



# League of Women Voters of Denton VOTERS GUIDE

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

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## Denton County Primary Election March 1, 2016

**EARLY VOTING, February 16-26** by personal appearance will be available at the following locations and times for Denton:

Denton County Elections Administration, 701 Kimberly Drive

Denton Civic Center, 321 East McKinney

Tuesday-Friday	February 16-19	8am-5pm
Saturday	February 20	7am-7pm
Sunday	February 21	1pm-6pm
Monday-Friday	February 22-26	7am-7pm

For Early Voting by personal appearance outside of the City of Denton, contact the Denton County Elections Administration Office at 940.340.3200 or <http://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/EVlocsMarch16.pdf>.

POLLING PLACES on March 1st, Primary Election Day, are by precinct.

For your precinct and/or polling place location, contact the Denton County Elections Office at 940.340.3200 or <http://www.votedenton.com/election-day-polling-locations/>.



## VOTING IN TEXAS PRIMARIES

When you vote in the Texas Primaries, you will need to request a specific political party ballot (Republican or Democrat), you become affiliated with that party for the next two years. At the time you vote, your voting certificate will be stamped with the name of the party in whose primary you vote.

You may vote in only one party's primary. If there is a runoff, you may vote only in the same party's runoff election. (Note that in the General Election in November, voters may vote for any candidate they wish, regardless of whether they voted in a party primary or runoff or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.)

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

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

### WHAT TO TAKE TO THE POLLS

You must present one of the following forms of photo ID when voting in person:

- Texas drivers 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 concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing your photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing your photograph
- United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place.

For more information:

<http://www.votedenton.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Photo-ID-Informational-Docment.pdf>



#### YOU MAY BRING THIS VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH!

*In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this Voters Guide, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (Texas Election Code, Section 61.011).*

### ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This printed Voters Guide lists candidates in contested races who are on the March 1, 2016, Primary Election ballot and provides their answers to questions posed by The League of Women Voters of Texas and The League of Women Voters of Denton.

Additional information can be accessed online at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) including an online Voters Guide with candidate videos, races not included in this Voters Guide, and an "On Your Ballot" feature allowing voters to enter an address and review races and ballot initiatives specific to that address.

This Voters Guide lists candidates for President of the United States, as well as statewide, regional, and local races in Texas, including U.S. Senator, Railroad Commissioner, Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Courts of Appeals, and the State Board of Education. Only candidates in political parties that select their candidates in the Primary Election are included, currently Democratic and Republican parties.

Candidates in other parties are selected by convention.

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

This Voters Guide is organized by office. Ballot order may vary from county to county. The names of unopposed candidates are also listed.



## PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The following candidates qualified for the Texas ballot according to the Secretary of State. They will appear on the Republican or Democratic ballot for President.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Martin J. O'Malley, [www.martinomalley.com](http://www.martinomalley.com)

Bernie Sanders, [go.bernieanders.com](http://go.bernieanders.com)

Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente, [www.rocky2016.com](http://www.rocky2016.com)

Calvis L. Hawes, [ballotpedia.org/Calvis\\_L.\\_Hawes](http://ballotpedia.org/Calvis_L._Hawes)

Willie L. Wilson, [www.williewilson2016.com](http://www.williewilson2016.com)

Keith Judd, [ballotpedia.org/Keith\\_Judd](http://ballotpedia.org/Keith_Judd)

Star Locke, [www.starover texas.com](http://www.starover texas.com)

Hillary Clinton, [www.hillaryclinton.com](http://www.hillaryclinton.com)

### REPUBLICAN PARTY

John H. Kasich, [www.johnk Kasich.com](http://www.johnk Kasich.com)

Elizabeth Gray, [ballotpedia.org/Elizabeth\\_Gray](http://ballotpedia.org/Elizabeth_Gray)

Marco Rubio, [www.marcorubio.com](http://www.marcorubio.com)

Lindsey Graham, [www.lindseygraham.com](http://www.lindseygraham.com)

Ted Cruz, [action.tedcruz.org](http://action.tedcruz.org)

Jeb Bush, [www.jeb2016.com](http://www.jeb2016.com)

Rick Santorum, [www.ricksantorum.com](http://www.ricksantorum.com)

Ben Carson, [www.bencarson.com](http://www.bencarson.com)

Rand Paul, [www.randpaul.com](http://www.randpaul.com)

Donald J. Trump, [www.donaldjtrump.com](http://www.donaldjtrump.com)

Carly Fiorina, [www.carlyfor president.com](http://www.carlyfor president.com)

Mike Huckabee, [www.mikehuckabee.com](http://www.mikehuckabee.com)

Chris Christie, [www.chrischristie.com](http://www.chrischristie.com)

Imagine what our  
country might look like if  
every eligible American was  
registered to vote



## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Six-year term. Must be at least 30 years old, a resident of the United States for at least nine years, and a resident of Texas. One of 100 members of the U.S. Senate which has specific powers to advise and consent to presidential appointments and treaties and to try impeachments. Powers the Senate shares with U.S. House of Representatives include the power to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce, and declare war.

### QUESTIONS FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CANDIDATES

**Education** (Limit: 25 words)

**Experience** (Limit: 50 words)

- 1) What specific measures would you take to ensure access to affordable health care? (Limit: 100 words)
- 2) What role should the federal government play in protecting the environment? (Limit: 100 words)
- 3) There is general agreement that America's immigration system is broken, but no agreement on how to fix it. What reforms, if any, would you support? (Limit: 100 words)
- 4) What measures will you take to stop the gridlock that has crippled Congress? (Limit: 100 words)
- 5) What reasonable measures can be taken to reduce the risk of terrorism? (Limit: 100 words)

### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 24

#### Kenny E. Marchant (R)

Unopposed

#### Jan McDowell (D)

Unopposed

### U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 26

#### Joel A. Krause (R)

**Education:** BS Degree in Engineering, Iowa State University, business owner for 30 years in the Lewisville area with office in China

**Experience:** Managed 35+ employees and 25+ in China, visionary in fields of engineering, product development, economics and human resources. Traveled to all 50 states and 6 continents. Paid political consultant for Bob Dole, candidate for Ames City Council, US Congress 2014, republican district delegate and alternate delegate for state convention 2014.

1) Repeal Obamacare - Allow Medicare to negotiate prices - Reduce the influence of Health Care Lobby - Insurance plans no state boundaries - Eliminate the Pre-Existing condition exclusions in Health Insurance - Provide tax credits to individuals to help purchase insurance in the private sector and to offset medical costs - Allow more entities such as non-profits to offer health care coverage - Medical Tort reform is needed - Reduce regulation on insurance companies so more options are available - Patients need price transparency to help in making decisions on their healthcare - Add real competition to this sector

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## QUESTIONS FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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2) The federal government has a clear role to play in protecting the environment. However, I am concerned with the regulatory nature of the EPA and do not agree with several of their initiatives such as expanding the scope of federal regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act to any hydrologic connection to downstream navigable waters including ditches, pipes and farmland ponds.

I have traveled 6 continents, including trips to China, where at times the pollution is so bad I almost cannot see across the street. The environment is problem that need to be address by all governments throughout the world.

3) Secure our borders - No amnesty - We need to reduce the carrot, the motivation in crossing the border - Increase the efficiency of our legal immigration process. - We need to uphold our existing laws. - We need to improve our tracking system to make sure people have not stayed past their legal right - End sanctuary cities and policies - Increase deportations and end catch and release - End birthright citizenship.

4) Gridlock occurs between Democrats, Republicans and Special Interests, I will work to reduce the influence of special interest and that will reduce the gridlock. Most Democrats and Republican want a new tax code, but special interest prohibits the passage. Special interest influence can be done through campaign reform. - I will work to find common goals and solutions and promote that legislation. - I will work towards term limits as that would reduce gridlock. - I would provide accurate un-slanted truth to US Citizens regarding issues.

5) Make a commitment - Secure our borders - Increase our air strikes significantly. - US and Western countries need to provide support to factions in Syria and Iraq who are fighting ISIS - We need to educate the world of the true nature of ISIS and to expose them and who they are. We need to take down ISIS social media accounts to prevent the propoganda from spreading. - We need to work with bordering countries to restrain the flow of foreign fighters to ISIS - Destroy/take ISIS resources and sanction any country that does business with this group

### Michael Burgess (R)

No response

### Micah Beebe (R)

No response

### Eric Mauck (D)

Unopposed



## RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Please see League of Women Voters of Texas Voter's Guide

## TEXAS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Please see League of Women Voters of Texas Voter's Guide

## COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Please see League of Women Voters of Texas Voter's Guide

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Please see League of Women Voters of Texas Voter's Guide

## TEXAS STATE SENATOR

### Jane Nelson (R)

Unopposed

## TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The Texas House of Representatives is composed of 150 members, each elected for a two-year term. A member of the house must be a citizen of the United States, must be a qualified elector of the state, and must be at least 21 years old. He or she must have been a resident of the state for two years immediately preceding election, and for one year immediately preceding election must have been a resident of the district from which he or she was chosen.

The house of representatives elects one of its own members as presiding officer--the speaker of the house. The house creates and enforces its own rules and judges the qualifications of its members.

The House of Representatives, together with the state senate, constitute the Texas Legislature. The duties of the legislature include consideration of proposed laws and resolutions, consideration of proposed constitutional amendments for submission to the voters, and appropriation of all funds for the operation of state government. All bills for raising revenue considered by the legislature must originate in the House of Representatives. The house alone can bring impeachment charges against a statewide officer, which charges must be tried by the senate.

## QUESTIONS FOR TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

**Education** (Limit: 25 words)

**Experience** (Limit: 50 words)

- 1) Do you favor expanding the rights of local government to regulate oil and gas development? Please explain. (Limit: 100 words)
- 2) What, if anything, should the state do to ensure that more people have access to adequate health care? (Limit: 100 words)
- 3) What are your legislative priorities for ensuring that all Texans have access to quality education? (Limit: 100 words)
- 4) Given the historic recent droughts and the projected future water shortages for Texas, how would you protect and sustain our current water sources and satisfy the growing needs of people, cities, businesses and agriculture? (Limit: 100 words)

Continued on the next page

## QUESTIONS FOR TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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### TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 106

#### Pat Fallon (R)

No response

#### Trent Trubenbach (R)

No response

### TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 64

#### Tan Parker (R)

Unopposed

### TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 64

#### Rick Hagen (R)

**Education:** Austin College- 1986. B.A. Political Science University of Oklahoma College of Law- 1990. J.D.

**Experience:** Chief of Staff for State Representative Jim Horn during 1987 Texas Legislative Session. Briefing Attorney Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, 1990-1991. Felony Prosecutor Criminal District Attorney of Caldwell County, 1991-1992. Jackson & Hagen, 1993-present. Board Certified Criminal Law.

**1)** I believe in local control. Denton should be able to have an energy policy that fits our community. I am extremely sensitive to this issue. As a landowner and mineral owner in Denton, I have leased my mineral rights and have specifically contracted that no drilling is allowed. I support domestic energy production because it's good for the economy and reduces dependence on foreign oil. And I support responsible fracking, as long as it's done in a manner that respects the will of the people.

**2)** The most important thing Texas can do is to help employers create good jobs. That means keeping taxes low, reducing the regulatory burden and investing in education. Unfortunately, the federal government has limited states' ability to develop innovative healthcare solutions by mandating Obamacare, which has done little if anything to contain the steadily increasing costs which will eventually force families off the rolls. My hope is that Washington repeals Obamacare so that Texas and other states have the freedom to develop unique solutions that are more affordable and more effective.

**3)** I believe in public education. I'm a product of Texas public schools and I know they can do a better job of preparing our children for the future. As State Representative, I will fight against unreasonable testing mandates and more local control for parents and educators. I want teachers to be rewarded for strong student performance, and I want parents to have more choices for their children when local schools are failing.

**4)** First, we need to invest in improvements to our water infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment plants that allow us to use water more efficiently. Conservation should play an important role, and government should encourage citizens and businesses to use water responsibly – not just in times of severe drought, but all the time. And we also need to encourage private sector development of new technology-based solutions such as desalination.

#### Lynn Stucky (R)

No response

#### Read King (R)

No response

#### Conner Flanagan (D)

No response

#### Paul Greco (D)



**Education:** Texas A&M 2 Years, SFASU BFA, UNT MFA

**Experience:** Chair Delegate Democratic Convention Dallas, Texas, 2008, Retired Firefighter Adjunct Professor, UNT, DCCC, TCCC, Visual Arts Texas AFL-CIO Firefighters Association Committees Denton County Emergency Corp

**1)** HB-40 absolutely conflicts with longstanding conservative principles of local control and self-determination. Recent Texas state legislatures are hypocritical of allowing local control over public schools, but not local environment issues such as drinking water safety, air quality, and oil and gas development within local jurisdiction. This strongly suggest that government at the local level is more inclined, but only in certain cases, to make better decisions for the constituents of District 64 than the state government agencies. I would return local control over oil and gas development by repealing HB-40 and discourage any new legislation which restricts local control.

**2)** Texas needs to accept our share (\$14 billion) in Federal Medicaid assistance. Medicare can do more to assist our aging and disabled population. I support enhancing preventative health care for all. Preventive medicine has been proven to eliminate progressive stages of sickness, and save the health care system millions of dollars. I also support more funding and access to mental health resources.

**3)** I am looking into Texas 60/30 plan: 60% of all Texans with 2 or more years of college by 2030. Since education is the most important component of society, I want to see higher education more available to everyone. Online learning and workforce skill training further improves the quality of life for all. We can no longer continue with outdated models for education.

**4)** The rise of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling technologies has a significant impact on water availability. Some drought stricken areas of Texas have used an average of 19.2 billion gallons (4.3 million gallons per well), some of this water is gone for good. So I would like to see again HB-40 repealed or increase water restrictions on the oil and gas industries. I would also like to increase water restriction/conservation. It is our water, so as Texans we should all pitch in to improve water preservation. And last, possibly constructing future water reservoirs.

### TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 65

#### Ben Kissling (R)

No response

#### Ron Simmons (R)

No response

#### Alex Mendoza (D)

Unopposed



## COURT OF APPEALS

Please see League of Women Voters of Texas Voter's Guide

## DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Four-year term. Must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. Citizen, Texas and District resident for two years and four years as a practicing lawyer or judge.

The district courts are the trial courts of general jurisdiction of Texas. The geographical area served by each court is established by the Legislature, but each county must be served by at least one district court. In sparsely populated areas of the State, several counties may be served by a single district court, while an urban county may be served by many district courts.

District courts have original jurisdiction in felony criminal cases, divorce cases, cases involving title to land, election contest cases, civil matters in which the amount of money or damages involved is \$200 or more, and any matters in which jurisdiction is not placed in another trial court. While most district courts try both criminal and civil cases, in the more densely populated counties the courts may specialize in civil, criminal, juvenile, or family law matters.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE CANDIDATES

**Education** (Limit: 25 words)

**Experience** (Limit: 50 words)

- 1) What are primary challenges of this position and how will you address them? (Limit: 100 words)
- 2) If elected, what improvements do you plan to make? (Limit: 100 words)
- 3) How do you maintain impartiality, given the need to raise funds for political campaigns? (Limit: 100 words)

### DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, 16TH DISTRICT

#### Sherry Shipman (R)

Unopposed

### DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, 362ND DISTRICT

#### Bruce McFarling (R)

Unopposed

### DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, 363RD DISTRICT

#### Doug Robison (R)

Unopposed

#### Evan Stone (D)

Unopposed

### DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, 431ST DISTRICT

#### Steven "Wayne" Weinstein (R)

No response

#### Jonathan M. Bailley (R)

No response

## DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, 442ND DISTRICT

#### Tiffany Haertling (R)

Unopposed

## DENTON COUNTY RACES

## SHERIFF

Sheriff is a constitutionally created office with duties to be prescribed by the legislature (Tex. Const. Art. V sec 23). The sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer for the county and is responsible for operating the county jails, investigating crimes, making arrests, enforcing traffic regulations on county roads, serving writs, seizing property after judgment, and maintaining communications with other law enforcement organizations. The sheriff has countywide jurisdiction, but in practice, most sheriffs' departments concentrate their activities outside city limits where municipal officers cannot operate. Like all county department heads, the sheriff appoints his own personnel and in large counties may have a substantial staff and budget. The sheriff is elected every four years and is responsible for security in both the county and district courts. The sheriff also sets bail bond policy for the county except where there is a Bail Bond Board which establishes the rules and regulations for making bail by bondsmen.

### QUESTIONS FOR SHERIFF CANDIDATES

**Education** (Limit: 25 words)

**Experience** (Limit: 50 words)

- 1) What are primary challenges of this position and how will you address them? (Limit: 100 words)
- 2) What measures/programs do you propose to reduce crime in our community? (Limit: 75 words)
- 3) Should law enforcement officers be required to wear body cameras? Please explain. (Limit: 75 words)

#### Tracy Murphree (R)



**Education:** Attended McMurry College in Abilene Texas. Majored in Political Science with a minor in History.

**Experience:** 28 years of law enforcement experience. Served in the Texas Highway Patrol, Texas DPS Narcotics, 13 years as a Texas Ranger, 3 years as a supervisor with the Denton County Sheriffs

Office. Currently commissioned as a Special Texas Ranger.

**1)** First the morale of the Department must be improved. There is currently a 38% turn over rate due to low morale. Training new employees cost tax dollars and high morale equals happy more productive employees. Second we must train and equip out officers to deal with the threat of terrorism. Working with other agencies to make our county safer.

**2)** I want to re-establish our relationship with the FBI Terrorism task force. We have an employee that speaks the language and understands the culture. He was instrumental in stopping a terrorist plot in Dallas. He has been removed from the Terrorism Task Force to serve warrants. The Traffic Unit currently works only day shifts. We must have a presence during the time drunk drivers are likely to be on our roads.

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## QUESTIONS FOR SHERIFF

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3) I am a huge advocate for body cameras. The cameras are not only there to document what happened they are there for both the officer and the person being arrested. Body cameras keep police accountable to the public they serve and protects them from false accusations. I believe all officers should wear body cameras.

### William Barrett Travis (R)

**Education:** I have a B.P.A from the University of Mississippi

**Experience:** Dallas Police Dept./Police Officer, U.S. Coast Guard/U.S. Air Force U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration/Special Agent

1) We are living in uncertain and dangerous times that threaten the security of our nation. Sure, Islamic terrorism, an open border, dangerous drugs (legalization) and eighteen trillion dollars of debt all and more threaten the very existence of our nation but we wouldn't be where we are today, if those who hold traditional conservative values would make a strong stand. We aren't being represented well and our nation is sliding because we've turned our backs on standards in which this nation was founded, the Constitution and the Christian Bible. To be specific, my greatest challenge is keeping this county safe ///

2) Not only have we continue tried and true crime prevention and awareness programs to reduce crime such as school/neighborhood education programs, proactive and predictive policing, where we use data and intelligent information to prevent the circumstances of crime, but the most important program we use today is community oriented policing. Community policing is at the core of our efforts to continue to reduce crime in Denton County. We have to engage the community not only ///

3) Body cameras are like any other tool we use in law enforcement and are of great benefit to the officer and community. To the officer, a camera will protect them and the agency from potential liability and to the community, it provides some oversight of the police and may instill greater confidence in police integrity. Mandating body cameras is up to the public not law enforcement. If the public feels cameras would give them greater ///

## TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

### Michelle French (R)

Unopposed

## COUNTY COMMISSIONER

The Commissioners Court is the general governing body of Denton County. The Court is made up of the County Judge who is elected countywide and presides over the full Court, and the four County Commissioners -- each elected from one of the County's four precincts.

The four County Commissioners have both countywide and precinct responsibilities. Each commissioner is responsible for construction and maintenance of County roads within his or her precinct. Some Commissioners maintain offices both at the Courthouse-On-The-Square and within their precincts. They are responsive to the particular needs of people living within their areas of the County. In Denton County, each member of Commissioners Court serves as a liaison to a particular board or agency of the County.

## QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

**Education** (Limit: 25 words)

**Experience** (Limit: 50 words)

- 1) How would you use the County's existing authority to regulate development in order to balance competing interests? (Limit: 75 words)
- 2) Are there any areas of overlapping services provided by governmental entities that you believe should be consolidated to more efficiently provide services to your County residents? Please explain. (Limit: 75 words)
- 3) What do you perceive to be the most important county wide issues and how would you address them? (Limit: 75 words)

### PRECINCT 1

#### Hugh Coleman (R)

**Education:** B.A. in Philosophy from Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas 1990

Juris Doctorate from the University of Tulsa, College of Law, Tulsa, Oklahoma 1994

**Experience:** Served as the Denton County Commissioner for Precinct One since 2009. Served as an Assistant District Attorney/Counsel to the Sheriff in Denton, Texas, as an Assistant County Attorney in El Paso, Texas, and as a City Attorney and Municipal Prosecutor while in private practice.

1) County's in Texas have limited regulatory authority. They do however have the authority with approval of the TCEQ to regulate lots sizes based on whether or not there is water or sewer service available. I would advocate for using this authority to limit high density subdivisions in the unincorporated areas of Denton County to curb densities and avoid over crowding our rural school districts.

2) I would advocate for the Sheriff's office to incorporate the municipal jails into our detention operations. Consolidation would enhance enforcement of municipal warrants and get rid of expensive and duplicate operations.

3) The explosive growth and its impact on our infrastructure is the most important county wide issue facing Denton County. I have addressed this problem by advocating for limitations on the development of special districts created for the purpose putting high density residential subdivisions in the unincorporated areas. I also partnered with municipalities and the Texas Department of Transportation to develop a thorough fare plan in which we are planning for the infrastructure needs of the ///

#### Brett Larson (R)

**Education:** BBA, St. Edwards University, Austin, TX, Magna Cum Laude MBA, University of Texas at Dallas

**Experience:** 25 combined years of experience as an Executive in multinational public and private companies, and as a financial professional. Owner of a small, local business that helps families and businesses analyze finances and plan for the future without overtaxing or overburdening themselves with debt.

1) Counties have no "Zoning Authority" except where specifically authorized. Lake Ray Roberts is an exception area. I believe strongly that Denton County government has an extremely good opportunity to work with Cities, Developers and Utility providers to help plan their extraterritorial jurisdiction for the future of a City's expansion area. That opportunity is not being used right now to its potential.

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## QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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2) In my discussions with local leaders I have learned that there is a distinct desire for the county and municipalities to work together much more closely than is currently being enabled by the existing officeholder. I plan to bring my business experience to Denton County and evaluate every operational area for effectiveness. I want to work closely with local leaders enabling a mutually cooperative environment where we team to reduce any existing overlapping services and ///

3) The growth rate in Denton County is staggering. How we address the challenges of that growth both currently and how we plan for the future is critical. What we start now will not have an effect until almost a decade later in many cases. We have to find a way to be proactive regarding our growth patterns, ensuring that it is done affordably while not raising taxes or by issuing debt levels that will over-burden ///

### PRECINCT 3

**Bobbie J. Mitchell (R)**

Unopposed

## CONSTABLE

The Constable and the deputies have all the powers and responsibilities of any peace officer in the state. They may write tickets, make arrests, conduct investigations, and file criminal charges. However, they have additional enforcement responsibility that regular street police officers are not charged with. The Constable and his deputies have the additional responsibility of serving and executing Civil Court orders.

## QUESTIONS FOR CONSTABLE CANDIDATES

**Education** (Limit: 25 words)

**Experience** (Limit: 50 words)

- 1) What do you think are the most important responsibilities of the County Constable's office? (Limit: 75 words)
- 2) What emerging problems do you foresee in the Constables office and how will you address them? (Limit: 75 words)
- 3) Should law enforcement officers be required to wear body cameras? Please explain. (Limit: 75 words)

### PRECINCT 1

**Johnny Hammons (R)**

Unopposed

### PRECINCT 2

**Michael A. Truitt (R)**

No response

**Hal Grant (R)**



**Education:** Associates degree in Criminal Justice and the equivalent to a Bachelors degree in Public Administration.

**Experience:** I have 39 years of experience as a public servant, 30 years as a Deputy Sheriff and 8 years as a Chief of Police.

1) First and foremost the most important aspect of the County Constable is to protect the citizens of the community in which I will serve. Equally important will be to adhere to the budget as set forth by the County Commissioner's.

2) I feel the most visible problem is that all Law Enforcement is being scrutinized more now than ever before. It would be a high priority to administer the proper training to my deputies in how to handle disputes with the general public. I would also monitor their actions on a daily basis.

3) All Law Enforcement Officers should be required to wear body cameras. This would become a permanent record of all inter-action with our citizens.

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## Found this Voter's Guide helpful?

Join the League of Women Voters of Denton

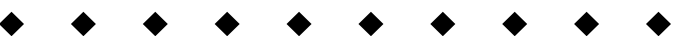
REMEMBER—EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T THE TIME FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, YOUR MEMBERSHIP ALONE WILL STRENGTHEN OUR VOICE.

You do not need to be a member to use our services, but joining us makes our democracy stronger.

Please consider donating to the Education Fund. This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund and the League of Women Voters of the Denton Education Fund.

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## QUESTIONS FOR CONSTABLE

Continued from previous page

### PRECINCT 3

**Jerry Raburn (R)**

Unopposed

### PRECINCT 4

**Tim Burch (R)**

Unopposed

### PRECINCT 5

**Doug Boydston (R)**

Unopposed

### PRECINCT 6

**Edward Hall (R)**

No response

**Richard Bachus (R)**



**Education:** I hold a Master Peace Officer Certification and Advanced Civil Process Certification from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

**Experience:** I have over 25 years of law enforcement experience. After retiring from the Carrollton Police Department in 2012, I joined the Denton County Constable Precinct 6 office where I currently lead the Civil Division. This specific experience prepares me to enter the office at full capacity on day one.

**1)** The Constable's office is tasked with the duty of executing and enforcing both criminal and civil orders from the court, as well as serving the community's general law enforcement needs. Municipal Police agencies and the Sheriff's Department are typically only dealing with the criminal side of the justice system. The Constable's office operates in both the criminal and civil justice systems.

**2)** As Denton County continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, that growth presents challenges to all government service agencies stretching resources, personnel and funding. My experience serving this community and with this agency provide not only a broad understanding of needs and challenges, but also opportunities and solutions. For example, I currently supervise the Precinct 6 Reserve Deputy program and while volunteers will never replace full time officers, their contribution supplements resources and services provided.

**3)** Yes. It is important to capture the one perspective that has previously been undocumented, that of the law enforcement officer. The value of this perspective includes protection of officers, citizens, and agencies by providing evidence to support prosecution of offenders, defend all involved from inaccurate accusation, and to identify conduct that requires correction or elimination. I believe the protection afforded by body cameras outweighs the costs associated with purchasing and maintaining them.



## HELPFUL WEBSITES

**Secretary of State**

[www.sos.state.tx.us](http://www.sos.state.tx.us)

[www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov)

**Denton County Elections Administration**

[www.votedenton.com](http://www.votedenton.com)

**League of Women Voters of Denton**

[www.lwvdenton.org](http://www.lwvdenton.org)

**League of Women Voters of Texas**

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

**League of Women Voters (U.S.)**

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**Republican Party of Texas**

[www.texasgop.org](http://www.texasgop.org)

**Democratic Party of Texas**

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

**Libertarian Party of Texas**

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

**Green Party of Texas**

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

