental protection - stabilizing the electric grid, TCEQ reform	Healthy Texans are key to a robust economy, strong educational system, & engaged community, but over half of Texas' 254 counties do not have an OB/GYN in residence & 35 counties have no physician at all. To keep Texans healthy, we must opt into the Medicaid expansion. Every year, Texans pay out over \$11B in federal taxes that should come back to our state. Instead, we leave that money on the table & local taxpayers shoulder the \$6B burden of healthcare costs that are incurred by uninsured Texans	Abortion is a private medical procedure and should be left to the discretion of physicians and their patients. Politicizing a woman's right to determine when and how many children her family has is morally wrong and the legislature should not make that determination for Texas women.
 Gabrien Gregory (D)	Funding schools means modern quality education for students, safer classrooms, and lower property taxes for all of us. I will fight to bring teachers the pay they deserve and protect our students. I will sponsor a bill to legalize cannabis, use the projected \$1 Billion in revenue to lower prescription costs, expand Medicaid, and bring access to quality healthcare for all of us. I will support small businesses, fight for higher wages, and support efforts to lead the nation in clean energy jobs.	There is no excuse Texas consistently ranks at the very bottom in healthcare coverage nationally. All of us, including our seniors, feel the impact of high prescription drug costs and too many working families are uninsured. I will fight to expand Medicaid eligibility for Texas parents and people with disabilities, and I will support any federal funding toward Medicaid expansion. Many people under 40 will not have access to healthcare services or be insured in the future if we do not act.	In my view, overturning Roe v. Wade is already unacceptable. Should it happen, I will fight to restore and protect as much access to reproductive healthcare for women. We cannot continue to accept that Texas leads the developed world in maternal mortalities and we should expand access to healthcare for women - not limit it.
No response received by print deadline: Steve Allison (R)			

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 122

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 Angi Aramburu (D)	Safety: Schools and businesses must be able to enact safety measures they deem necessary to protect students and staff. For the safety of our community and first responders, we must repeal permitless open carry. Education/Teacher Pay: We are the second-richest state and currently ranked 28th in the country for education. We need to properly fund public education and pay our teachers what they deserve without increasing property taxes. Affordable Healthcare: We need to expand Medicaid.	Not only are we turning down \$3.5 billion from the federal government of our own tax dollars by not expanding Medicaid, we are leaving over 5 million Texans uninsured. These are people that make too much to qualify for traditional Medicaid, but cannot afford to purchase insurance otherwise. Expanding Medicaid would provide a critical safety net that will bring more money to our state and provide health care to those that need it.	Legislation should focus on birth control access and sex education to prevent abortions before they are necessary. Women should be allowed to make all decisions that pertain to their bodies and healthcare without the undue burden of legislation controlling their very personal decision.
No response received by print deadline: Adam Blanchard (R), Elisa Chan (R), Mark Daniel Cuthbert (R), Mark Dorazio (R)			

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 123

No response received by print deadline: Charlotte Valdez (R), Diego Bernal (D)

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

— The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Texas Voters' Bill of Rights

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

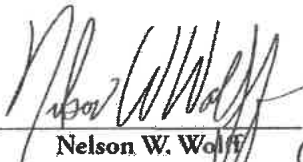
1. **You have the right** to vote if you are a qualified registered voter.
2. **You have the right** to cast your ballot in a manner that ensures privacy. You have the right to vote without any person trying to influence your vote and vote in a booth that prevents others from watching you mark your ballot.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

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



Ron Nirenberg

Mayor, The City of San Antonio



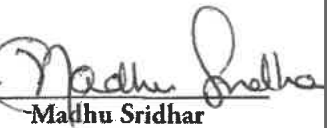
Nelson W. Wolff

Judge, Bexar County



Jacquelyn F. Callanen

Elections Administrator, Bexar County



Madhu Sridhar

President, League of Women Voters
of the San Antonio Area

*For counties other than Bexar, check with your county election official.

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

VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

PROVISIONAL BALLOT

You have the right to cast a provisional ballot IF,
Your name does not appear on the list of registered voters.

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

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

(b) you possess, but did not bring to the polling place, one of the seven forms of acceptable photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, OR

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

You have the right to present one of the acceptable forms of photo identification, which is not expired for more than four years, to the county voter registrar's office within six (6) calendar days after Election Day if you cast a provisional ballot.

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

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

DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS ELECTORALES EN EL ESTADO DE TEXAS

Sus Derechos de elector están protegidos.

Estos derechos están garantizados para todos los votantes calificados registrados.

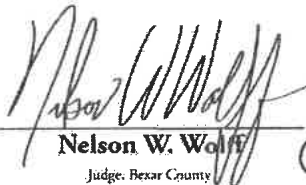
1. **Tiene derecho** a votar si usted es un votante calificado y se registró en el período especificado.
2. **Tiene derecho** a emitir su voto en forma privada. Tiene derecho de votar sin que alguna persona trate de influir en su voto, y a hacerlo en una cabina de manera que nadie vea sus elecciones en su planilla.
3. **Tiene derecho** a permanecer en la cabina de votación por el tiempo que sea necesario para completar su boleta.
4. **Tiene derecho**, antes de emitir su voto, a recibir hasta dos planillas en caso de haber cometido un error en la primera.
5. **Tiene derecho** a solicitar ayuda de un funcionario de la mesa electoral o de cualquier otra persona de su elección con excepción de su empleador, de algún dirigente de su sindicato o alguno de sus representantes.
6. **Tiene derecho** a votar si está discapacitado. La mesa electoral debe ser accesible y debe haber una cabina de votación adecuada para personas con necesidades especiales.
7. **Tiene derecho** a votar aún si no sabe leer o escribir. Tiene derecho a traer un intérprete que pueda traducir.
8. **Tiene derecho** a votar y deberá mostrar un documento de identidad si: a) está votando por primera vez, b) se inscribió para votar por correo y no adjuntó un documento de identidad al formulario de inscripción de elector, c) su nombre se encuentra en la lista de votantes inactivos, d) se ha disputado su voto, e) si algún funcionario de la mesa electoral lo requiere.
9. **Tiene derecho** de votar con una planilla provisional en el caso de estar en el entendimiento de que es un elector calificado y registrado pero algún funcionario de la mesa electoral le dice lo contrario. (Vea anexo 1 para detalles).
10. **Tiene derecho** a votar una vez en un centro de votación temprana durante el período de votación temprana dentro del territorio en donde se lleva a cabo la votación.
11. **Tiene derecho** de apelar cualquier incumplimiento de sus derechos electorales utilizando el procedimiento de presentación de quejas.
12. **Tiene derecho** de votar si no se encuentra encarcelado por una condena por delito grave y la inscripción electoral se realizó después de que su sentencia se haya cumplido por completo.
13. **Tiene derecho** de llevar consigo a la cabina de votación ésta Declaración de Derechos Electorales así como cualquier otro documento de apoyo, incluso una planilla de muestra, una guía electoral o material de campaña electoral. No olvide llevarse los documentos al salir de la cabina de votación.
14. **Tiene derecho** de votar en cualquier casilla en el condado de Bexar* a cualquier hora entre las 7 a.m. y las 7 p.m. en los días de las elecciones Estatales y Federales. El horario de votación puede variar para Elecciones locales. Si está en la fila para votar al cierre del Puesto de Votación a las 7 p.m. tiene el derecho de votar.
15. **Tiene derecho** de que sus hijos lo acompañen a la cabina de votación.

Si cree que sus derechos electorales fueron violados de alguna manera, contactar a la División Electoral de la Secretaría del Estado al 1-800-462-VOTE (8683), via e-mail al elections@sos.texas.gov o por correo regular al Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.



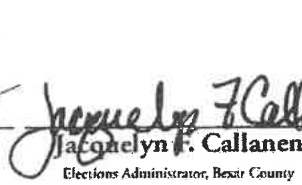
Ron Nirenberg

Mayor, The City of San Antonio



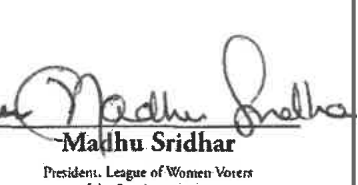
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*Para los demás condados aparte de Bexar, consulte con el oficial correspondiente a su condado.

Preparado por la Liga de Votantes de Mujeres del Área de San Antonio

REQUISITOS DE IDENTIFICACIÓN DEL VOTANTE

Los documentos de identidad aceptados son :

- » Licencia para Conducir de Texas, emitida por el Departamento de Seguridad Publica de Texas (DPS).
- » Certificado o Credencial de elector de Texas emitido por DPS.
- » Credencial de Identificación personal de Texas emitido por DPS.
- » Licencia para portar armas de Texas emitido por DPS.
- » Credencial de Identificación del Ejército de los Estados Unidos con fotografía.
- » Certificado de Ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos con fotografía.
- » Pasaporte de los Estados Unidos.

Con excepción del Certificado de Ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos, los documentos de identificación personal con fotografía deben estar vigentes o haber expirado en un período no mayor a 4 años antes de ser presentados para acreditación de votante en el puesto de votación. Para votantes de 70 años de edad o más, la fecha de expiración en los documentos es ilimitada.

Sí no tiene en su poder no puede obtener uno de éstos documentos de identificación deberá llenar una forma de declaración en el puesto de votación explicando la razón y traiga la original o una copia de uno de los siguientes documentos:

- » Certificado válido de Registro electoral
- » Acta de Nacimiento certificada o documento de nacimiento aceptable por la corte que puede ser un documento de otro país.
- » Factura de servicios Público reciente.
- » Estado de cuenta de Banco.
- » Cheque
- » Documento gubernamental con su nombre y domicilio.

PLANILLA PROVISIONAL

Tiene derecho de votar con una planilla provisional SI

Su nombre no aparece en la lista de electores registrados.

Tiene derecho a votar con una planilla provisional EN CASO DE,

(a) no tiene en su poder alguna de las siete (7) formas de identificación personal con foto aceptadas, las cuales estén vigentes o hayan expirado en un período no mayor a cuatro años, pero puede obtenerlas, O

(b) usted tiene pero no trajo consigo al puesto de votación una de las siete formas de identificación con foto aceptad, O

(c) no tiene en su poder una de las siete formas de identificación con foto aceptadas, y no las puede adquirir debido a un impedimento razonable y no trajo ninguno de los documentos de soporte al puesto de votación.

Tiene derecho de presentar una de las formas de identificación personal aceptadas o identificación con foto, mismas que deben estar vigentes o haber expirado en un período no mayor a 4 años, en las oficinas de registro electoral del condado en los siguientes seis (6) días calendario después del día de Elección si usted vota una planilla provisional.


Si cree que sus derechos electorales fueron violados de alguna manera,
contactar a la División Electoral de la Secretaría del Estado al 1-800-462-VOTE (8683),
vía e-mail al elections@sos.texas.gov o por correo regular al
Elections Division, P.O.Box 12060, Austin, Texas 78711.


Preparado por la Liga de Votantes de Mujeres del Área de San Antonio

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 124

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 Gerald Brian Lopez (D)	<p>There are many issues in House District 124. Such as access to reliable and affordable high speed internet, housing ownership for working families, and access to nearby healthcare facilities. As the Representative, I will sponsor bills to address these issues and make myself and staff available to committees once assigned and work hard to ensure that they are voted out of committee, and make sure I have bipartisan support for the bills during this process to help passage before the whole house.</p>	<p>Yes, we should expand Medicaid. We are missing out on an estimated \$15 billion in funding. Currently, 5 million Texans are covered by Medicaid /CHIP. There could be 1.7million more Texans who would be covered, if we accepted the expansion. There are 771, 000 thousand Texans that have no realistic access to healthcare without Medicaid expansion. The lack of health insurance keeps many from seeking health care services and preventive care. I will propose legislation for expansion of Medicaid.</p>	<p>The acceptable law at this time is "Roe v. Wade". The law passed last session is, at the surface level, to stop abortion after the first six weeks of pregnancy. The real purpose of the "Texas Abortion Bill/Law" was clearly intended to nullify the Supreme Court's and take away a woman's Fourteenth Amendment right; the "right to privacy". Legislators must use caution when creating laws that could set an irreversible precedent that could lead to other long-standing constitutional rights fights</p>
 Josey Garcia (D)	<p>Affordable Healthcare A Livable Wage COVID Recovery for small business I will take the steps necessary to create modernized legislation that protects and supports the people first. Accessibility to living wage jobs and affordable housing, to include affordable daycare is critical to help families recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Small businesses are in need of support to recover their businesses, provide for their communities, and their families</p>	<p>Yes, I do think Texas should expand Medicaid. Many cannot afford the absorbent prices of health insurance. I advocate for those who are in need of resources and recently met with a family of 5, with 2 children on the Autism Spectrum. They are charged \$1200 monthly. I myself have sons on the Autism Spectrum and understand we need to have a logical solutions for those who cannot afford basic healthcare. Medical care is a human right, we even provide it to Prisoners of War during combat.</p>	<p>As a woman who has risked her body for her country, I do not believe government has a right to regulate women's bodies. An acceptable abortions law is one that protect a woman's right to choice and provides access to safe licensed medical professional care. Criminalizing abortion puts women at the mercy of unlicensed and dangerous practices that can result in death. Being born to young troubled parents, I know children of unwanted pregnancies often face abuse, neglect, homelessness, or death.</p>
 Steven Gilmore (D)	<p>Focusing on law enforcement: (1) The over-policing and depletion of resources (through austerity and neglect) in impoverished communities; (2) Recruiting/creating social workers capable of providing prompt and meaningful adult dispute resolution goals as domestic incidents arise; and (3) work even harder to ensure that law enforcement cannot hide behind their personnel file and City Atty's Office. That hidden info is necessary for both Prosecutors and Defense counsel to properly evaluate cases</p>	<p>Absolutely. Healthcare is a human right, Medicaid should absolutely be expanded, but every citizen of the State should have guaranteed healthcare. Not merely "access" to healthcare, but actual healthcare that doesn't increase the likelihood of that person filing for bankruptcy at some point in the future just because a person's appendix called it quits. I believe in Medicare for all.</p>	<p>I'd never agree to a state-by-state solution on the legality of abortion. There's only one acceptable and effective retort to the abortion question: "On demand, without apology." The Dem Party has mostly softened its position w/ respect to abortion, and we've seen the rights protected by Roe being peeled away as a direct consequence of the Party's decision. The Party's refusal to hold the line on this issue has caused women immeasurable harm, and it's time the Party worked harder to fix it.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Johnny Arredondo (R)			

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 125

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 Eric Michael Garza (D)	<p>The top three issues facing the people of District 125 include (1) a lack of equitable and adequate funding for the school districts that serve, support, and educate our children, including funds to ensure districts can hire and retain strong, diverse, well-qualified educators; (2) a need for improvements to our infrastructure, especially highway interchanges; and (3) a voter registration and voting system that makes each process more accessible while still ensuring the integrity of elections.</p>	<p>The refusal to expand Medicaid is an example of petty politics over policy that truly benefits Texans. Texas can only benefit by expanding Medicaid. Texas is leaving \$15.3 Billion on the table by not expanding Medicaid in 2022. Meanwhile, Texas remains one of the states with the highest number of residents without health insurance.</p>	<p>Like many Texans, I support the US Supreme Court upholding Roe v. Wade and allowing a woman to make her own reproductive healthcare decisions. If the State decides to continue to pass laws restricting such rights, it must be done simultaneously with an expansion to Medicaid and other public health funding so families have access to free and/or affordable healthcare services. We cannot defund women's healthcare facilities while also leaving them no choice in reproductive healthcare decisions.</p>

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues facing people in your district? What legislative steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you think Texas should expand Medicaid? Why or why not?	What would an acceptable Texas abortion law look like to you if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade and leaves abortion decisions up to the individual states?
 Ray Lopez (D)	<p>While there are many issues that need addressing, the top three issues that the people of District 125 face are affordable childcare, future infrastructure planning, and accessibility to quality broadband. Over two years ago the first cases of COVID-19 began to spread around the globe. The impact the Pandemic has had on student learning has been challenging on academics and exhausting for teachers to supplement the losses. Additionally, the Pandemic has shown the need for broadband expansion.</p>	<p>At the start of the pandemic, there were over five million Texans already uninsured. Over the past two years, nearly two million Texans have lost their health insurance. Many Texans need access to healthcare and benefits that come with Medicaid expansion. Medicaid expansion would enable Texans to better address maternal mortality, mental health, and it would lower all insurance premiums. Expanding Medicaid would also bring an estimated \$114 billion into our state budget over 10 years.</p>	<p>A strong abortion law for Texas would ideally look like one that allows for abortion clinics in all areas of the state where demand is high enough. It would create oversight and help ensure that all clinics are meeting high standards of medical practice and confidentiality. Ideally, there would be adequate funds to develop or enhance social awareness or assistance programs that provide pregnant women with comprehensive aid and information regarding their options.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Carlos Antonio Raymond (R)			

JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEALS

Six-year term. Hears appeals on civil and criminal cases from lower courts in its district.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

JUSTICE, 4TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 6

No response received by print deadline: Todd McCray (R), Irene Rios (D)

JUSTICE, 4TH COURT OF APPEALS, PLACE 7 - UNEXPIRED TERM


No response received by print deadline: Lori I. Valenzuela (R), Rebecca 'Beckie' Palomo (D)

DISTRICT JUDGE-CIVIL

2-year term. Some of the case types heard in civil courts include divorce, land titles, election contests, and civil matters in which the amount of money or damages is less than \$200.



For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org

45TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CIVIL


Candidate	In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? On how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?	What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
 Patricia Jay (R)	<p>The area of practice in which I have the most experience is family law; however, I have handled matters in the area of criminal defense and other civil matters. I have been lead attorney on 2 jury trials, and have been second chair on an additional 2 jury trials. I have handled well over 1000 cases as lead attorney in the last 15 years, with a vast number of those resulting in bench trials and other contested bench hearings.</p>	<p>The best interest of the child is the most important factor, to be determined using some of the following relevant factors: (1) the child's emotional and physical needs and which parent can best meet those needs; (2) history of care giving by the parents; (3) physical availability of the parents; (4) plans for the child by each parent (5) disruption to the child by placement with either parent; (6) the child's desires, as applicable based upon the age of the child.</p>	<p>I believe the following would help with case backlog: (1) getting cases with emergent issues in front of a judge quickly and/or as soon as possible; (2) Compelling lawyers and parties to confer and to engage in out of court settlement processes and procedures.</p>

“Somewhere inside of all of us is the power to change the world.”

— Roald Dahl


Candidate	In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? On how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?	What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
 Mary Lou Alvarez (D)	As Judge of the 45th District my practice is civil litigation. District Courts handle personal injury suits, contract disputes, business dissolutions, and family cases like custody, support, and protective orders. Since taking the bench I have presided over roughly 15 jury trials: 12 in person and 3 virtually. I was also on the team to pivot to virtual jury trials in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 so civil matters could proceed. I have presided over hundreds of bench trials in-person and virtually.	As a parent I know what it takes to parent and empathize with parents who struggle during their cases. Custody litigation is about one thing: the best interest of the child. The factors to consider as required by law are: the child's emotional/physical needs, abilities of the parents to meet the needs, potential for danger to the child with either parent, stability of the parents, suitability of the child's relationship with the parents, logic behind the parents' actions, and the child's wants.	As a judge, I have personal knowledge of the efforts made to keep cases moving during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our courthouse never closed and we moved to virtual courtrooms. This action allowed justice without endangering public health. Innovation and hard work will maintain access to justice. We must allow litigants flexibility to appear in-person or virtually. We should explore "hybrid" proceedings where litigants appear in person and virtually as well as time limitations for interim matters.
 Maria Dinorah Diaz (D)	Family Law is the area I have most experience in. I have been the lead attorney in approximately 24 jury trials. I have been lead attorney in approximately 2,500 non-jury trials. My legal career began in 1991. I am in my 30th year of practice. I have represented several thousands of clients during this time period.	The best interest of the child. The maturity and moral compass of the parents. Whether or not the parents can co-parent and be able to work together to provide stability and guidance in raising their child. Which parent is emotionally engaged with the child. Honesty, kindness and integrity of the parents.	Work consistently and attempt to narrow issues with pretrial conferences. Be efficient and stay steady in consistent and deliberate administration of the bench. Set standards and best practices for the attorneys to abide by and work together with the other staff members of the County to ensure the juries, presentation of evidence and application of the law is rendered swiftly and with deliberate practice.

150TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CIVIL

Candidate	In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? On how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?	What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
 Scott Bradney (R)	For the majority of my 15-year career I have practiced family law with an emphasis placed on child abuse and neglect cases; child support establishment, modification, and enforcement; conservatorship establishment, modification, and termination of parental rights and adoptions. I have been a lead attorney on seven jury trials and handled over a thousand non-jury (bench) trials.	Having two competent parents is an excellent starting point in deciding any custody case. However, there is no single factor or list of factors that I believe to be most relevant. In deciding any custody case it is important to follow the Texas Family Code and always keep the best interest and needs of the child front and center.	Some concrete steps the civil courts can take to address case backlogs are; issue timely rulings, set a date no more than two-weeks from the date of the hearing for the parties to enter the order following any hearing where an order is not entered that day and work with other judges to establish specialty courts where the majority of the cases heard by those courts fall under a specific area of law e.g. family law, personal injury, contract and business law.



No response received by print deadline: Monique Diaz (D)

224TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CIVIL


Candidate	In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? On how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?	What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
 Cathleen 'Cathy' Stryker (R)	As an attorney I concentrated on personal injury, employment and commercial litigation. As a Judge the majority of my case load is in family law and personal injury. However as a Judge I also have significant experience in oil and gas law and breach of contract. As a lawyer, I was the lead attorney on at least 10 jury trials and dozens of non-jury trials and assisted with many more. As a Judge I have presided over more than 60 jury trials and hundreds of non-jury trials.	Under Texas law, the factors that a court must consider in rendering a primary custody decision are: 1) the desires of the child; 2) the emotional and physical needs of the child now and in the future; 3) the emotional and physical danger (of one parent) to the child now and in the future; 4) the parental abilities of the individuals seeking custody; 5) the programs available to assist the parents; 6) the stability of both parents' homes; and 7) acts/omissions of a parent and excuses therefore	The Bexar County Civil District Courts are up to date on the jury trials set and are currently able to try all cases seeking a jury trial. The non jury matters have seen a backlog due to the length of time a remote case can take to be resolved (due to technical difficulties and the time consuming nature of exchanging exhibits). To combat this, we have enlisted the help of retired judges who are acting as visiting judges to help get through the case load

Candidate	In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? On how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?	What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
 Marisa Flores (D)	My primary area of experience is in family law cases involving underlying issues of domestic violence. I have extensive experience handling protective orders and divorce and child custody matters—all with aspects of domestic violence. I have also litigated many international child custody cases filed under the Hague Convention. I have participated in many jury trials, but as lead counsel I have participated in only three. However, I have been lead attorney in over 50 non-jury trials.	In deciding child custody matters, I will always put the child's needs first. There are many factors that can be weighed and considered to determine this. These may vary depending on the particular matter, but some factors include the age of the child, a parent's bond with the child, any special needs of the child and the parents' ability to address that need, the living situation of each of the parents, and each parents' willingness to support a healthy co-parenting situation.	While we have utilized technology, such as Zoom, to keep the wheels of justice turning during the pandemic, the backlog remains an important issue for judges to overcome. Legal representation is paramount in addressing this backlog. Many cases get delayed due to one litigant lacking counsel. Continuing to expand access to legal counsel is important, especially because there is no right to an attorney in civil matters. For this reason, we must support and expand pro bono legal services.
 Milton Irving Fagin (D)	I have over 2000 non-jury trials and 25 jury trials. I have practiced civil law exclusively in the Civil District Courts in Bexar County for over 48 years in all of the areas of law in this Court. This is a litigation, trial Court. Half of the cases are divorce and child custody. The others are personal injury, real estate and commercial, business litigation. My experience in the Civil District Court for which I run is the key to the community receiving the correct decisions	I will point out a few things, but, you have to listen to the testimony and review all evidence. These are sometimes referred to as high conflict cases. You might look at geographic distances, who appears to be more willing to support the other parent's relationship with the children, allow the other to exercise their possession and access with the child, who has been the one to have been involved in certain activities or health care of the child, work schedules, child preferences, age of child.	This is a Civil Court of general jurisdiction. It's a busy Court. It's a very serious and important Court dealing with your marriage, child, your business, your health and perhaps injuries that you have sustained to your body and in many cases death. Our County has grown. We need more Courts. There are only 14 Civil District Courts, no new Courts for over 15 years. As Judge, I will NEVER rush a trial or hearing that needs my attention. I will always show up. You deserve a hard working Judge.

225TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CIVIL

Candidate	In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? On how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?	What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
 Renee Yanta (R)	My professional experience has made me uniquely and vastly qualified to serve again as a District Court Judge. I have the most judicial experience in family law, having handled over 1000 family law trials and hearings in my 7 years as a District Court Judge. I also tried well over 40 cases to juries, from family law cases to complex business disputes. As an attorney, I am board certified in Civil Appellate Law, specializing in the procedural, evidentiary, and legal issues of litigation.	After handling family law cases for 7 years, I am keenly aware that each case is unique and every family needs a judge who will pay close attention to their case and carefully weigh all the evidence. In my years on the Bench, I found it helpful to consider a host of circumstances, including evaluating which parent handles more of the day-to-day parenting responsibilities and which is most able to maintain an abiding peaceful environment for the children.	In light of the changing environment created by the COVID pandemic, I would encourage my judicial colleagues to maintain an online docket for non-evidentiary hearings. This will expedite such matters, freeing up the judges to spend more of their court time on evidentiary matters, especially family law cases.
 Shannon Roberta Salmón (D)	I have the most experience in Family Law. I also have practiced Immigration Law. I have some experience in other areas such as Contracts, Wills, Civil Litigation, Criminal cases, CPS cases, and a variety of other areas including work as an Ad Litem. I have been lead attorney in 4 jury trials and over 100 non jury bench trials.	An important factor for me would be who had been the primary caregiver for the child in the past to maintain as much stability for the child as possible.	Encourage the parties to attend mediation and other such collaborative solutions to conflict resolution prior to coming to court.



“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”
— President Thomas Jefferson

Candidate	In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? On how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?	What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
 Christine Vasquez Hortick (D)	<p>During my sixteen-year law career, I have represented clients in criminal, civil, probate, and family law matters. I am also a certified mediator. Most of my experience has been in family law. I have served as lead counsel on two jury trials and assisted as second chair on four others. I have acted as lead counsel on approximately five hundred and twenty-five bench trials and entered approximately five hundred pleas.</p>	<p>The best interest of the child is the guiding principle whenever a case involving a child is before a judge. Numerous factors may be taken into consideration when deciding custody. In a case in which both parents are competent, factors such as home environment, the age of a child, special needs of the child, the child's wishes, work schedule, and level of support from the parents would be considered. Proximity of parents to school or daycare may also play a role in making a determination.</p>	<p>Courts have utilized technology such as Zoom and electronic submission of orders to best combat the inability to hold traditional live hearings. These measures need to continue. Judges and staff need to be present as much as possible, and continued health protocols need to be utilized and tailored to protect the health of courthouse staff and visitors so that courts may remain open and be appropriately staffed. Additionally, visiting judges should be hired as needed to hear additional cases.</p>

285TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CIVIL

Candidate	In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? On how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?	What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
 Mark Thompson (R)	<p>I have practiced family law almost exclusively in Bexar County and the surrounding counties for 13 years, handling over 800 cases in Bexar County alone. Family law cases include divorces, custody cases, child support cases, and modifications and they make up 80% to 90% of all cases heard in the civil courts. I am particularly experienced in handling cases involving members of the armed forces. Jury trials are rare in family law and I have not handled any, but I have had over 50 bench trials.</p>	<p>Each case and each child is different. Texas uses a "best interest" standard. The Texas Supreme Court in <i>Holley v Adams</i> (544 S.W.2d. 367) outlined several factors for courts to determine the best interest of the child. Of these factors I feel that "the emotional and physical needs of the child now and in the future", and "the parental abilities of the individuals seeking custody" to be the most important. The gender of the parent is irrelevant.</p>	<p>Within our presiding court system, I would streamline the call of the docket by using technology and encouraging attorneys to be prompt and concise in their announcements. I would support time limits for hearings, require attorneys to limit the contested issues prior to court, and I would encourage the use of mediation. I would also support the appointment of associate judges to assist with family law cases or the designation of some district courts to handle family law cases exclusively.</p>
 Nadine Melissa Nieto (D)	<p>Most of my experience is in personal injury litigation. Many of the cases I have handled in Bexar County involved representing injured workers that have sustained severe injuries. I have filed claims against negligent employers on my clients' behalf. I am proud of the work I have done to represent clients that would otherwise not have access to courts of law. In my area of expertise, we do not have bench trials. However, I have handled approximately 10 jury trials as lead attorney.</p>	<p>The safety and well being of the child will always be my primary consideration in custody decisions. This is influenced by many factors including the role each parent played as a caretaker for the child, the child's physical and mental health, the home environment (including other persons in the proposed home the child would be raised in), and the relationship the child had with each parent. Each case presents a unique set of circumstances which I will review carefully.</p>	<p>Courts could consider mandated mediations at an earlier stage in the trial process. If mediation was compelled earlier, more cases could be resolved without the need for a trial setting. Courts could also consider a mandated Docket Control Order for all cases filed in Bexar County. This would ensure that the parties move the cases along in accordance with Court Ordered guidelines. Many counties currently require Docket Control Orders for this purpose.</p>
 Lisa Uresti-Dasher (D)	<p>I am a certified Guardianship attorney with a great deal of experience in Guardianship law. I ensure our vulnerable elderly population has the representation they need when the court is determining whether they need a Guardianship. I have a tremendous amount of experience in Appraisal and Ad Valorem tax litigation. I have been lead attorney on over 350 (closer to 500+) bench trials. I am the only candidate admitted to practice law in Federal Courts. I represent low-income clients.</p>	<p>Several factors are important. I started my career practicing family law at Legal Aid. The factors I find important are: 1. The parent's ability and willingness to support the child if custody is lost. 2. The condition of the living accommodation found in each of the parent's home. 3. The ability of each parent to ensure a stable, loving environment. 4. The impact on a child's education if the custody is granted. 5. The best interest of the child. 6. The child's wishes</p>	<p>1. Additional courts which would start as temporary but could become permanent - will help break down that backlog. 2. A requirement that judges only get an allotted amount of vacation instead of having unlimited vacation days. 3. Judges can agree to see 100 cases a day collectively to see which can be handled with a plea bargain or settlement. Oldest cases go first. People in Custody get to be heard first. Judges won't get to set their own schedule until the backlog is more manageable.</p>

288TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CIVIL



Candidate	In what areas of the law do you have the most experience? On how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	In a child custody case where both parents are competent, what factors do you consider most relevant in rendering a decision?	What are some concrete steps the courts can take to address the backlog of cases?
 <p>Art Rossi (R)</p>	<p>I am Board Certified in Family Law, the majority of my experience is in family law and probate, including guardianship. I have had several hundred trials as lead counsel in both district and probate courts. I served as an attorney and guardian ad litem in children's court and for incapacitated persons. I was honored to serve as the first President of the Family Law Bar Association - San Antonio (founded 2019) and to serve as the editor of a family law seminar for over a decade.</p>	<p>There is a difference between competence and the capacity to provide for the physical, mental, medical, and spiritual needs of the children. Every case is fact intensive, and the Holley factors need addressed on the best interest of the children. One of the primary factors is the ability of the parents to work together to nurture a healthy relationship between the children and other parent. This is critical for special needs children where my knowledge of guardianship and conservatorship is vital.</p>	<p>Family law cases are the majority of the district court dockets. My experience taught me the benefit of having specialized courts with a judge that has knowledge and experience in the subject matter of cases. When family law specialists serve as judges, this provides a judge eager to hear family law matters, has experience in efficient resolution of these cases and solutions to address the special needs of families such as discovery disputes or possession and access schedules.</p>
 <p>Cynthia Marie Chapa (D)</p>	<p>I had a private practice for 11 years prior to becoming the Judge of the 288th Civil District Court. The majority of my case load was family law. As an attorney, the majority of my cases were family law cases and all of my family law cases either ended up settling in mediation or were bench trials. My criminal cases all plead out prior to trial starting. On the bench within my first year in office, I presided over 12 jury trials and 5 nonjury trials totaling over 26 weeks in Trial.</p>	<p>Looking at the best interest of the child, what the educational needs of the children, special needs of the child and or the parents, stability of the home environment, work schedules, whether the parents encourage a relationship with the other parent, they relationship between the children and the individual parents and the rest of the household. There are so many variables that we can consider in those situations and every single case is unique to the people involved.</p>	<p>Civil District Courts have moved cases throughout the pandemic. Serving as Presiding Judge in March of 2020, my colleagues and I worked countless hours to get zoom hearings up and running by April 6th. We conducted jury trials via Zoom as well. We have the resources and technology to continue to move caseloads as proven over the last 2 years. We have to continue to be innovative about creating new ways to continue to assure access to justice even through crisis like the pandemic.</p>

DISTRICT JUDGE-CRIMINAL

2-year term. Felony cases involving charges such as murder, assault, theft, drunk driving.

For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org



144TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CRIMINAL

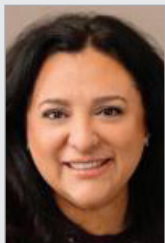
Candidate	How many years have you practiced criminal law? List the types of criminal cases you have handled and the percentage of your practice in each type of case. In how many jury trials and non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	What is your position on bail reform? What do you recommend, if anything?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the Bexar County criminal justice system? Explain your opinion.
 <p>Lorina I. Rummel (R)</p>	<p>I have devoted my entire career to criminal trial law. As Judge, I presided over capital murder, murder, aggravated robbery, aggravated assaults, sexual assaults, property crimes and other felony cases. In the 20 years with the District Attorney's Office, I have handled hundreds of criminal jury trials, most as lead prosecutor. These included capital murder seeking death penalty, capital murder seeking life without parole, violent weapon offenses, sexual offenses, and other major felonies.</p>	<p>I both agree and disagree with bail reform. I am for reform, including PR bonds, for nonviolent offenders. I do not believe an individual should be held in jail because they cannot afford bond on nonviolent, drug or property crime offenses. However, I believe criminal history should be considered as a factor in setting the amount. I do not agree with bail reform or lowering bonds for violent repeat offenders. Bonds should be set depending on the severity of the crime and criminal history.</p>	<p>Yes and No. I believe that there is still some racial profiling and arrest disparity within law enforcement - as studies show. However, I think this issue is being addressed through education. In regards to prosecution, I believe that the District Attorney's Office makes offers regardless of race, gender or economic background. I also believe Judges do the same. I do believe jury verdicts and punishments do still discriminate on racial motives although I believe it is unintentional.</p>
 <p>Michael Mery (D)</p>	<p>I have practiced criminal law for over 40 years, since I was a third-year law student at UT Law School in Austin, practicing with a third-year bar card. During my legal career, there were two periods that I did not practice criminal law: Feb. 1990-Jan. 1994, when I was fighting child abuse in the civil courts all over Texas; and 2013-2020 when I was Judge of the 37th District Court hearing only civil matters. I was lead attorney in every criminal jury and non-jury case I tried.</p>	<p>I am in favor of any reform of our criminal justice system that increases fairness, equity and accountability; safeguards our rights as Texans; keeps our community safe; and promotes expeditious disposition of criminal cases. Bail reform, done properly, can achieve these objectives. Until the Legislature acts, judges who preside over criminal matters must use their experience and discretion to accomplish this in their own courts under current law.</p>	<p>Statistics bear out that outcomes vary between races, gender and economic groups. Nonetheless, each judge must do everything possible to ensure fairness in the Court over which he or she presides. As judge of the 144th Judicial District Court, I strive daily to treat each defendant before the Court as a unique individual whose case requires that I bring all my experience to bear on every decision I make. I work to provide meticulously fair trials and just sentences. Victims are not forgotten.</p>

186TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CRIMINAL

Candidate	How many years have you practiced criminal law? List the types of criminal cases you have handled and the percentage of your practice in each type of case. In how many jury trials and non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	What is your position on bail reform? What do you recommend, if anything?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the Bexar County criminal justice system? Explain your opinion.
 Daphne Previti Austin (R)	<p>I have been practicing criminal law since joining the Center for Legal and Social Justice as a student attorney in 1995 in any and all matters from traffic tickets to capital murder. I've worked in the federal and state courts since being licensed in 1997, serving on the Criminal Justice Act panel in federal court, as a prosecutor for Bexar County. I've tried more than a hundred of cases as lead counsel. I've served as a District Court Judge presiding over a mental health treatment program.</p>	<p>Bail is the incentive for someone to show up to court on their designated day. It should be sufficient to encourage that attendance, but not burdensome.</p>	<p>As in all areas of life, there are a lot of individual outlooks among the people that work in a collective environment. I do not pretend to know all that happens in everyone's interaction. I believe that there are a lot of fair-minded people working in Bexar County, trying to do their best work. I do believe that those with more financial resources have more favorable options when it comes to the outcome of their case.</p>
 Kristina Escalona (D)	<p>As an attorney for over 16 years, I have devoted 100% of my career to practicing criminal law. I am Board Certified in Criminal Law. I have served as both a prosecutor and defense attorney handling all types of criminal cases including sexual assaults against children and adults, aggravated crimes involving deadly weapons, Intoxication Manslaughter, Murder, and Capital Murder. In my career, I have litigated over 100 jury trials, serving as supervising/lead attorney in over 60 of those trials.</p>	<p>A cash bail system is based on a person's access to money. Those who cannot afford bail remain jailed before trial even for non-violent crimes. This discriminates against the poor, costing tax-payers money. Instead, bail should focus on protecting the community from violent offenders, and prioritize the crime, the accused's criminal history, and any future danger. Judges need the discretion to set bail according to specific facts they see and not be restricted from addressing public safety.</p>	<p>The integrity of the criminal justice system depends on equal protection for all. From policy, to policing, to prosecution, minority groups face the reality of unequal treatment and account for a larger percentage of those accused and incarcerated. This creates patterns of injustice and undermines the public's trust in the system without addressing their main concern for community safety. A Judge must protect the community while ensuring every person receives equal treatment under the law.</p>

187TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CRIMINAL

Candidate	How many years have you practiced criminal law? List the types of criminal cases you have handled and the percentage of your practice in each type of case. In how many jury trials and non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	What is your position on bail reform? What do you recommend, if anything?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the Bexar County criminal justice system? Explain your opinion.
 Walden Shelton (R)	<p>For the past 12 years, I have been working as a Judge (8 years as a Sitting Judge and 4 years as a Visiting Judge) hearing and trying felony and misdemeanor criminal cases. As judge, I have tried in excess of 80 jury trials during the past 12 years and thousands of plea agreements. Prior to that, I had my own practice for 11 years litigating and trying misdemeanor and felony cases of various types.</p>	<p>Bail should guarantee the appearance of the Defendant for trial and hearings; it should keep the defendant from committing another offense while free on bail keeping the community safe; and it should keep the defendant from interfering with witnesses in the case. Bail should be set to guarantee those guidelines and not as a weapon of oppression and individualized to the Defendant.</p>	<p>I would hope so. I know that I have treated everyone the same regardless of race, creed, religion or economic status during my 12 years as a Judge.</p>
 Stephanie R. Boyd (D)	<p>In my twenty-four years of criminal law experience as a defense attorney and first-chair felony prosecutor in special crimes, I have tried an abundant number of criminal cases to jury and non-jury. As lead attorney, I have tried numerous high-profile cases to jury including, but not limited to: capital murder, murder, aggravated robbery, aggravated assault, violent cases involving children, drug cases, domestic violence cases, driving while intoxicated cases, and child abuse & neglect cases.</p>	<p>Judges are bound to follow the law. The guidelines for setting bail is Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 17.15. The guidelines are to set a bail that is not oppressive, protects the community, and to "assure that the undertaking will be complied with." I evaluate each case separately when determining a bail amount. Both Defense and State are allowed to present any evidence so that the Court may make an appropriate decision on bail.</p>	<p>The judiciary must reflect our community. I am the first female and first African-American judge of the 187th District Court. Diversity on the bench in the form of race, gender, and socio-economic background will contribute to a fairer judiciary and instill a sense of faith from the community at large. I have utilized the treatment courts, pretrial diversion programs and kept our community safe. Each person who enters this court knows they will be treated fairly.</p>

Candidate	How many years have you practiced criminal law? List the types of criminal cases you have handled and the percentage of your practice in each type of case. In how many jury trials and non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	What is your position on bail reform? What do you recommend, if anything?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the Bexar County criminal justice system? Explain your opinion.
 Veronica I. Legarreta (D)	<p>I have been an attorney for the past 15 years. I have handle cases from a traffic ticket to capital murder. During my time as a prosecutor the bulk of my caseload were misdemeanors. As a an attorney in private practice the bulk of my case load has been felonies. t I have tried over a 100 cases to a jury verdict. I have been the lead attorney in approximately 70% of the trials. I have sat as the second chair attorney to several new attorneys to help them through the trial process.</p>	<p>I believe bail should be set to ensure the defendant's appearance in court and the person's entire criminal history should be taken into consideration. I do not think cashless bonds should be mandatory to be released. It will not keep people from being violent in the future. Cashless bonds will create an even more overcrowding in the jails. People who may be innocent will take plea deals for the sole purpose of getting out of jail.</p>	<p>No, I do not believe they are treated equally. Plea deals, bail amounts, court fines and fees are predetermine amounts that do not take the actual individual into account. Wealthy individuals can pay these monies a lot easier and quicker than the majority of the population. Aside from the criminal population, I believe male attorneys have an advantage over women in the courtroom. Judges, both male and female, allow men more leeway and opportunities. I think women of color are also treated poorly</p>

226TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CRIMINAL

Candidate	How many years have you practiced criminal law? List the types of criminal cases you have handled and the percentage of your practice in each type of case. In how many jury trials and non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	What is your position on bail reform? What do you recommend, if anything?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the Bexar County criminal justice system? Explain your opinion.
 Velia J. Meza (D)	<p>I have practiced criminal law for 20 years. I am the Judge of the 226th District Court and I've been handling felony matters in that court for the past 3 years. The number of felony cases (non-jury) that I have presided over reaches into the thousands of cases. In 2019, we had 20 jury trials and then shut down for 17 months during the pandemic. When we reopened for in person proceedings under the new protocols in 2021, my court had 7 jury trials.</p>	<p>With regards to bail, I am bound by the Texas Constitution and the Statutes applicable to setting the amount of bail in a felony case. In my court specifically, we routinely hear these matters and I make rulings based upon the law and the facts of each case. While a Judge cannot "state a position on bail reform", I can generally explain that I give attorneys on both sides the opportunity to present evidence addressing bond amounts and bond conditions so as to make the best decision possible.</p>	<p>While I cannot speak to the entire Bexar County Criminal Justice System, I can only state that in my court, race, gender, and economic status has no bearing on the decisions I make.</p>
 Demetrio Duarte Jr. (D)	<p>I have practiced law over 37 years - 1984 to 1986 as assistant district attorney & 1987 to present in private practice. I have handled every level offense from misdemeanor speeding tickets up to capital murder and most charges in between. I also try federal criminal cases from DWI on base to capital murder. I have tried over 200 jury trials and tried over 1,500 contested bench trials in which I was the lead attorney. I have many other cases (jury/nonjury where I assisted other lawyers.</p>	<p>Unless the state proves otherwise, defendants should be presumed to merit personal recognizance bonds for nonviolent offenses. That stops the current financial inequity. Conditions of bond should not be used as a means of guaranteeing a court appearance and safeguarding the community. Alleged violent offenders warrant higher commercial bonds and conditions that also guarantee safety of the community -- each type of case meriting individual considerations. One size does not fit all.</p>	<p>Simply stated, money talks. The disenfranchised cannot afford bonds, pretrial therapy, investigators, counselors and a means to prepare for trial or build a case for leniency - - probation. Conditions of bond are financially oppressive and often lead to rearrests, job losses, evictions, etc. for those just trying to get by. The mentally ill or chemically dependent are often in these groups and further disenfranchised. Those in the system move too quickly to see these folks individually.</p>

227TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CRIMINAL

No response received by print deadline: Kevin O'Connell (R), Christine Del Prado (D)



290TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CRIMINAL

See "Unopposed Candidates" on Page 58

“The most important office, and the one which all of us can and should fill, is that of private citizen.”

— Louis Brandeis

437TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CRIMINAL


Candidate	How many years have you practiced criminal law? List the types of criminal cases you have handled and the percentage of your practice in each type of case. In how many jury trials and non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	What is your position on bail reform? What do you recommend, if anything?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the Bexar County criminal justice system? Explain your opinion.
 Melisa Skinner (R)	<p>100% of my practice has been in the area of criminal law for my entire 29 year career. I have tried a total of 5 Death Penalty cases, 4 as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney and 1 over which I presided as Judge. As an Assistant Criminal District Attorney, I tried over 200 jury cases. As a Criminal District Judge, I have presided over an additional 161 felony criminal cases including every type of felony criminal case. I have tried and presided over thousands of felony bench trials</p>	<p>A delicate balance must be achieved when considering bail reform so that bail is not used as a tool of oppression but the safety of the community is also assured. I recommend that bail be set on every case by a jurist with significant criminal law experience which is absolutely necessary to achieve this balance.</p>	<p>They are in the 437th Judicial District Court. I strive to be fair and equal in my treatment of every person appearing before me. That requires decisions made without bias but with a clear and concise review of the facts and circumstances of each case and the unique circumstances of every person who appears before me.</p>
 Joel Perez (D)	<p>I have practiced criminal law for 32 years. I have tried capital murders, murders, aggravated robbery, aggravated assault, aggravated sexual assault, aggravated kidnapping, theft, possession of controlled substance, delivery of controlled substance, delivery and possession of marijuana, federal RICO conspiracies, federal possession with intent to distribute conspiracies. My practice is almost 100% criminal law. I've been lead counsel in jury trials in hundreds of the above referenced cases.</p>	<p>Bail reform is an absolute necessity in our judicial system. In particular in non-violent offenses, where the accused lives below the poverty level. The best tool is to expand the personal recognizance bonds in cases of petty theft, simple possession of marijuana, and non violent offenses. Additionally, to increase supervision and monitoring of those released on personal recognizance bonds in order to protect the public.</p>	<p>I do not believe all groups are treated equally in our criminal justice system. People of color, the poor, the mentally challenged, and the uneducated are disproportionately at a disadvantage. These groups tend to lack the economic resources to effective representation of counsel to help them navigate through the criminal justice system. An improved court appointed attorney system, a compassionate judiciary, and more prosecutions focused on rehabilitation and not only punishment is needed.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Scott Simpson (D)			

DISTRICT JUDGE-JUVENILE

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


For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org

289TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-JUVENILE

Candidate	How many years have you practiced criminal law? List the types of criminal cases you have handled and the percentage of your practice in each type of case. In how many jury trials and non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	What is your position on bail reform? What do you recommend, if anything?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the Bexar County criminal justice system? Explain your opinion.
 Rose Sosa (D)	<p>I was an Assistant District Attorney for 20 years. I started my career as a prosecutor in the Juvenile Division in 1998 and ended my career at the Bexar County District Attorney's office in 2018 as the Chief of the Juvenile Division. I have continued to practice in Juvenile as a defense attorney. I am Board Certified in Juvenile Law since 2010. I have over 50 jury trials as the lead attorney with more than 1/3 of those in juvenile. I have over 100 bench trials with 3/4 of them in juvenile.</p>	<p>Texas Family Code Sec 54.02 sets limited circumstances in which a juvenile could be certified to stand trial as an adult. I believe one of the most important considerations is the likelihood of rehabilitation of the child in the juvenile system while still protecting the public. If it is shown that the child cannot be rehabilitated in the juvenile system through its many options such as placement, determinate sentencing, or TJJD then a transfer to adult may warranted.</p>	<p>I do believe additional funding for services for youth, specifically for mental health programs, is imperative to help curb juvenile crime. Mental health issues can spiral into crimes when left untreated. As an ADA, I worked in both the Girls Mental Health Court (Crossroads) and Boys Mental Health Court (MIND). I was able to witness the changes that were made in both the juveniles and their families when they were provided mental health intervention through counseling, education, etc.</p>

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Candidate	How many years have you practiced criminal law? List the types of criminal cases you have handled and the percentage of your practice in each type of case. In how many jury trials and non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	What is your position on bail reform? What do you recommend, if anything?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the Bexar County criminal justice system? Explain your opinion.
 Carlos Quezada (D)	Being born and raised in San Antonio's south side gives me a unique perspective on the trials and tribulations Bexar County juveniles face, unfortunately I have seen and experienced many of the issues our juveniles encounter. My experience as an Assistant DA, Special Prosecutor, School Board Trustee, Private Attorney, and father, gives me an exceptional combination of skills to handle these very special cases. Elected in 2018 to the 289th District Court I have handled hundreds juvenile of cases.	Juveniles should be tried as and adult only after very careful consideration from all the parties, including the District Attorney, the juveniles attorney and, most importantly the Judge. It is the Judge that will make this ultimate decision, that is why it's important to have a judge that will commit to hearing all the factors that come into play in such a case. No one crime or circumstance can be predetermined as definitive. I am committed to handling each case individually.	Yes, I absolutely do believe the state should provide funds for intervention programs. As Judge of the 289th District Court I preside over a mental health court called MIND, (men in need of direction). The work we do has literally saved lives. After being elected in 2018 I established JUNTOS Court, a gang intervention court, the only court of its kind in Texas. As Judge I have seen lives changed threw intervention, therapy and compassion. I am proud of the work we have done in our Court.

436TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-JUVENILE

See "Unopposed Candidates" on Page 58

BEXAR COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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


For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	Do you believe that the wearing of body cameras by law enforcement makes it easier or more difficult to determine whether to prosecute cases? Why?	What would you propose to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in Bexar County?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the Bexar County criminal justice system? Explain your opinion.
 Marc LaHood (R)	We need as complete a picture as we can get to have the best chance of dispensing justice. Body cams document the interactions officers have and as close as possible allows us to relive the incident so that we can objectively and reasonably evaluate what happened. Additionally, body cams help law enforcement pick up and record things they may forget or didn't see at the scene. They also protect law enforcement when the criminal accused lies.	First, better communication and relationships with law enforcement and protective services. Miscommunication often sinks a good case and can result in a dismissal or weak plea. Second, understanding the root causes and the facts in that specific case. Third, making sure we hold the defendants accountable. Lastly, this can only be done with good leadership, trial lawyers and a worked up case. Organization and approach are key to tackling this problem.	Our justice system is the greatest system in the world. It's only flaw is that people are flawed. They have biases, prejudices, preferences or agendas. Because we cannot see ourselves in others, it's easier for us to dismiss their problems or pain. This potentially applies to everyone including judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police, jurors, victims and defendants. Fortunately, our justice system is always striving to equalize the field.
 Meredith Chacon (R)	Body worn cameras allow a level of protection for both law enforcement and those that they interact with. Viewing the body cam should always be a part of the initial case evaluation as it offers a dispassionate view of the incident or the immediate response to the incident at issue. This makes it easier to determine whether to prosecute, because there is less room for subjective interpretation than there was when relying upon the statements of the witnesses alone.	The DA needs to work with law enforcement and trial prosecutors to implement best practices for investigation and prosecution. Improving the quality of the cases, raising the conviction rate. The DA must collaborate with community partners to coordinate services for victims- you cannot hire yourself out of this problem. Finally, there needs to be better communication between sections of the office (criminal, protective order, CPS) so that victims do not continue to fall between the cracks.	No. The greatest disparity I see is regarding those in lower socioeconomic groups. I particularly have seen this in my criminal defense practice, where indigent defendants sometimes want to take a plea as their only way to get out of jail quickly. Also, many pre-trial diversion programs are expensive and therefore not available to those who do not have means. This needs to change if our goal is to incarcerate violent felons and to offer rehabilitation to those who commit lesser offenses.
 Joe Gonzales (D)	The use of body cameras can be a very useful tool in the prosecution of cases. The controversy over body cameras centers around the public's demand for release of the footage before it is brought to trial. My concerns about premature release include privacy for the victim and family, as well as the effect on a defendant's ability to obtain a fair trial. My policy is to not interfere in the law enforcement's decision to release body camera footage and let each agency make its own determination.	We have found that the most successful counties operate under a philosophy of early intervention and resolution. If we can contact the victim within 24 hours and offer services such as protective orders and referrals to wrap around services, they are more likely to cooperate when the case goes to trial. Early resolution means getting the alleged offender into counseling or other intervention programs. I will continue to lobby for additional funding to combat domestic violence.	People without means to bail out on low-level, nonviolent offenses may languish in jail until their court date and may accept a plea bargain just to end their ordeal and go home. The person that bonds out has the ability to hire competent counsel and insist on their day in court. Decisions are made every day by police, prosecutors, and judges that may have some level of implicit bias of which they may not even be aware. It is necessary that we strive for a more equitable criminal justice system.

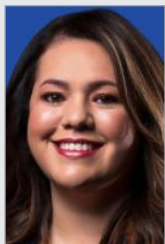

BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE

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

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues you would like to address over your next term, should you be elected? Explain.	Do you believe the county is sufficiently prepared for another crisis like last February's electric grid failure? Explain.	What do you think can be done at the county level to address climate change?
 Trish DeBerry (R)	<p>1. Completely Revamp the County Appraisal System. We must ensure property valuations are fair and reasonable and represent the accurate value of a citizen's home. Citizens want property tax relief. 2. Fiscal Accountability at the Bexar County Jail. We are spending millions of dollars in overtime at the Bexar County Jail. Morale is suffering. The jail needs a complete review. 3. Fully fund domestic violence prevention. We must remove backlogs in the judicial system and bring justice to all victims.</p>	<p>Bexar County is the "go to" authority during emergency operations. Hence, there have been generators & weatherization items requested in ARPA funding. A new process bringing the military, private sector and public sector together to better manage a crisis has also been established. CPS is "municipally owned", yet 33% of revenue is generated by ratepayers outside the city limits. We must have official County representation on the Board of CPS. No more taxation without representation.</p>	<p>Bexar County does not have a sustainability department, nor the staff to implement ideas regarding climate change. My first action as Judge is to do a fair and true assessment of our sustainability goals and show return on investment to the taxpayer. For example, can we find ways to modernize our vehicle fleet to be more energy efficient? Climate change policy at the County must be cost effective and not impact County taxpayers in a negative way.</p>
 Nathan Buchanan (R)	<p>Rising crime rates including sex trafficking, family violence, murder etc. Rising appraisal values on our properties. High water and energy prices. We need a non-politician who is going to step in and effectively address these issues. I stand with all the people and fully understand what it's like to struggle. People need help right now and don't need to be worrying about paying higher prices or about higher crime rates.</p>	<p>No I do not. I haven't seen anything coming from our local government or CPS regarding the strengthening of our power grid or how they plan to address this should it happen again. The Farmer's Almanac predicted last time that there would be a severe freeze and has also predicted that we are going to experience it again sometime during this winter. Bexar County residents need a County Judge who is going to take this task head on and do something about it so that residents aren't without heat.</p>	<p>I personally do not agree with climate change as there have been many scientists who have proven it to be false. As your next County Judge, I will however encourage everyone to do your part in keeping Bexar County clean. That includes recycling which Bexar County currently has no recycling program which I would work hard on implementing at little or no additional cost to the residents. Even though I do not agree that there is a climate crisis, I do believe that we need to preserve our land.</p>
 Gerardo (Gerard) Ponce (D)	<p>#1 Reduce Home Owner / Property Taxes & prevent from rising. Bexar County has some of the highest Homeowner / Property taxes in America & just shouldn't be there. Citizens & Government need to work together to prevent taxes from rising. #2 Address Family Violence & Hate Crimes like Antisemitism via Job Diversity being paramount & the norm with a minimum of 1/3 of new hires people of different ethnicities. #3 Improve workforce development w/ Job Training for Young People ages 17 to 24.</p>	<p>No - as long as ERCOT is in charge we're at their mercy!</p>	<p>To help improve being affected by weather, will suggest reducing gas emissions by managing traffic flow thus minimizing vehicles on roadways during key times. To improve electric grid efficiency (ie Black Outs) I'll recommend implementing staggered work hours as well as 3, 4 & 5 day work weeks to level the impact on our Power Grid. This plan will utilize work periods during 7am - 7pm days assisting in time management for families requiring Child, Senior, Health Care & Ozone Day absences.</p>
 Ina Minjarez (D)	<p>As one of the fastest growing communities in the country, economic growth and property tax relief, traffic and infrastructure, and community health and safety must be our top priorities. I have worked hard on all these issues as a state representative, including co-sponsoring legislation to provide over \$60 million in property tax relief for Bexar County homeowners, if approved by voters in 2022. I have the proven experience to build on the momentum and solid foundation Judge Wolff has laid.</p>	<p>Bexar County is well-prepared to respond to crises and fulfill its roles in an emergency - keep major county roads clear, operate emergency services, and keep county health care services operational. It is important to note that ERCOT at the state level and CPS and SAWS at the local level shoulder the burden of keeping power on and water flowing to local residents. The county is prepared to do its part and those agencies need to be fully prepared and able to do theirs.</p>	<p>I will consider all options that would save taxpayers money and reduce our carbon footprint. The county can keep reducing its energy consumption by continuing to convert its vehicle fleet to low-emission and electric vehicles, upgrade facilities to be more energy efficient, and update its Energy Conservation & Recycling Policy. We can offer incentives to new and existing businesses who implement green business practices, and continue working with the Metropolitan Partnership for Energy.</p>

VOTE! It's in your best interest.

Candidate	What are the top 3 issues you would like to address over your next term, should you be elected? Explain.	Do you believe the county is sufficiently prepared for another crisis like last February's electric grid failure? Explain.	What do you think can be done at the county level to address climate change?
 Ivalis Meza Gonzalez (D)	Support a justice system that's dedicated to erasing domestic violence, treating mental health and substance abuse, bringing families together and supporting our children. Work collaboratively at every level of government to ensure that we're delivering the most for every county resident - whether you live in San Antonio or our surrounding municipalities and towns. Make healthcare accessible to all by continuing to expand University Health System.	We needed the state to do more with regulating electric companies to federal standards and enforce weatherization of key utility infrastructure. The county can take the lead to ensure coordination with cities, CPS, SAWS and other entities to alleviate problems if occurred.	The county can help aid in not contributing to green house gases. Work with the city to create pilot programs and policies to combat climate change.
 Peter Sakai (D)	I am committed to growing the economy of Bexar County - particularly in the biomedical, technology, manufacturing, and cyber-security industries. I also recognize that education is the key to upward mobility and stability, so I will lead the collaborative effort to bring educational institutions, workforce training programs, and business leaders together to create more opportunities for success. Lastly, I want to keep our infrastructure modernized and servicing all Bexar County residents.	Power outages last winter resulted in 14 deaths in Bexar County—14 too many. I will ensure that Bexar County works with CPS Energy, SAWS, and the City of San Antonio to avoid similar disasters in winters to come by strengthening the resilience of our energy grid. The County needs to increase its communication with all its citizens to keep them up to date on latest developments and precautionary measures. We must also work with all stakeholders to improve disaster response across the county.	As County Judge, I would facilitate the public/private partnerships necessary to address such a monumental problem as climate change. By working collaboratively and leveraging available state/federal funding and programs we can reduce our community's carbon emissions in a manner that does not stymie economic development and growth. In addition, Bexar County can adopt energy efficient technologies and sustainable materials to reduce the carbon footprint of County facilities.

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW

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

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT I

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Bob Behrens (R)	Several dozen jury trials, predominantly felonies. Not many bench trials. I stopped keeping count years ago. I conducted many jury trials as Judge of County Court at Law No. 15 2015-2018	If you mean reducing recidivism, I would need stats to draw such conclusions. DWI/drug courts provide more intense supervision and targeted counseling to help address the addictions/dependencies of defendants. Esperanza Court seeks to reduce prostitution, by addressing addictions, helping defendants gain self esteem, secure employment, and get on their feet. Veterans Treatment Court is a useful program that helps an under-served group, some of whom have service related mental health issues.	If you mean fairly, they were treated so by me when I was judge. Equality of outcome in each case is not the goal. The DA recommends punishment, including fine & jail time or probation & conditions of probation like classes, some required by law, and community service based on the particular facts. The judge can either follow the plea bargain as to the fine and time, or reject it but the judge has discretion to impose conditions of probation tailored to the perceived needs of each defendant
 Helen Petry Stowe (D)	Trial experience is such an important aspect of judicial qualification. As judge, I have presided over 22 jury trials, and several non-jury trials these past three years. During my 10 year career as an ADA, I was the lead attorney on more than 10 jury trials, dozens of non-jury trials, and participated actively in more than 50 jury trials. I have written more than 20 post trial appellate briefs in my career. My extensive trial and appellate experience give me extra confidence in my rulings.	TRAC-D is the DWI Specialty Court I currently preside over, and I believe in the power of Restorative Justice. We are fortunate to have 14 specialty courts in Bexar County that help create long-term rehabilitation and change in our community. An additional Specialty Court that I believe could be of great help would be a Felony DWI Specialty court that could change the lives of participants with specialized treatment to protect our community from offenders with three or more DWI convictions.	I can say with confidence that I always strive to treat race, gender, and economic groups equally in my court, but it would be a stretch to say that the county court system treats all groups equally. That said, I do believe that your vote is your tool to help the system to be the best it can be, by electing officials who will mindfully put protocols in place so that everyone can be treated equally.

No response received by print deadline: **Rene Muñoz (D)**


BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 2

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Jason Wolff (R)	I am currently the 1st Chair Felony Prosecutor in the 437th District Court and handle matters ranging from Intoxication Manslaughter to Aggravated Robbery to Capital Murder. During my tenure as a Judge and a prosecutor, I have presided over or been the lead attorney in over 200 jury trials and bench trials combined.	Bexar County Court at Law #2 is a court of general jurisdiction and hears both criminal and civil matters. Included within this purview are cases involving special victims, such as victims of family violence, as well as defendant's who may have had prior military service. In my opinion, our Courts should be available to serve the public at large and still address the particular needs these cases may present. It is important to elect a Judge who is experienced enough to handle all cases.	Equal treatment within the courthouse starts with individual accountability. A Judge should set the example of neutrality and impartiality in all aspects of the job and hold other court participants to the same standards. We always have room for improvement and can all strive each day to ensure equal treatment under the law.
 Melissa Saenz (D)	In total, I have tried 50 criminal cases in my career and almost all of them have been jury trials. I have been the lead prosecutor on a wide range of cases like DWI's, sexual assaults against children, and murder cases. More than half my career has been spent prosecuting violent crime. This experience gives me the ability to recognize a violent and non-violent offender. That perspective is needed so that punishment can be in the best interest of both the offender and the community.	Specialty courts geared toward restorative justice that implement life skill and job training programs, are the most successful. These programs are even more successful when they don't create a financial burden to those in the program. I would support a specialty court that helps those not born in the US that are charged with a crime understand the legal process and the full effects of a plea, trial, and/or conviction.	No, I don't believe the county court system treats people fairly. Instead, I believe sometimes it sets people up for failure and puts them on a path to re-offending. I chose to run for County Court #2 because I believe in restorative justice and helping people succeed. As Judge, I will look at the facts of each case individually to decide what is in the best interest of that offender and the community, as well as look at the life circumstances that brought that person into the court system.
 Maria Teresa Garcia (D)	In my 28 years of practicing as a trial lawyer I have been the lead attorney in jury trials and bench trials for a combined total of over several hundred cases. I have experience as the lead attorney in trial in both criminal and civil cases. County Court at Law No. 2, which I am running for, handles criminal and civil cases; as a judge, having that experience in both is invaluable. I have that experience.	Each Specialty Court addresses a different need in the community such as mental health, veteran issues, and prostitution and all are important. I would create a Young Offender Program that would address the needs and issues of defendants younger than 26. The goal of the Young Offender Program would be assisting young defendants to navigate the criminal process, to learn from their mistake, and to move forward in life hopefully never returning to the criminal justice system.	It seems that there are different sets of rules for those with political and/or money connections. Some say that this group does not receive special treatment but rather that they hire better attorneys than those who are appointed. As an attorney representing poor defendants, I know the attorneys who handle court appointments and know that the majority are excellent. This leads me to believe that differential treatment for some people in the criminal justice system does exist.
No response received by print deadline: Grace M. Uzomba (D)			



BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 3

See "Unopposed Candidates" on Page 58

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 4

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Alfredo Ximenez (D)	25-30 as defense counsel, 20-25 plus as judge.	I fully support all our specialty courts. I feel the DWI court, Drug court, and Domestic Violence courts are the most effective at handling the problems we are facing as a community as a whole. The pandemic has drastically increased the case load in all these cases, specifically domestic violence cases. County court #4 has stepped up to help the domestic violence courts in the case overload. I believe more resources need to be directed at existing specialty courts before formation of new ones.	The reason I chose to run for Judge was because of the disparity in treatment of the poor, uneducated, gender, and racial inequality. As defense counsel, I witnessed 1st hand, the blatant and cavalier use of the "Good Old Boy System." People who were not "connected" or were of various minority groups, were simply treated as "defendants" and not "real people". Peoples lives are affected by my decisions and its a position I do not take lightly
No response received by print deadline: Jason Garrahan (R)			

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 5

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Andrea Arevalos (D)	<p>I have participated in 12 criminal misdemeanor jury trials to verdict and 12 criminal felony jury trials to verdict. I have participated in one criminal felony non-jury/bench trial. Cases tried include Driving While Intoxicated, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Possession of Controlled Substances, Burglary, Aggravated Assault, and Murder. I have also prepared and worked on hundreds of criminal cases, both misdemeanor and felony, that have resulted in pleas on the day of trial.</p>	<p>I believe the Bexar County Veterans Treatment Court is very successful. I was assigned to this court in 2016 and 2018. This dual diagnosis program addresses mental health and substance abuse by providing Veterans with treatment and supportive services to reduce recidivism. I believe Bexar County could benefit from a court designated for our homeless population. A homeless court could similarly provide dual diagnosis counseling, life skills, job training, education, and employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Unfortunately, disparities still exist in the criminal justice system; growth and improvement are necessary. This is accomplished by creating programs geared at changing policy and practices. Bexar County has instituted Cite and Release, which allows an officer to release low level, non-violent offenders with a ticket and avoid formal arrest and jail. However, more must be done to ensure equality. There is a big need for bail reform and the use of PR bonds for low-level offenses in county court.</p>
 John Longoria (D)	<p>I am currently in my 7th year serving as the Judge for County Court #5. Before that, I practiced law as a solo practitioner for 41 years. During that time, I was lead attorney in hundreds of both jury and non-jury trials. The District Clerk's records indicate that in Bexar County alone I handled 1596 criminal matters and 1065 civil matters. In addition, I have tried dozens of cases outside of the county.</p>	<p>The family-violence courts continue to need help. The DWI courts are essential as we continue to have a DWI crisis in our community. The Veterans Court is particularly valuable because of the number of veterans living here. I support additional courts to address family violence, DWI and Mental Health— all of which are at a crisis level.</p>	<p>My peers selected me as Administrative Judge. As such, it is my duty to address complaints of unequal treatment. While there have been none, the difference in the quality of representation for the economically disadvantaged, along with problems such as the cash bail system, are of serious concern. Bexar County has initiated the Managed Appointed Counsel Program, a step towards improving indigent representation. These concerns require both the courts' and our law-makers' attention.</p>

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 6

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
Brandon Jackson (R)	<p>I have been the first chair lead attorney in over 100 jury trials from misdemeanor cases to felony cases including several contested competency jury trials. I never kept tabs on bench trials, but have first chaired several misdemeanor bench trials as well.</p>	<p>From what I have seen, most of the specialty courts have a good success rate. When I was a misdemeanor prosecutor I was assigned to the Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC). The VTC was new to Bexar County and I was actively involved in the planning stages and establishment of procedures. I watched and helped the VTC grow into a very successful program that changed a lot of lives for the better. I am a big believer in treatment courts and would continue my support of treatment courts in the future.</p>	<p>I can't speak generally for the court system, but I will say, if elected, I will ensure all will be treated equally in my court. Justice should be blind to race, gender, and economic status, and I will strive for justice and follow the law.</p>
 Erica Dominguez (D)	<p>I'm a graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law and have been a practicing attorney since 2014. I have served as the lead attorney on five jury trials, and 2nd Chair Attorney on four others. I have also been the lead attorney on one bench trial. As a Public Defender, I am at the courthouse daily, representing those who cannot afford legal counsel.</p>	<p>Every specialty court offers unique support and guidance depending on a person's needs. Following approved best practices, the specialty court and support team provide an opportunity and pathway to recovery. I believe all specialty courts produce positive outcomes, and I would support more in the area of family violence. As a veteran, I am particularly interested in supporting and expanding the Veterans Specialty Court that is housed in County Court 6.</p>	<p>I believe the community and supporting agencies that target homelessness, mental health, addiction, and job loss needs more resources. This is an area where I see a troubling disparity. The courts try to engage in the short supply of resources that are available, but the waiting lists get long and clients time out. As a judge, I would advocate for more resources to ensure more equitable access for all.</p>


“Democracy is not a spectator sport.”

— Marion Wright Edelman

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 7

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
Adam Michael LaHood (R)	As lead attorney, I have tried approximately 50-60 jury trials, and many more as a second-chair attorney. I have only tried a handful of bench trials (maybe 2 or 3) as I prefer jury trials.	I think they have their usefulness, but I've been particularly impressed with the Mental Health court and Veteran's Treatment Courts. I would support the expansion of services to people with mental health needs as I feel mental health issues are oftentimes a major underlying cause for many of the cases we see in our criminal courts.	I do not think any of our judges would treat a person differently based upon gender, race, sexual orientation or economic standing. The biggest difference would come from a person's ability to hire an attorney. I've dedicated my entire legal career to indigent defense, and can honestly say the Bexar County appointment wheel has some of the finest attorneys imaginable working for their clients. However, hiring an attorney can give a defendant more of a choice in their defense & more confidence.
 Melanie Lira (D)	I have been a practicing attorney since 2015, specializing in criminal and immigration law. I have led four jury trials as the first chair and two as second chair. There are no jury trials in immigration matters, only bench trials, and I have handled several. I have a wide breadth of experience in trying cases involving prostitution, criminal trespass and interference with a public servant. I would use my experience and determination to reduce the backlog and serve justice with integrity.	While the specialty courts are not perfect, I do believe each court is working hard to serve defendants. In addition to what we have now, I would like to see an initiative in the domestic violence court that promotes applying and participating in the program within the first 45 days of arrest. I believe the sooner defendants begin their classes, the more likely they are to achieve reform and reconciliation.	I do not believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system. People of color, especially men, have been given higher bail amounts and more severe punishments. A defendant's economic status often plays a more significant role than community safety in regards to whether incarceration continues.
 Michael De Leon (D)	In my 22 year career, I have tried over 100 jury trials ranging from sex crimes against children and adults, domestic violence aggravated assaults, murder, and capital murders. I have prosecuted cases in front of several judges and have used my significant trial experience to prepare myself to be a judge who is an expert in domestic violence and advanced trial advocacy.	County Court #7 is a specialized county court that only deals with domestic violence cases. County Court #7 has personnel who are highly trained to deal with domestic violence offenders and to attempt to reduce recidivism. Other specialized courts deal with DWI, mental health, drug offenders, and prostitution. A specialty court can be successful only if the elected judge has significant trial experience and is an expert in the focus of that specialty court such as domestic violence.	Speaking for County Court #7, all staff, attorneys, defendants and victims are treated fairly and equally by the Court regardless of any orientation. Judges take an oath to follow the law and I am constrained by the law that is passed by the Texas Legislature. Bond reform needs to be passed by the Texas Legislature as defendants who are poor are not treated fairly by law. Money should not be the basis for why one defendant bonds out of jail and another does not.

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 8

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Ashley Foster (R)	Throughout my career, I have been the lead attorney in over 75 trials. The majority of this experience was gained in my career from my work as both a misdemeanor and felony prosecutor for the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. I have participated in well over 200 hearings before the bench.	Of the 13 specialty courts in Bexar County, the Mental Health Court and Drug Court stand out as the most successful. They are focused problem solving courts that aim to provide treatment instead of punishment. I would be excited and proud to create a "Commercially Sexually Exploited Persons" court, so as to promote the whole well-being of some of the most vulnerable persons who come before the Court. Often, the women charged with prostitution are labeled as criminals when they are victims.	All people, no matter their race, gender or economic status need to be treated fairly in Court. This is a fundamental principle. Every person who comes before the Court deserves the confidence of knowing the Judge they stand before believes in this fundamental principle. I will not be naive in saying that there have not been times that individuals have been treated unfairly based on status in various Courts, but I guarantee that EVERY SINGLE PERSON will be treated fairly in my Court.



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Voters of the San
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of the San Antonio Area






Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Mary Roman (D)	My experience includes 8 years as a prosecutor and 2 years in private practice during which I tried many jury trials and a few bench trials. From 1993 through 2016, as Judge of the 175th District Court, I presided over jury trials including capital murder, murder trials and 3g (serious) crimes. For the last 3 years, serving as Judge, County Court at Law # 8, I conducted 26 jury trials. The pandemic limited the ability to conduct jury trials.	My belief is that most specialty courts are good and successful. I began the Felony Drug Court in 2004 at a time when most of my colleagues believed it was a waste of time. I believed, and still believe that changing the behavior of addicts and the positive benefit to our community is important and needed. I support a specialty court for misdemeanor defendants accused of prostitution.	Wish I could say Yes! Seasoned, qualified attorneys may be able to obtain a fair outcome for their clients. Not all defendants can afford those attorneys. A new system will be implemented soon and will help promote equality in courts. For this reason, it is imperative that a judge know the law, be fair and impartial regardless of the race, gender, or economic status of a defendant.
No response received by print deadline: Lauren D. Zamora (D)			

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 9


Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Gloria Saldaña (D)	16 years before my election as judge, I was sole lead counsel in thousands of bench and jury trials in district courts in Bexar County and other jurisdictions. As new 2006 district court judge, I presided over innumerable trials in complex business litigation; contentious divorce; custody; child abuse and neglect; libel; accident cases and more. As county court judge, I preside over criminal misdemeanor and civil jury trials and relevant dispositive motions to suppress or summary judgment.	I regularly presided over Judge Sakai's Family Drug Court which operated under a holistic approach, achieving miraculously positive outcomes to promote the best interest of children. I think it was successful in great part due to the imaginative and practical application of the problem solving resources utilized. I think County Court 13 has enjoyed great success in spite of the fact they have operated with more legal limitations. I support a specialty court for the homeless.	Yes. Judges honor their oath to defend and protect our Constitution. It is the backbone of our Democracy and guarantees everyone the same protections, regardless of race, gender or status. Misdemeanor offenses are relatively minor and involve mostly first offenders. Our courts seek justice, to deter recidivism and achieve positive change. Restorative justice focuses on respect, due process and equal protection under the law for all: participants, our communities, and our Country.
 Jessica A. Gonzalez (D)	I have chaired approximately 50 jury trials to include misdemeanors and felonies as a prosecutor or a defense attorney. I have also authored over 15 briefs to the Fourth Court of Appeals and helped draft legislation protecting victims of family violence which resulted in amendments to the Texas Constitution, the Penal Code, and the Code of Criminal Procedure. While our courthouse was closed for the pandemic, I chaired four bench trials utilizing the Zoom and YouTube platforms.	Every specialty court in Bexar County is successful in their own right when the participants, the case workers, and the judges engage in the program. As a prosecutor I participated in Drug Court, and as a defense attorney I represent juveniles in STRIVE Court. While I believe Bexar County does a great job addressing the needs of many participants, I do think the community would benefit from a specialty court to help young offenders in the adult system.	Ideally, justice is blind. All persons regardless of race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, and economic background would be given equal treatment in the criminal justice system. In reality, I know that does not happen. Criminal records lead to collateral consequences creating barriers in housing, employment, and education. As a community, the inequality in the justice system needs to be addressed to help the individuals affected by it as well as the community as a whole.

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 10

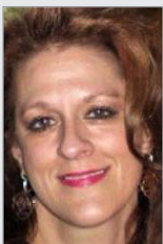
Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Jamie Mathis (R)	I have participated in jury trials and bench trials, both as a litigant and as the staff attorney assisting the judge in her legal research and rulings.	Mental Health Court and Veterans Court are the courts with which I have the most experience. I am an advocate for more support for those suffering with their Mental Health and for our Veterans. Both groups experience unimaginable trauma and we, as a community, should assist in their journey of improvement. I do agree all the specialty courts serve an important purpose and I would support new specialty courts if developed.	Citizens have an expectation of equality in our court system. The judge has a duty to protect civil rights and ensure due process for the individual. I will make it a priority to ensure all race, gender and economic groups are treated fairly in the courtroom and that a decision independent of bias is reached.



Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Cesar Garcia (D)	I've done over 30 non jury bench trials with the State Office of Administrative Hearings in the past two and a half years.	N/A	County Court 10 is a civil court where all people will receive fair, impartial due process.
 J. Frank Davis (D)	I have been the lead attorney in two jury trials, and part of the supporting cast in many others. As to bench trials, I've practiced in numerous county and district courts across the State and have lost count; however, in the Civil District Courts of Bexar County alone I have been lead in 654 bench trials. Additionally, I was lead attorney on several dozen appeals to the various Courts of Appeals in Texas, many of which are published cases.	I am a strong believer in therapeutic justice and support each and every specialty court in their efforts to address the offender's underlying issues that contribute to their criminal behavior. However, as the judge of a civil court, I do not believe it is proper to comment on the success of a criminal court because it may be taken as an endorsement I am not allowed to offer.	No, the poor rarely have adequate representation. The appointed attorneys serving the county courts are paid fixed fees for specific tasks, not hourly fees. This rewards the attorney for minimal effort and rarely results in justice for the client. As an attorney, I served my appointed clients honorably by investing many hours to obtain a dismissal worth the same as an easy plea. As a Judge, I often see unrepresented people and always listen to their arguments and review their evidence fairly.

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT II



Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Erica Peña (D)	I have served as an Assistant District Attorney in approximately 24 trials. Out of those 24 trials, approximately 21 were jury trials and 3 were non-jury trials.	Specialty courts serve a significant purpose in the judicial system. When utilized appropriately, they can identify offenders with specific needs, provide targeted resources, and reduce recidivism. The Esperanza Court is a successful specialty court that takes a holistic approach and aims to assist the family unit, not only the offender. I would support a new specialty court focused on young offenders that seeks to provide college counseling, job training, and parenting resources.	I do not believe that all race, gender, and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system. Lower socio-economic groups are often comprised of minorities who because of their economic status do not have the ability to post bond, to hire adequate representation, and in short, do not always have access to equal justice. Although these inequalities exist, I believe that most judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys desire & work to improve the system and prevent inequality.
No response received by print deadline: Tommy Stolhandske (R)			

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT I2

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Suzanne Kramer (R)	Over my 33 years as an attorney, I have tried upwards of 100 jury and bench trials. Before the pandemic, my usual trial schedule was approximately 3 to sometimes 6 trials year. I have tried everything from Class C misdemeanors all the way to Capital Murder Death Penalty cases. In addition, I am also an appellate attorney, filing approximately 200 or more appeals over the years.	The Veteran's Court is a very successful court. I believe all of the specialty courts provide a great service to people with more diverse needs. County Court 12, covering the Mental Health Docket, provides great services to people accepted into its program. but its role should be expanded. With the jail full of people who cannot make bond but who have significant mental health issues, more should be done to quickly provide these people with services to which the court has access.	Never witnessing overt discrimination, the system is inherently discriminatory. People of means tend to get better justice. Studies show that people on bond prior to trial tend to have better outcomes than those who remain incarcerated. Bond reform is a popular topic and much thought should be given as to how bonds are used to assure court appearances while protecting society. Reformation would go a long way toward reducing discrimination, while being mindful that justice for all is the goal.

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Yolanda Huff (D)	I have been an attorney for over 25 years. While I do not have an exact number, in the past 25 years of my practice and being on the bench, I have lead hundreds of jury trials and thousands of bench trials.	I currently preside over County Court 12 and the Mental Health Court. I actually chair the Bexar County Specialty Courts Coalition. There are currently 14 specialty courts in Bexar County. Generally speaking, all the Specialty Courts are very success and bring true help to defendants in a therapeutic and restorative way. Specifically speaking, I know my Mental Health Court is extremely successful. Before becoming a judge I had worked with the treatment/specialty courts for over 15 years.	The justice system has made great strides in recent times to treat every individual in the justice system fairly, however, the justice system still has much work to do. It is a fact that certain races, genders, and economic groups still receive longer and harsher sentences as compared to others. We, the justice system, can do better. It starts with diversity on the bench and continues with educating the public about the judiciary and exactly what the judiciary does.
 Oscar Salinas (D)	I have been lead attorney in over 30 criminal trials. Bench Trials in Criminal Trial Practice are much less common, but I have had 5 bench trials where I was lead counsel.	The DWI court is the most successful. A misdemeanor court judge's goals are to protect the community and deal with recidivism by providing the tools for probationers to become successful contributing members of society. A Last Stop specialty court should be created. The focus would be on offenders under the age of 25. The goal of this specialty court would be to help young offenders caught in the justice system and provide resources so that they can become successful members of our community.	Each generation is an improvement of the previous generation. I do believe all race and genders are treated equally in the county court system. However, I do think that those of a higher socioeconomic status are able to afford a more thorough representation. More thorough defense attorneys are able to spot issues and bring those issues up to the prosecution or court. It is the County Court Judges job to make sure that court appointed attorneys are held to a high standard and not be overwhelmed.

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 13



Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Michael "Mike" Villarreal (D)	I have tried 16 misdemeanor jury trials, of which I was lead prosecutor on 11 of those cases. I have tried 12 felony jury trials, of which I was lead prosecutor on 4 of those cases. I have also tried dozens of criminal cases, both bench and jury trials, as lead prosecutor in the Justice of Peace Courts. I also have represented the State on appeals in 4 different cases, to include defending the first ever constitutional challenge to the State's child labor trafficking statute.	I think all of our specialty courts that were established prior to 2019, are successful in their quest for therapeutic justice. I would like to see the expansion of the mental health court to have it's own dedicated family violence docket, as these cases require extra time and attention due to their nature and complexity.	I do not believe that all race, gender, and economic groups are treated equally within our justice system. Unfortunately the cash bond system and many programs are not equally accessible to these groups and prevent them from having meaningful, equal access to the justice system. For instance the current Family Violence Pre-Trial Diversion Court requires a \$1,000 assessment fee, which is prohibitive for many people and prevents them from having access to the court.
 Rosie Speedlin Gonzalez (D)	As an attorney I was lead attorney (often the only attorney) in approximately 18 jury trials. Non-jury trials were held daily in the Child Protective Services courtroom. During the same time I was trying jury cases, I tried approximately 850 cases to a non-jury bench verdict.	Specialty Courts that graduate participants with new leases on life: sober, employed & with shelter, are successful specialty courts. Bexar Co. is home to 13 Specialty Courts (each provides drug treatment) & 5 Special Court Programs. CPS/Juvenile/youth targeted courts have the best prospect for long-term change & success. I co-founded & support REFLEJO Court because it targets 1st time offenders of family violence with a need for drug treatment and provides trauma-informed, wraparound services.	Races, genders, economic groups are treated disparately in court systems. Equality can be subjective & defined by the oppressed. For decades, even centuries, those who controlled the stroke of the pen and purse strings of commerce also controlled the halls of justice, courthouses and how justice was administered. Today, you cannot strive to achieve justice without first establishing equality. Judges are our gatekeepers to justice & equality. Keeping fair judges is our key to equality & justice.

No response received by print deadline: Charles E. Gold (R)


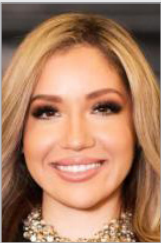
“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”

– Ruth Bader Ginsburg

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 14

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Susan Skinner (R)	In my 22 years experience as a prosecutor and defense attorney, I have handled thousands of misdemeanor and felony cases and have extensive criminal trial experience ranging from misd. theft and assault, up to capital murder felonies. As a lead felony prosecutor, I was responsible for the prosecution of child death cases, domestic violence murders, and child sex crimes. As a former judge of County Court 14, I presided over thousands of cases and numerous misdemeanor jury and non-jury trials.	Specialized courts such as the Drug Court, Veteran's Court, and Mental Health Court have been successful, providing individualized and rehabilitative treatment, thus reducing rates of recidivism. Although not a specialty court per se, when I was Judge my establishment of the first Animal Cruelty docket in Bexar County received national recognition. I would again like to spearhead the reestablishment of an Animal Cruelty docket to ensure animal abuse cases are taken seriously in our community.	No, from my experience as a judge, prosecutor, and defender, and even as a former probation officer, I have seen economically disadvantaged and race groups treated unfairly. For example, upon arrest the impoverished remain in jail longer, because of their inability to make bond quickly. At times police stops are made based on racial profiling instead of the legally required "reasonable suspicion". Both of these issues require a judge to take careful and expeditious action to prevent unfairness.
 Carlo Rodriguez Key (D)	In addition to the 7 years of judicial experience in our community, I served approximately 12 years in private solo practice or as an assistant criminal district attorney. I took approximately 30 cases to jury verdict as lead counsel during those 12 years. I do not believe I had any bench trials as lead counsel in my career.	A true specialty court involves involves a great deal of standardized treatment and intensive supervision which focuses on a science based methodology. All of the specialty courts I have seen in action (mental health and drug/DWI) have done an excellent job of making positive progress in our community. Assuming funding and staffing would not be an issue, I would be interested in any other such courts that may continue that progress.	No. I believe that some inherent disadvantages still exist to those who are living in poverty and there are still some inherent cultural and racial biases that linger in our criminal justice system as a whole. A good judge should do his or her best to recognize these disadvantages and do their best to ensure that access to justice is fair and equal to all that come into their court.

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 15

Candidate	In how many jury trials have you been lead attorney? In how many non-jury (bench) trials have you been lead attorney?	Which specialty courts do you think are most successful, and what new ones would you support?	Do you believe all race, gender and economic groups are treated equally in the county court system? Explain your opinion.
 Robert "RC" Pate (R)	I don't rightly know. My guess is over 100	I think specialty courts are extremely effective for people who want to change their lives. I was previously involved in both the DWI courts and the drug courts in Bexar County. I had to change that when my practice took me out of County more often. If I win this election I do plan on being involved again.	I think we try to make it fair, but there's no denying accused citizens with resources get better lawyers. And better lawyers mean better outcomes.
 Melissa Vara (D)	Serving as the current Judge of Bexar County Court at Law #15, I regularly preside over jury trials and bench trials in my courtroom. This year, I was among a handful of judges who took on additional cases on family violence matters to help alleviate the backlog. Prior to being elected, I was the lead attorney for three jury trials, served as co-counsel on additional jury trials, and served as lead counsel on over an estimated 100 trials.	All of the current specialty courts (DWI, Drug, Veterans, Mental Health, Reflejo & Animal Cruelty) each do a great job at assisting individuals who qualify and are committed to their particular treatment plan. Success is not only dependent on the court, but also on the person's commitment to recovery. I would support a new specialty court aimed at assisting those who are charged with prostitution or who are involved in sex trades/sex trafficking, which is a growing concern for our community.	The unfortunate answer as a whole is no. However, I believe that is why it is so important for voters to truly get to know the candidates that they will ultimately elect as judges, because they will be the ones in charge of administering justice. I strive to treat everyone that passes through County Court # 15 with the same respect and dignity that I would want to be treated with - regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation or political status.

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BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT

4-year term. Probate of wills, guardianships, eminent domain. A separate Mental Health Court handles civil mental health commitments.

BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1

See “Unopposed Candidates” on Page 58

BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT 2

See “Unopposed Candidates” on Page 58

BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

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

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What experience qualifies you for the job?	What changes would you like to see in the office?	What is being done in the clerk's office to stay current with technology changes? Should more be done? If yes, what?
 Misty Spears (R)	<p>I have a B.B.A. in Accounting from Texas Tech and have worked in the legal profession for nearly 20 years. My extensive experience as a litigation paralegal has allowed me to work daily with court clerks all over the state of Texas. Therefore, I have extensive experience as an end user of the Bexar County District Clerk's services. This perspective will allow me to better address the needs of the public and legal professionals who rely on the District Clerk's office.</p>	<p>Currently, the Bexar County District Clerk's office lags far behind other urban counties in technology, functionality and usability. I will work to improve the technology, accessibility to online records and efficiency for all users. I will ensure that all clerks are working in a merit-based environment with opportunities for advancement based on work performance. I will also ensure that we have a knowledge-based and pleasant work environment at the District Clerk's office.</p>	<p>The end users are not receiving a full complement of services commonly available elsewhere in Texas. I will push to have all records available online through the district clerk's website. I will establish automated email notices to all enrolled users that summarize the filings completed for the week and any hearings that are set for the following week. Technology is always changing and growing. It is imperative that we consistently review the technology standards and make adjustments.</p>
 Jessica Zapata Bogardus (D)	<p>After I left the US Marine Corps, I graduated from Texas A&M San Antonio with a BAAS in Criminology. I have been serving the Bexar County Community ever since. I have worked in many departments at the District Clerk's office and I now serve as the Executive Assistant and Administrative Coordinator for the District Attorney. My college education as well as my vast professional experience has afforded me the leadership skills and institutional know-how to run a dependable District Clerk's Office.</p>	<p>Among the changes I would like to see in this office, the following are my highest priority: increased training to maximize efficiency and reduce errors; a stronger emphasis on security and sensitivity with records/confidential information; and, an increase in morale amongst the staff. I would look to reinforce these changes with periodical meetings structured towards sharing goals, celebrating moments of recognition or incentive, and fostering collaboration.</p>	<p>Updating the District Clerk's Office technologically is an area where I see vast potential for growth. An example of where I recognize a need for this type of innovation is in the introduction of a remote access of records system for our citizens. A system of this kind would save the tax-payers money and reduce unnecessary burdens on those trying to obtain records.</p>
 Christine "Chris" Castillo (D)	<p>My 33 years of experience with the District Clerk's office qualifies me. However, my passion for the office is what brings me back. I began my career as an entry level clerk and worked my way up to a Division Chief. I did the work, I cared about the work, I know the work and I have the plans and know how to bring much needed improvement to the office. I assisted with the yearly budget, in numerous projects for the office and so much more. Please reach me for more details regarding my experience.</p>	<p>My plans for improvement include the following; making current files/documents accessible on-line, reach out to the four precincts in Bexar County and create a satellite office at each location. Create a professional relationship with other elected officials in order to maintain the integrity of our judicial system. Bring back employee training courses in order to improve the quality of customer service. Make sure all employees are treated equally and promotions are based on work productivity.</p>	<p>Again, due to the fact that I am not working in the office at this time, I cannot honestly say what the current elected official is doing. I have had conversations with employees, elected officials and customers that feel no progress is happening at this time. Yes, absolutely more should be done and can be done to bring the District Clerk's office to the 21st century, technology wise especially. Bexar County is the 4th largest county in Texas and it needs much improvement to move forward.</p>

“Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.”


— George Jean Nathan

Candidate	What experience qualifies you for the job?	What changes would you like to see in the office?	What is being done in the clerk's office to stay current with technology changes? Should more be done? If yes, what?
 Erasmo Raz Hernandez (D)	<p>I currently serve in the role of Litigation Support and Evidence Manager for the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office. My experience includes working with victims of crime, testifying in court, leading and overseeing a team which works closely with over 200 assistant district attorneys, investigators and staff to successfully prepare criminal cases for trial in Bexar County. Prior to the DA's Office, I was a deputy district clerk where I worked on the civil and criminal divisions.</p>	<p>I would like to capitalize on technology as a way to improve service delivery and online based services for our community. In addition, we need to revamp the process of protective orders, implement office transparency, community engagement and create weekend passport fairs. In addition we must improve employee morale, motivation and customer service.</p>	<p>The District Clerk's Office is funded by Bexar County citizens, so it only makes sense that this Office prioritizes the people by facilitating services that are faster, easier and more convenient rather than waiting in a line or on the phone. I plan to create an online system where records (i.e. divorce decrees, criminal court records, and other filings) can quickly be acquired and citizens can save on parking fees, taking time off of from their day and ultimately a trip to the courthouse.</p>
 Raul Davila (D)	<p>I am a U.S. Army Combat Veteran with years of experience in personnel and business management. I took several courses in personnel management throughout my military career. I currently own a Litigation support company and employ over 50 contractors and work with every county in Texas. I work with technology driven counties and know how to the innovate Bexar County District Clerk's office. Within my military career I was a Non-Commissioned Officer for over 300 soldiers. I am also a Union Member.</p>	<p>My goal as Bexar County District Clerk is to make the office simple and accessible to the public. I plan to empower the public with their transactions by making the District Clerk's office more accessible, I am committed to turning the Bexar County Clerks District Office into a more efficient office by focusing on public satisfaction. I promise to accomplish my obligation to ensure the District Clerks Office is always efficient and accessible. Restore the Integrity, Leadership, and Service.</p>	<p>We have not seen the clerks office wanting to change or service our customers differently to adapt to the 21st century. The Bexar County District Clerk's office needs to be simple and accessible to the public. Transforming the District Clerk's office to a web-based system to allow access to all court case documents, amplifying your experience. Many of the computerized records and other information of use to the public will be easy to access online.</p>
 Eduardo "Eddie" Pichardo (D)	<p>My first two years as a clerk, I was promoted and assigned to numerous divisions within the District Clerk's Office. I then spent 18 years in the Civil Courts where I clerked for three prominent and well-known judges, Pat Boone, Joe Frazier Brown Jr., and Sol Casseb III. After my 20th year, I was given the opportunity to become a Division Chief where I managed 3 of the 6 divisions with the office. I was once a clerk in those divisions which made me highly qualified to lead those departments.</p>	<p>Some of the changes I would like to see is establishing a way to get documents online where attorneys and citizens are able to retrieve those without stepping foot inside the courthouse. I have first hand knowledge of the new county wide integrated system, Odyssey, in which it is possible to make that plan into reality.</p>	<p>Recently, the District Clerk's Office integrated into a new county wide system called "Odyssey". This program is designed to have the entire county on the same system. In the past every office including the Sheriff's Dept were on different databases. This new system allows all offices in Bexar County to function under one system. Yes, more can be done, but it is a matter of perfecting this system. One major factor that can derive from this integration is the ability to retrieve documents online.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Gloria A. Martinez (D), Deett Dresch (D), Mary Angie Garcia (D)			

BEXAR COUNTY CLERK

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

For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org

Candidate	What experience qualifies you for the job?	What changes would you like to see in the office?	What is being done in the clerk's office to stay current with technology changes? Should more be done? If yes, what?
 Rose Farias (R)	<p>I been a Peace Officer for over 20 years working in all aspects of my job including The Mental Health Unit, Civil processing, patrol and courthouse to include juvenile courts. In civil processing I handled all civil work to include property taxes, child support and any other legal work for attorneys and Bail Bonds.</p>	<p>I will establish positive relationships with Attorneys, Judges, Bail Bond company's and most importantly the residents whom I proudly serve as a Peace Officer and will continue to serve as your next county clerk.</p>	<p>To my understanding, we need budget friendly software/technology that will not only help with the paperwork but I will also utilize any type of Law Enforcement services that can help bring in money for our county. I want to implement a technology that is Law Enforcement and civilian friendly with accountability and transparency for our residents as well as, attorneys who pay for our expedited services</p>

Candidate	What experience qualifies you for the job?	What changes would you like to see in the office?	What is being done in the clerk's office to stay current with technology changes? Should more be done? If yes, what?
 Richard A. Gold (R)	<p>I believe my work experience in working for Bexar County the past 27 years qualifies me for the County Clerk job. For the past twenty years worked as the first full time Records Manager Manager appointed by Commissioners Court. Responsible for all county Records stored at off-site Records Center, staffing budgeting and reporting to Records management Committee . Eight years working for the District Clerk office as Asst Chief Deputy responsible for the budget, supervising employees and records.</p>	<p>The changes I would like to see in the County Clerks Office are listed below: Improved website with Dashboard capabilities in vendor software Bail Bond reform Records management changes at the off-site Records Center; Certified Records Manager for Records Center Records Management Funds allocated by records management Committee County Clerk Budget spending form the Records management fund review for the mobile Van"records on the run" cost benefit analysis</p>	<p>The County Clerk should always be up to date with computer technology, indexing software, imaging software, and Cybersecurity risks.</p>
 Lucy Adame-Clark (D)	<p>I have over 24 years of Bexar County government experience in Bexar. I previously worked with the Sheriff's Office as a latent print examiner where I worked with high-profile cases throughout the county and across the state of Texas. Working in that capacity, I understood the importance of protecting the integrity of records. Serving as Bexar County Clerk for the past 3 years, I've continued to protect the integrity of County records to include Probate, Mental Health, Civil, Criminal Misdemeanor</p>	<p>Under my leadership, my goal is to finish preserving all historical documents in the County Clerk's Office. In addition to preserving and digitizing the records, we have continuously worked on modernizing technology and providing public access to various public records online. We went live with Tyler Odyssey in our Civil Divisions in May 2021 and anticipate to go-live with Odyssey in our Criminal Divisions in 2022. We are working on expanding more services to our Veterans and Senior Citizens.</p>	<p>We embrace technology continue to evolve with the growth of the economy. Our cloud-based system gives flexibility, opportunities to better serve you. Faced with public demand for access to services at remote and historically underserved communities, we developed the "Records on the Run" mobile unit in 2019 and expanded it in 2021, bringing the County Clerk's Office Straight to You! Capital investment funds associated with brick and mortar satellite offices and increased staffing is not required.</p>
 Rachel Garcia Cavazos (D)	<p>- Former Executive Director, Housing Authority of Bexar County - Former Director of Labor Services, United Way of San Antonio - Former Service Coordinator, Granada Homes - Former President, San Antonio AFL-CIO - Former Local President, Int'l Assn. of Machinists & Aerospace Workers Union - Former Board Member, Workforce Solutions Alamo - Former Board of Trustees Member, United Way of San Antonio - Former Board Member, The P.E.A.C.E. Initiative For more information, see rachelcavazos.com.</p>	<p>- Reduce wasteful spending of your hard earned tax dollars. - Modernize access to county documents. - Work with my colleagues in government and in the community to strengthen the place we call home. - Bring real executive leadership experience to the office of County Clerk.</p>	<p>When elected, I will ensure that every staff member receives the most up to date training. I will work to implement the latest technology available so that the public can easily access records and information.</p>

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

4-year term. Represents 1/4 of county's population. Commissioners Court adopts county budget and tax rate, sets salaries and benefits, has exclusive authority to authorize contracts, maintains county buildings and facilities.

For more information on the candidates, answers to more questions, and possibly responses from candidates who missed the print deadline, go to VOTE411.org


BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2

See "Unopposed Candidates" on Page 58

"The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It's the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democratic society and we've got to use it."

— Rep. John Lewis

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4


Candidate	What are the top 3 countywide issues you would like to address over your next term, should you be elected?	What do you believe are the top 3 issues facing people in your precinct? If elected, what steps will you take to address each of these issues?	Do you believe that property taxes in Bexar County are too high? If so, and you propose that certain property taxes be reduced, what alternatives do you suggest for funding those items so services are not reduced?
 Tommy Calvert (D)	Climate change and how our infrastructure, emergency management, and healthcare systems get ready for climate change and climate disasters. Second, transitioning people to jobs available in the information technology economy when their jobs become obsolete because of technology and cheaper labor in other parts of the world. Third, is expanding home ownership for all and housing security for those experiencing homelessness with more permanent supportive housing.	1. increasing education to transition people into jobs in the information economy. I lead the court in funding free junior college and vocational training at our community colleges. 2. Homeownership and maintaining the integrity of neighborhoods. I created the City's housing bond in 2017 and will support its expansion to \$100 million in 2022. I will increase the county's support of owner-occupied rehab, credit repair, and more. 3. Work with schools to help families with mental health.	51 percent of your tax bill is school districts and that is controlled by the Texas Legislature. They have increased your property taxes on the largest portion of your bill. The county is about 17 percent of your tax bill and I have voted to lower your taxes 7 times in 7 years in office. The legislature has reduced funds for schools and increased homeowners share of school funding. I propose the Legislature use Rainy Day funds for schools and lower homeowners share of property taxes.
No response received by print deadline: Larry Ricketts (R)			

BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE


4-year term. Handle evictions, small claims, misdemeanors punishable by fine only, foreclosures, evictions.

For more information on the candidates, go to VOTE411.org

BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT I


Candidate	What experience qualifies you for the job?	What about the office would you like to see changed?	Do you believe there is more the JP courts can do to ensure landlords and tenants understand their rights regarding evictions and receive information on available resources? If yes, what would you do?
 Sylvia M. Ruiz (D)	I believe, my over 40 years of community involvement, 16 plus years as a Law Office Administrator and my experience as a business owner and the various Appointments & Election to Boards and Commissions has prepared me to be patient and a good listener. I believe these qualities are all essential in order to be a Good and Fair Judge.	I would like to see the JP1 court, be accessible by phone during working hours, be accessible by Zoom for the public to view and to be an area, for all litigants to receive information and/or service in a safe, convenient, friendly, timely manner.	I believe that JP courts should be a source of help for all litigants and should provide to both Landlords and Tenants all the available information of resources that are offered by Bexar County Departments and our partners, such as the City of San Antonio and other Non-Profit Organizations. This should be conducted by providing workshops and/or distributing literature which would help educate the non attorney litigants on how cases are processed and what rights they have as a Pro Se litigant.
No response received by print deadline: Robert "Bobby" Tejeda (D)			

BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 3

Candidate	What experience qualifies you for the job?	What about the office would you like to see changed?	Do you believe there is more the JP courts can do to ensure landlords and tenants understand their rights regarding evictions and receive information on available resources? If yes, what would you do?
 Carla M. Riedl (R)	My current and former experience makes me the best candidate for this position. As a former Judge, I made decisions while I was on the bench to protect the community and rehabilitate juveniles that could be rehabilitated. As an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas I ensured that Governmental Bodies complied with the law. As an Assistant District Attorney, I worked in the Justice of the Peace Courts, County Courts, and District Courts in Bexar County.	I would work to educate the public about the Justice of the Peace Court. This is a court where a person can represent themselves on legal matters so understanding the process ahead of time will provide them the tools needed. I would like to run an efficient court utilizing all available technology to continuously improve upon and streamline the system for all parties. I will listen to all parties, treat them with respect, follow the law and be fair.	Yes, I do. Hold a symposium at least once a year to educate the public on landlord tenant issues. Organizations that represent indigent clients can explain what is required to represent a landlord or tenant with a legal matter. Representatives from the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center could explain what their role is. Also, have associations that represent housing to be present to explain the process of eviction and what is expected from a tenant.


Candidate	What experience qualifies you for the job?	What about the office would you like to see changed?	Do you believe there is more the JP courts can do to ensure landlords and tenants understand their rights regarding evictions and receive information on available resources? If yes, what would you do?
 Julie Bray Patterson (R)	My education, experience, and involvement in our community qualify me for this job. I grew up in Precinct 3 and graduated from MacArthur High School, in addition to the University of Texas School of Law. I currently serve in an advisory role for the local criminal District Court judges, having also been a prosecutor and a defense attorney. In addition, my leadership experience in local nonprofits, such as Morningside Ministries, will help me both manage the Court and resolve disputes.	Precinct 3 residents do not have the ability to electronically file their claims. To file a claim now, we can download a copy of the small claims form, but we must go in person to file the claim. While other large counties provide electronic filing in their justice of the peace courts, Bexar County does not. Providing the ability to file claims online at any time of day or night is a service I believe this court should provide.	Attached to every Eviction Notice is a Notice of Tenants' Rights (English/Spanish) as well as contact information for assistance agencies, such as the San Antonio Neighborhood & Housing Services Department, and information about the Texas Eviction Diversion Program. On court days, assistance agencies are available to help landlords/tenants come to a resolution. If elected, I will encourage additional participation of housing navigators as well as do what I can to broker a resolution.
 Joseph P. Appelt (R)	As a sole practicing attorney for the past 28 years I've tried the contracts, small claims, debt collection, and landlord/tenant cases this court hears every day. In addition, for the last 8 years and counting, I have presided over Class C misdemeanors, just like this court does daily. I have managed dockets in excess of 100 cases and presided over jury and nonjury trials. This combination of private and judicial experience makes me uniquely and best qualified for your next Justice of the Peace.	Justice Courts are called "peoples courts" because they are designed to be more "user friendly" for the average person. In my experience as an attorney for the last 28 years and Municipal Court Judge for the past 8, I have found it is difficult for many people to take off work to attend court. As Justice of the Peace, I will have an "after hours" court 1 day a week and 1 Saturday a month for the Class C Misdemeanor docket; better serving the people and making it more accessible to working folks.	There is always potentially more one can do, however you must be careful not to cross the line from providing information into providing legal advice. Having the applicable law, court procedures, timelines, and related information available on line and in hard copy on request is important. Providing the same information for resources and referrals for assistance is also a must for the Court to better serve, particularly those navigating the system representing themselves.
 Paul Talamantez Jr. (D)	I have been a licensed attorney since 1994 by the State of Texas. I first got elected to public office in May of 1998 as a school board member for The San Antonio Independent School District where I served until 2002. I then was appointed as a full time City of San Antonio Municipal Court Judge where I served until 2006. Currently, I am an associate Judge for the City of Cibola and the prosecutor for the City of Kirby. I am married to Velma Talamantez and have two beautiful daughters.	Justice of The Peace Court in my opinion is the People's Court. It needs to be user friendly and not be an obstacle or intimidating to the public. The Judge should always be available and accessible to the people. I would have dedicated dockets for the people to just walk in and visit with the Judge.	Yes. The rules of court procedures are complicated even for attorneys at times. The Judge and the court staff are not allowed by law to provide legal advice, the staff already do a good job of directing the public to various resources. I would like to propose a staff attorney not unlike the ones already provided to the public at the District Court level. They are there to help the public to navigate the District Court procedures. We can use that model at the Justice of The Peace level.
No response received by print deadline: Duane "Duano" Weeks (R)			

BEXAR COUNTY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PRECINCT 4

Candidate	What experience qualifies you for the job?	What about the office would you like to see changed?	Do you believe there is more the JP courts can do to ensure landlords and tenants understand their rights regarding evictions and receive information on available resources? If yes, what would you do?
 Rogelio "Roger" Lopez Jr. (D)	Judge Lopez is a nationally recognized attorney and judge. From winning a multimillion dollar family violence case to a nationally recognized Court for truancy initiatives, Judge Lopez has always been a genuine leader. The Pct. 4 Court is consistently ranked one of the most efficient Courts in Bexar County. Judge Lopez created Court web portals for accessibility, led the e-filing initiative for JP Courts and made sure JP Courts were included in the latest county computer system upgrades.	Judge Lopez is the only lawyer on the ballot for this election, and he has also had extensive experience in leveraging computer systems to handle extremely large volumes of work. The Pct. 4 JP Court handles 50,000 to 60,000 cases per year. The Pandemic has changed the way we all do business, and technology has been a huge part of that change. As long as technology continues to change, Judge Lopez will continue to be at the forefront of a more constituent friendly and more efficient Court.	Judicially given information is limited by the rules of ethics. Within those guidelines, Judge Lopez has continually updated the JP 4 County website informing all parties of resources and Pandemic assistance. Additionally, Judge Lopez invited and worked with the City, County, Legal Aid, and non-profit agencies such as SAMM Ministries, all of whom have had representatives at the Court providing services to both sides. The most important protection all parties can have is an experienced Judge.

"We can all agree on the importance of voting."

— Jenna Bush

Candidate	What experience qualifies you for the job?	What about the office would you like to see changed?	Do you believe there is more the JP courts can do to ensure landlords and tenants understand their rights regarding evictions and receive information on available resources? If yes, what would you do?
 Yolanda Acuña Uresti (D)	<p>I am an experienced, educated Judge of Precinct 4 Justice Court, I represented a population of 500,000 residents of the 2 million who call Bexar County home. I was responsible for a multimillion-dollar budget, 25 clerks & I adjudicated Criminal Cases, traffic & other Class C misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only Civil Cases with up to \$10,000 in controversy, Evictions Landlord/Tenant issues, Administrative Hearings & Trial Proceedings, etc., in a timely manner in accordance with the law.</p>	<p>Expedite, simplify & streamline the management & intake process of the court, improve administrative operations & general docket management systems to reduce delays in the daily dockets provide the most efficient use of available court resources & meaningful procedures for achieving the time standards for the disposition of cases provided by Rule 6; Accountability the Court needs to be accessible relevant available & responsible for providing procedural fairness & focus on the admin. of justice.</p>	<p>The Judge must be engaged, accessible, guided by service & integrity to adjudicate the number of Eviction cases in Precinct 4 within a timely manner in accordance with the law. The integration of user-friendly smart technology, tenant portals, timely cell phone push notifications for lawyers, non-lawyers, tenants, landlords & all parties after a case is filed informing them of the courts procedural process, their rights & deadlines are essential for efficiency, effectiveness & clarity.</p>
 Albert C. Whitby (D)	<p>I have 17 years of experience in education. All educators must understand federal and state laws that govern our profession and our conduct. We also have to implement the rules created by our school board in the student code of conduct. As a teacher and administrator I have 17 years experience investigating incidents and making fair decision according to the rules in the student code of conduct. Also, my experience as a realtor gives me inside understanding of tenant-landlord disputes.</p>	<p>When given the opportunity to serve as your next JP, I would like to ensure that Precinct 4 implements processes that makes the court more efficient. Being someone that comes from an economically disadvantaged background, I know how tickets can cause hardships for people trying to keep their head above water. Therefore I will ensure that the JP court is implementing restorative justice procedures on the lower court level by ensures equity for all especially our economically disadvantaged people.</p>	<p>JP courts can do more to ensure that both landlords and tenants understand where to find resources available. The court can do a better job of disseminating information on federal, state, and local resources available to landlords and tenants. The pandemic has shown us that moving forward, technology is a deal breaker in disseminating such information. Platforms like Youtube and Instagram can be used to educate more people. People cant use resources that they don't know are available.</p>
No response received by print deadline: Michele Garcia (D)			



Register now!
Early bird pricing
ends February 19!

Join the fun at the League's 5K run/walk!

Sunday, March 20, 2022

For more information or to register, just scan the QR Code or
visit lwvsa.org

UNOPPOSED CANDIDATES

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 21

Julia Dahlberg (R), Judith Zaffirini (D)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 116

Trey Martinez Fischer (D)

290TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT-CRIMINAL

Jennifer Peña (D)

Experience: Prior to being elected to the 290th District Court, I served as an Assistant District Attorney for Bexar and Cameron County. In 2009 I left the DA's Office and started private practice with a focus on criminal law.

BEXAR COUNTY COURT-AT-LAW COURT 3

David J. Rodriguez (D)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 119



Elizabeth "Liz" Campos (D)

Experience: Representative Campos has authored legislation to improve the quality of life for seniors at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and independent living. She has also filed legislation to address homelessness and affordable housing in Bexar County. In total, Rep Campos authored 54 bills and was selected 2022 Freshman Legislator of the Year.

Website: <http://lizcampos.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VoteLizCampos>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/votelizcampos>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/votelizcampos/>

Candidate email: Liz@lizcampos.com

436TH DISTRICT COURT-JUVENILE



William "Cruz" Shaw (D)

Experience: 436th District Court Associate Judge 2019-Current District 2 City Councilperson 2017-2019 Law Office of William Shaw, PLLC 2009-2019

Website: <http://www.cruz4judge.com>

Facebook: William "Cruz" Shaw

Instagram: @votecruzshaw

Candidate email: cruz@williamcruzshaw.com

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2



Justin Rodriguez (D)

Experience: County Commissioner, 2019-present; State Representative, 2013-2019; City Council, 2007-2011; SAISD Trustee, 2004-2007

Website: <http://votejrod.com>

Facebook: [facebook.com/commishjrod](https://www.facebook.com/commishjrod)

Twitter: @commishJRod

Instagram: /commishJRod

BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT 1



Oscar Kazen (D)

Experience: 20 years judicial experience having served in the criminal courts, family courts, mental health courts, and probate. Created one of the first criminal drug courts in Bexar County. Created and implemented a mental health outpatient treatment court which has become a national model. I am committed to a life of public service. Married to Melissa.

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

Facebook: @oscarkazen

Candidate email: kazen.law@gmail.com

BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT 2



Veronica Vasquez (D)

Experience: In my first term in office I established an Elder Abuse & Exploitation Task Force to combat Elder Abuse. I also worked in conjunction with the County to create a pick up/drop off zone for the Elderly and those with special needs at the courthouse. I have also published educational materials for the public and attorneys available on the PC2 website.

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

Facebook: @voteveronicavasquez

Twitter: @VoteVasquez

Instagram: @voteveronicavasquez

Candidate email: veronica4probate2@gmail.com

VOTE!

It's in your best interest.

PICTURE THIS: OUR FUTURE OUR VOTE WINNING SUBMISSIONS OF THE YOUTH INITIATIVE CONTEST

Picture This: Our Future, Our Vote, the Youth Initiative launched by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area strives to engage community youth in imagining the world they want to live in and trace the necessary steps to help build it. To kick off, the League invited high school, undergraduate and graduate students in Bexar County to respond to the prompt: What is your vision of a democratic society? What is your role within this society?

These inspiring and moving submissions evoke joy, gratitude and hope for our democracy.

Students interested in joining this project and participating in future contests, please send an email to picturethis@lwvsa.org.

HIGH SCHOOL WINNER

Tessa Uviedo
Grade 12
Keystone School

The polls are open, and lines across the country are overflowing with people of every race, gender, religion, sexuality, and ability, because every vote matters. When I imagine a democratic society, this is what I see.

Every year, too many voices, especially those of marginalized groups, are muzzled by obstacles they never saw coming. Even someone who holds every right to cast a ballot can be pushed away by voter ID laws, fall victim to voter roll purges, or simply become the prey of harmful legislation. I am only seventeen; I hold no legislative or even voting power, but I know this can change. The biggest enemy of democracy is falsity. Rumors soar across the internet so swiftly that they misinform and misshape people's views of the electoral process. The media has framed the issue with voting as letting too many people in when conversely, we are still leaving too many people out. Regardless of my age, I possess the ability to accurately communicate how people can go about voting, to ensure their vote counts, and to educate those who misconstrue the problems of our voting operations.

Democracy lies at the foundation of our country, but recently, we have seen cracks forming in that foundation. I believe that my generation and myself hold the power to start repairing those fractures to begin healing our country. When we can all respect one another, then a truly democratic society can form. We will never all hold the same opinions, but that's the beauty of our country and its marketplace of ideas because we occupy the chance to hear and learn from one another. Democracy can only function when we value one another and do not act solely in the interest of ourselves or our beliefs. I can envision a world where everyone can stand in that poll line as an equal, with every expectation to leave proudly marked by an "I Voted" sticker.

UNDERGRADUATE WINNER

Faith Brough
College Senior
University of the Incarnate Word

A democratic society is one in which each member holds power to make decisions and create change. My vision of a democratic society is one that celebrates diversity. A society where people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, and religions are represented and each of those members feels empowered to use their voice is a truly democratic society. If those in positions of power comprise a small portion of the population and are altogether similar to each other, we will miss out on many new and different ideas.

As a future healthcare provider, I can have many roles within a democratic society. At the most basic level, I exercise my civil duty as an educated and diligent voter. By learning about the government and political process and staying up to date on current events, I can feel confident in my vote and have conversations with others about topics I feel strongly about. When I feel called, I also see the importance of supporting candidates I believe in. As I get older and have more time outside of school, I look forward to getting more involved with political organizations, such as LWVSA, and possibly running for office. I feel strongly about health disparities and access to healthcare, and I know that as my leadership skills and knowledge of political processes develop, I will be able to make change in my community.

As a woman, I am proud to make my voice heard in the male-dominated American democratic society. As a Caucasian, straight, cisgender, middle class, Christian female I also realize that I hold privilege in many aspects of my life and I am committed to making space for people of color, low socioeconomic status, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and people of all religions to share their values and opinions. I know that I will certainly not agree with everyone I come across but will cherish disagreements as a part of a society where everyone has a say. A democratic society does not have the potential to be good because it is easy, but because it is founded on diversity.

GRADUATE WINNER

Antonia Taylor
Graduate Student
University of Texas at San Antonio

Black Woman

The black skin on my hands means
everything
In the constant pursuit of freedom
Cracks on my knuckles persist
As I spill blood
On the foot of Lady Justice

In the eye of our system –
And to the men above me –
I am identified by
A mere color
And by the status of my uterus:
"Functional or not"
Can I reproduce more Blacks-like me?

To them I am many things
But of those, I choose to be none.

I dream of a day I lay
On the soft banks of North Africa
Where my people were stolen from
And watch the sunset
In a place where I am seen
For what I am:
Divine feminine, Human, Eternal
I will find a place where I can heal
My brothers, sisters, and siblings
Of traumas
Inflicted by the state
Not of our choosing

Everlasting freedom is not found
In the dead eyes of formal men
But in the colored skin that lays upon by
bone
The soft glow of my ancestor's oil lamps
And the whispered hymns of my great-
grandmother

FIND OUT WHERE TO VOTE/EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

You can vote at any Bexar County polling location, both during Early Voting, February 14-25, and on Election Day, March 1.

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

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

EARLY VOTING CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 13 Closed	February 14 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	February 15 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	February 16 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	February 17 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	February 18 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.	February 19 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
February 20 Noon - 6 p.m.	February 21 Closed	February 22 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	February 23 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	February 25 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	February 26 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.	February 26 Closed

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS - DRAFT LISTING

NOTE: Because of the current pandemic, some sites may be closed or moved after this list was printed. Check with the Bexar County Elections Department, 210-335-8683, or call the site before going.

Bexar County Justice Center* (Basement, South End)	300 Dolorosa	Lion's Field	2809 Broadway
Bexar County Election Department (Deafink Available)	1103 S. Frio	Maury Maverick, Jr. Library	8700 Mystic Park
Brookhollow Library	530 Heimer Road	Mission Library	3134 Roosevelt Ave.
Castle Hills City Hall (SE corner of Council Chambers)	209 Lemonwood Drive	Northside Activity Center	7001 Culebra
Claude Black Center	2805 East Commerce	Northwest Vista College	3535 N. Ellison Drive
Cody Library	11441 Vance Jackson	Our Lady of the Lake University	411 S.W. 24th St.
Old Converse City Hall	407 S. Seguin Road	Parman Library at Stone Oak	20735 Wilderness Oak
Copernicus Community Center	5003 Lord Road	Precinct 1 Satellite Office	3505 Pleasanton Road
Cortez Library	2803 Hunter Blvd.	Schaefer Library	6322 US Hwy 87 E
Encino Branch Library	2515 East Evans Road	Shavano Park City Hall (Lobby)	900 Saddletree Court
Great Northwest Library	9050 Wellwood	Somerset City Hall	7360 E. 6th, Somerset
Henry A. Guerra, Jr. Library	7978 W Military Drive	Southside ISD Admin Building	1460 Martinez-Losoya Road
John Igo Library	13330 Kyle Seale Parkway	Texas A&M University-San Antonio (Mays Center)	One University Way
Johnston Library	6307 Sun Valley Drive	Tobin Library at Oakwell	4134 Harry Wurzbach
Julia Yates Semmes Library at Comanche Lookout Park	5060 Judson Road	Universal City Library	100 Northview Drive
Las Palmas Library	515 Castroville Road	University of Texas at San Antonio (Main Campus - Bexar Room)	1 UTSA Blvd.
Leon Valley Conference Center	6421 Evers Road	Wonderland Mall Of The Americas at Crossroads	4522 Fredericksburg
		Woodlawn Pointe Center (Board Room)	702 Donaldson Ave.

*Bexar County Justice Center closes at 6 p.m. Also closed Saturday and Sunday.

For more information contact the office of the Bexar County Elections Administrator, Jacquelyn F. Callanen, at (210) 335-VOTE (8683).

IMPORTANT DATES FOR PEOPLE VOTING BY MAIL

- Last day for Elections Dept. to receive application for ballot by mail: Feb. 18
- Election Day: March 1
- Last day for Elections Dept. to receive ballot by mail: March 1 at 7 p.m. if envelope is not postmarked.
- Last day for Elections Dept. to receive ballot by mail: March 3 at 5 p.m. if the carrier envelope is postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day in Bexar County.

(March 3 is first business day after election because March 2 is Texas Independence Day.)



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League of Women
Voters of the San
Antonio Area

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Follow the League of Women Voters
of the San Antonio Area

