

# $VOTERS \star GUIDE$

by the League of Women Voters of Texas & League of Women Voters Austin Area

## **VOTING IN THE 2021 CONSTITUTIONAL** AMENDMENT AND LOCAL ELECTION

YOU MAY BRING A PRINTED VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH. Use of electronic devices is prohibited.

#### **VOTER CHECKLIST**

Everything you need to know before you go to vote! Complete all of the steps below, and you'll be ready and prepared to go to the polls.

☐ Confirm voter registration: Registered voters will have received an orange voter registration certificate (see page 26 for an example). While this document is not needed to vote, it contains helpful information about your districts, precinct, and more. If you do bring it to the polls, a poll worker can use it to confirm your eligibility if there's any problem. Receiving the certificate is confirmation that you are eligible to vote. If you aren't sure you are registered, you can check online at votetravis.com or apps.wilco .org/elections/. Students, see page 2 for more information. As of this printing, the deadline for new registrations for this election will have passed, but please register now for future elections!

☐ Updating your voter registration name or address: To vote, you must update your registration every time you move or change your name. If you have not updated your voter registration information, you may be required to vote provisionally. That means your vote will not be tallied until the issue surrounding voter information has been resolved. Be sure to update your voter registration BEFORE YOU COME TO THE POLLS:

> You may correct your voter registration information on the back of the voter registration certificate and mail it to your local Voter Registrar.

#### **Travis County:**

Bruce Elfant

P.O. Box 149327, Austin, TX 78714-9327

#### Williamson County:

Williamson County Elections P.O. Box 209, Georgetown, TX 78627

You can change your address or name on the Texas secretary of state's website: https://bit.ly/32E8QK8

If you moved to a different county, YOU MUST RE-**REGISTER**. Send in a new application to the voter registrar of your current county.

Complete information on updating your registration can be

found here: https://www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/did -you-change-something.html

#### ☐ Photo ID—You must use one of seven forms of ID to vote:

- Texas driver license
- ➤ Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC)
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by DPS
- Texas handgun license issued by DPS
- ➤ U.S. military identification card with visible photograph
- ➤ U.S. citizenship certificate with visible photograph
- U.S. passport (book or card)

If you do not have one of the above photo IDs, as a registered voter you can still vote! You will be required to sign a Reasonable Impediment Declaration form and present one of the following documents:

- Texas voter registration certificate
- Certified birth certificate
- Current utility bill
- ➤ Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- > Any other government document such as an out-of-state driver license or an expired Texas driver license

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## **VOTING IN THE 2021 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND LOCAL ELECTION (continued)**

☐ Check ID expiration date: You can still vote with an expired photo ID. IDs may be expired up to four years. For voters age 70 or older, there is **NO** limit on ID expiration.

#### ☐ Election Day

WHERE: Residents of Travis and Williamson Counties can vote at ANY polling place in their county. Locations and wait times are available at the following county voter information websites.

Travis County: VoteTravis.com Williamson County: wilco.org/elections

WHEN: Early voting is available October 18-29; times and locations may vary. On Election Day (November 2), polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### ☐ Know your voting rights

- ➤ If you are still in line at 7:00 p.m., stay in line! You will be able to vote past 7:00 p.m. as long as you stay in line.
- ➤ You may ask for another ballot if you have made a mistake.
- ➤ If voting machines are down, you may ask for a paper ballot.
- ➤ If you run into issues on Election Day, call an Election Protec-

English: 1-866-OUR-VOTE / 1-866-687-8683 Spanish: 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA / 1-888-839-8682 **Arabic:** 1-844-YALLA-US / 1-844-925-5287

Asian languages: 888-API-VOTE / 1-888-274-8683

ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE / 1-301-818-8683

**Disability Rights TX:** 888-796-VOTE / 1-888-796-8683

- ☐ Vote safely! The League of Women Voters encourages you to "Be a Safe Texas Voter!"
- ➤ Vote at home by mail: Must be 65 years or older, have a disability, be out of the county during early voting and Election Day, or be an eligible voter in jail. See below for more information on how to apply.
- ➤ Vote early: The early voting period is October 18–29. Take advantage of this to avoid busy polling places on Election Day. During early voting and especially on Election Day, vote during non-peak hours, such as mid-morning or mid-afternoon.
- **Vote with a mask:** That includes polling places anytime you go to vote. We encourage everyone to wear a mask at polling locations so everyone can vote safely.
- ➤ Vote six feet apart: Distance yourself from other voters and poll workers by at least six feet. It may seem that the lines are a bit longer, but that only means everyone is working to stay safe.

#### **HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL**

Any registered voter may vote by mail if they:

> are 65 years of age or older (eligible for mail-in ballots for an entire calendar year).

- > are sick or disabled (eligible for mail-in ballots for an entire calendar year).
- will be absent from the county during the entire early voting period and Election Day, AND provide an out-of-county address where the ballot can be mailed, AND include dates they can receive mail at the out-of-county address (eligible only for one election at a time). Voters who are absent from the county because they are active duty military or because they reside overseas should complete a Federal Post Card Application. Information and forms are available from county and state
- > are confined in jail, but otherwise eligible to vote (eligible only for one election at a time).

The procedure:

- 1. Request the application, which is available for download from the county elections or secretary of state websites, or by calling or emailing the appropriate office. The application is known as an ABBM (application for a ballot by mail). https://bit.ly/2YL0Gi3
- 2. IMPORTANT—The application MUST be completed and received by the early voting clerk in the Travis or Williamson County Elections Division office by October 22, 2021. **NOTE:** If you submit an ABBM by fax or email, it must also be submitted by mail and received in the appropriate office within four business days of your electronic submission.
- 3. Once received, the mail-in ballot MUST be completed and received by the appropriate early voting clerk no later than Election Day, November 2, 2021, or postmarked on November 2 and received by November 3, or by November 8 if mailed outside the U.S.

Please visit our website for more detailed information: LWVAustin.org/vbm/

#### STUDENT VOTERS

Students may use either their parents' address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address. Students cannot be registered in both places. Those who will be away from their permanent address on Election Day and during early voting may request a ballot by mail from their county clerk's office. Student voters should also know that college or university student photo IDs are not accepted at the polls. Be aware of the general ID requirements.

#### LEARN WHAT LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS DO!

Are you curious about what local elected officials do? Do you want to learn more about the positions you vote on? Check out our self-paced modules on our website! These learning modules can be completed at your convenience and in multiple sittings. They are interactive and will have activities you must complete before you move on to the next section. You can take the module on your computer, tablet, or phone. Visit our website at https:// lwvaustin.org/what-local-elected-officials-do/.

### **VOTING IN THE 2021 LOCAL ELECTION (continued)**

#### **NEW VOTING SYSTEM**

Both Travis and Williamson Counties are now using an Express-Vote Ballot Marking Device (BMD), which uses touch-screen technology but produces a paper ballot for tabulation. It is modern, secure, and allows you to verify your selections before casting your vote.

For more information, please visit:

https://countyclerk.traviscountytx.gov/elections/meet-your -new-voting-system.html

or

www.wilco.org/wilcovotes

#### Steps to Vote

**1. VOTE:** At check-in you will receive a blank ballot. Insert this ballot into any Express-Vote BMD. Follow instructions on the screen to make your selections. Poll workers will be available if you need assistance.



- **2. REVIEW:** When prompted, print your ballot. Carefully review all the selections printed on the card to be sure it accurately reflects your choices.
- 3. SCAN: You MUST then scan your ballot into the DS200 scanner to cast your vote. Do NOT leave the polling location with your ballot.



### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTERS GUIDE

#### **ABOUT THIS GUIDE**

This Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) and the League of Women Voters Austin Area (LWV-AA). We invite each and every candidate in competition for office to provide information. We list the names of unopposed candidates, but do not send them questionnaires. Political affiliations in partisan races are abbreviated as follows: (D) Democratic Party, (R) Republican Party, (L) Libertarian Party, (G) Green Party, (I) Independent.

This Voters Guide and other educational League materials are funded by member and supporter donations. Donations may be made at LWVAustin.org. Donations enable us to print and distribute more guides and to offer translations into Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. As LWV-AA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, each donation is acknowledged, appreciated, and deductible to the extent allowed by law.

#### VOTE411.ORG

More information about the candidates can be reviewed by visiting VOTE411.org, a one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online *Voters Guide*, and compare candidates side by side. Answers from candidates who didn't respond by the print deadline may be available online.



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### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS VOTERS GUIDE (cont.)**

#### **HOW THE LEAGUE GATHERS CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

To compile the *Voters Guide* information, the League of Women Voters Austin Area sends questions to all candidates in major contested races. League members verify accurate contact information provided by various election entities and the Texas Secretary of State. The League formulates all questions through a rigorous questions committee. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification of content. Due to space restrictions, candidates are given strict character limits. The form into which they enter answers prohibits them from violating the limit. Candidates are also asked to avoid negative references to their opponents. We reserve the right to redact portions of responses that do not meet our guidelines. Those appearing without a photo failed to submit one. Candidates must submit answers by the deadline provided in order to be included in the printed version. Answers on **VOTE411.org** may be updated after the print deadline.

#### YOU MAY BRING A PRINTED VOTERS **GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH!**

Mobile electronic devices are prohibited in the voting booth, but the law allows you to take a printed Voters Guide with you. You can also use the interactive version online at VOTE411.org to print your choices to take with you.

#### **ABOUT THE LEAGUE**

The League of Women Voters Austin Area is a grassroots, all-volunteer organization promoting informed and active participation of citizens in government. Since 1919, both LWVTX and

Williamson County announces the formation of a new local League: The League of Women Voters Wilco (LWV Wilco)

On September 3, 2019, LWV Texas President Grace Chimene approved the formation of a new League for a rapidly growing area of Central Texas. The League's history in Texas now spans 100 years, and its first president was Williamson County resident Jessie Daniel Ames. The history of empowerment of voters and defending democracy has come full circle in Williamson County with the formation of this new League. LWV Wilco encourages anyone wishing to support this newly established League to attend one of its monthly meetings held the fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Visit their website at **LWVwilco.org** for additional information and resources. LWV-AA have helped voters cast informed votes when going to the polls. No League organization supports or opposes any political party or candidate. As a nonpartisan organization, the League believes that all of us are stakeholders in making democracy work. We host informative programs concerning important public policy issues, organize and offer voter registration efforts, engage in get-out-the-vote projects, work with local area schools and universities to promote civic participation, and conduct fair and open candidate forums.

#### **LWV VISION STATEMENT**

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

#### **LWV MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

#### ... MADE POSSIBLE BY YOU!

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#### **AVAILABLE IN THREE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES!**

¡Disponible en Español! 有中文

Tiếng Việt

We now proudly offer translations in Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese on VOTE411.org! There are also downloadable and printable PDFs for all four languages on our website: LWVAustin.org/voters-guide/

The current Texas Constitution was written in 1876 and has been amended over 500 times. Compare that to the United States Constitution, which has only 27 amendments.

Why does the Texas Constitution have so many amendments? Rules for how state and local governments should run are very specific in the Texas Constitution, unlike in the US Constitution. Therefore our state lawmakers often have little freedom to make changes to laws without amending the state constitution. In order to amend the Texas Constitution, the proposed amendments must pass both houses of the Legislature by a 2/3 majority, and then be approved by a majority of Texas voters.

All potential amendments that appear on your ballot must

originate in the Legislature. The Texas Constitution cannot be amended by citizen-led ballot initiatives, referendums, or petitions, as in some other states.

We vote on a slate of amendments in the fall of odd-numbered years, following the spring Legislative session. Topics vary, and can cover a wide range of topics, and some may affect only a few counties.

Voting on amendments fulfills your right and duty as a Texas citizen. This approval or disapproval of changes to our Constitution gives you a direct voice in our state government.

Watch a short YouTube on the history of the Texas Constitution: https://youtu.be/wm7RUtNssFU

#### PROPOSITION 1—RAFFLES

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the professional sports team charitable foundations of organizations sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women's Professional Rodeo Association to conduct charitable raffles at rodeo venues."

#### **Explanation:**

This amendment would add professional rodeo charitable foundations that are sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women's Professional Rodeo Association to the list of similar foundations for other professional sports associations that are authorized to hold raffles. These raffles may be held at rodeos in the state of Texas.

Watch a short video on Proposition 1: https://youtu.be /cOmWA1pDfq0

For more information: https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf /ba87R/HJR0143.PDF

#### **Arguments For:**

- Many other professional sports charitable foundations (such as those for the NFL, MLB, NBA) are allowed to hold raffles. This proposed amendment broadens the field to include charitable rodeo foundations.
- > Raffles of this type generate revenue for charities such as youth scholarship programs, the YMCA, and the American Cancer Society, among others.

#### **Arguments Against:**

- Raffles are another form of gambling, which has negatively affected some Texas families.
- This form of gambling could eventually be extended beyond professional sports to many other organizations.

#### PROPOSITION 2—COUNTY GOVERNMENT

"The constitutional amendment authorizing a county to finance the development or redevelopment of transportation or infrastructure in unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted areas in the county."

#### **Explanation:**

The Texas Constitution allows the legislature to authorize cities to issue bonds or notes to finance development or redevelopment of transportation or infrastructure in "unproductive, underdeveloped or blighted areas". Proposition 2 would amend the Texas Constitution to add counties to the political entities that can issue bonds or notes for that purpose, and to pledge increases in property tax revenues to repay the bonds or notes.

If the county issues bonds for transportation improvements, the county may not:

- ➤ Allocate more than 65% of the property tax increases annually to repay the bonds;
- Use the bond proceeds to finance toll road construction, operation, maintenance or right-of-way acquisition.

Watch a short video on Proposition 2: https://www.youtube .com/watch?v=mWn3GnqGE2o&t=13s For more information: https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf /ba87R/HJR0099.PDF

#### **Arguments For:**

- > Cities and towns can already finance infrastructure and transportation projects using bonds and notes. Counties also need the ability to address infrastructure issues.
- The development or redevelopment of infrastructure or transportation is expected to increase property values. Higher

#### PROPOSITION 2—COUNTY GOVERNMENT

#### **Arguments For: (continued)**

- property values would result in higher tax revenues to repay these bonds.
- > Texas is growing, and infrastructure and transportation development is needed for our future economic prosperity. The proposition would allow counties to use bonds to finance much needed infrastructure projects.

#### **Arguments Against:**

- ➤ This proposition could expand debt, which may raise local property taxes.
- Opponents say that Texas's local debt ratio per person is too high, and issuing these bonds ties up future funds for debt service payments.
- > These transportation and infrastructure projects could divert revenues that may go to other government services or projects.

#### PROPOSITION 3—RELIGIOUS SERVICES

"The constitutional amendment to prohibit this state or a political subdivision of this state from prohibiting or limiting religious services of religious organizations."

#### **Explanation:**

The proposed amendment would add a new section to Article 1 of the Texas Constitution, the Texas "Bill of Rights." It would prohibit state or local governments from prohibiting or limiting religious services.

This proposed amendment is a reaction to restrictions put in place by the governor and some local governments during the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions required religious services to be held remotely or limited the number of people who could attend in person. The governor's restrictions were only in place for twelve days. He then declared that religious services are essential services and issued guidelines that said, "Houses of worship should conduct as many activities as possible remotely, and should follow federal guidelines when providing services in person."

Watch a short video on Proposition 3: https://youtu.be /ncFEnVq6sTs

#### For more information: https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf /ba87R/HJR0072.PDF

#### **Arguments For:**

- ➤ Churches provide important support in a time of crisis. Closing churches reduces access to their services.
- > Proponents say that closing churches violates religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution.
- A government official should not be able to keep anyone from attending religious services.

#### **Arguments Against:**

- ➤ The proposed amendment could prevent local governments from enforcing safety measures during natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes or another pandemic.
- No faith group should have an unqualified right to spread a communicable disease.
- Existing law and the Texas Constitution adequately protect religious organizations.

#### PROPOSITION 4—JUDGES

"The constitutional amendment changing the eligibility requirements for a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the criminal court of appeals, a justice of the court of appeals, and a district judge."

#### **Explanation:**

The proposed amendment would change the eligibility requirements for judges to run for office for the following:

Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, and the regional Courts of Appeals: Currently, the candidate for these courts must have been a practicing lawyer for at least ten years, or a practicing lawyer or judge of a court of record for a combined total of at least ten years.

The proposed amendment would add the requirement

- that the candidate be licensed in the state of Texas for at least ten years, and defines the court of record as a state court or county court established by the Legislature. Also, during the ten-year period, the candidate's license to practice law must not have been revoked or suspended.
- State District Judge: Currently, the candidate must be a U.S. citizen licensed to practice law in Texas and have been a practicing lawyer for at least four years, or a practicing lawyer or judge of a Texas court for a combined total of four years.

The proposed amendment would add the requirement that a district judge candidate be a Texas resident, and would change the four-year requirement to eight years. Also, during the specified eight-year period, the candidate's license to practice law must not have been revoked or suspended.

#### PROPOSITION 4—JUDGES (continued)

Watch a short video on Proposition 4: https://youtu.be /tm1zHQMscz8

For more information: https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf /ba87R/SJR0047.PDF

#### **Arguments For:**

➤ Increasing the required number of years of legal experience for district court judges could result in a better qualified Texas judiciary.

> The quality and reputation of the Texas judiciary could be enhanced by the requirement that a judge's license cannot have been revoked or suspended.

#### **Arguments Against:**

- > The requirement of additional years of experience as an attorney could adversely impact the diversity (age, race, gender, etc.) of judicial candidates and judges.
- ➤ The amendment would restrict the size of the pool of candidates eligible to run for the judicial positions, which could result in a judiciary that does not reflect the population.

#### PROPOSITION 5—JUDGES

"The constitutional amendment providing additional powers to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct with respect to candidates for judicial office."

#### **Explanation:**

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct now accepts complaints against, and investigates and takes actions concerning, alleged misconduct by judges currently in office. This proposed amendment would extend the Commission's power to judicial candidates.

Watch a short video on Proposition 5: http://www.youtube .com/watch?v=yH1J6v98dSU

For more information: https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf /ba87R/HJR0165.PDF

#### **Arguments For:**

➤ Allowing misconduct charges against judicial candidates could result in fairer judicial campaigns. Under current

law, misconduct charges can be brought against judges currently in office, but not against candidates running for judicial office.

> Bringing complaints about judicial candidates, as well as judges in office, to the Commission on Judicial Conduct could ensure that complaints against both candidates and judges are heard and acted on. This could result in better screening of both candidates and judges.

#### **Arguments Against:**

- > Opponents say this amendment is unnecessary. Those who have complaints of misconduct against judicial candidates can file them with other authorities, such as the State Bar, the Attorney General, or the appropriate District Attorney for investigation and action.
- > Adding complaints against judicial candidates to the Commission on Judicial Conduct could overburden the Commission and its staff with new cases.

#### PROPOSITION 6—CAREGIVER VISITS

"The constitutional amendment establishing a right for residents of certain facilities to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation."

#### **Explanation:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, family and other caregivers were restricted from access to nursing homes and other group facilities. This proposed constitutional amendment would allow a resident to name a person to be their essential caregiver, and visits from their essential caregiver would become a resident's constitutional right. The Legislature may provide guidelines for caregiver visitation policies and procedures.

Watch a short video on Proposition 6: https://youtu.be /jCJGSS1EQgk

For more information: https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf /ba87R/SJR0019.PDF

#### **Arguments For:**

- For Texans in group care, visitation by a loved one can help combat loneliness, anxiety, and depression, and can provide advocacy and emotional support.
- ➤ For residents with no remaining connections, there is comfort in having outside visitors in the facility.

#### **Arguments Against:**

- > This amendment takes away the ability of public health and certain government officials to restrict access by outsiders to group care facilities in order to protect the residents and the staff.
- > Even if health and safety protocols are in place, visitation by outsiders could expose other residents and the staff to disease.

#### PROPOSITION 7—PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

"The constitutional amendment to allow the surviving spouse of a person who is disabled to receive a limitation on the school district ad valorem taxes on the spouse's residence homestead if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of the person's death."

#### **Explanation:**

This proposition would update the Constitution to allow surviving spouses of disabled persons a limit on school district property taxes. Currently, this limitation is provided to homeowners over 65 years old and to disabled persons. To be eligible for this limit, the spouse must be at least 55 years old when the disabled person died and still live in the home.

In 2019, the Tax Code was updated to allow this tax limitation for surviving spouses of disabled persons, but the Legislature failed to authorize a proposed constitutional amendment. Some counties followed the Tax Code and some did not. For those that did not, eligible surviving spouses may be due a refund.

Watch a short video on Proposition 7: https://www.youtube .com/watch?v=lziZRjGi2PQ

#### For more information: https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf /ba87R/HJR0125.PDF

#### **Arguments For:**

- > This amendment would protect the surviving spouse of a disabled person from losing an important benefit.
- ➤ The proposition validates a state law already passed and clarifies that the law is to be enforced.
- ➤ The proposed amendment passed with zero "no" votes in both the Texas House and the Texas Senate, indicating broad bipartisan support.

#### **Arguments Against:**

- The passage could reduce tax revenues for school districts and other local taxing authorities.
- > Any lower property values could decrease revenue and affect the state school funding formulas.
- This amendment could lead to further property tax exemptions, which could have future negative effects on school and other local finances.

#### PROPOSITION 8—PROPERTY TAX/MILITARY

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty."

#### **Explanation:**

Currently the surviving spouse of a member of the military who is killed "in action" is entitled to an exemption from property taxes. This exemption is for the property tax on the market value of the spouse's residence homestead if the spouse has not remarried.

This amendment would expand eligibility for the same exemption from property taxes for spouses of members of the military who are killed "in the line of duty," rather than "in action (or combat)." This means that if their death was due to injuries that are not combat related (such as in a training exercise), it was still as a result of their duties in the military.

Watch a short video on Proposition 8: https://youtu.be /-QaJnSpny9g

For more information: https://hro.house.texas.gov/pdf /ba87R/SJR0035.PDF

#### **Arguments For:**

- ➤ This amendment would correct an oversight in current law to include surviving spouses of the military who were killed in the line of duty, rather than in action.
- ➤ These additional surviving spouses have suffered the loss of their partner because of their military service, and should be provided the same benefit.
- ➤ Death in combat for our country's soldiers should not be the determining factor on whether we honor their military service by providing relief for their spouse.

#### **Arguments Against:**

- ➤ This amendment will reduce tax revenues to school districts, counties, cities and special districts by lowering property values. Many more military are killed in the line of duty than are killed in action. The estimated potential loss of tax revenue could be significant.
- > Any lower property values could decrease revenue and alter the state school funding formula.
- > This amendment would expand property tax exemption to another group of people, which could increase the tax burden for other property owners.

#### **DONATE!**

Support the Voters Guide production with a contribution to the League of Women Voters Austin Area, a nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Mail to: 3908 Avenue B, Austin, TX 78751, or make a secure donation online at LWVAustin.org.

## **CITY OF AUSTIN**

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall a petitioned ordinance be approved to enhance public safety and police oversight, transparency and accountability by adding a new chapter 2-16 to establish minimum standards for the police department to ensure effective public safety and protect residents and visitors to Austin, and prescribing minimal requirements for achieving the same at an estimated cost of \$271.5 million - \$598.8 million over five years?

#### **Explanation**

A local political action committee called Save Austin Now collected more than 25,000 signatures on a proposal regarding public safety and staffing at the Austin Police Department. The City Council had the option to adopt the proposal or put the proposal before voters. They opted to call an election for voters to decide on the proposal.

Proposition A, if passed, would set minimum standards for the police department including:

- ➤ the employment of two police officers per every 1,000 residents. Currently, the Austin Police Department has 1,600 officers. If Proposition A passes, the department would need
- > a requirement that 35% of an officer's time be spent on community engagement;
- ➤ three full cadet classes until staffing levels rise back to the number listed in the 2020 city budget;
- an additional 40 hours of mandatory continuing education for all officers:
- > a program to enhance recruiting and retention of officers by providing additional compensation for officers with certain language skills, who participate in mentoring, or who are eligible for an honorable conduct citation every five
- > a requirement that the mayor, city council members, and members of the Public Safety Commission or the Community Police Review Commission attend a Citizen Police Academy and participate in the City's Ride Along Program.

The estimated cost of this proposition would be between \$271.5 to \$598.8 million over five years.

#### PROPOSITION B

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City Council be authorized to convey or lease approximately 9 acres of parkland currently used as the Central Maintenance Complex (CMC) located at 2525 S. Lakeshore Blvd. through a public bidding process, where the total value of the bid is equal to or greater than the appraised fair market value of CMC, in exchange for at a minimum: 1) at least 48 acres of waterfront land contiguous to an existing City park; and 2) the cost or construction of a new maintenance facility for the Parks and Recreation Department on other city-owned land; and 3) partial or full funding for the removal of Fiesta Gardens' existing maintenance facility and restoration of that land to parkland?

#### **Explanation**

Proposition B allows for the city to convey or lease nine acres of parkland through a public bidding process. The property is a maintenance facility adjacent to Oracle's headquarters at 2525 S. Lakeshore Blvd. This would allow a private company such as Oracle to acquire the property as part of a planned parkland swap with a larger tract of land.

#### IF YOU HAVE ISSUES AT YOUR POLLING LOCATION

Please call one of these nonpartisan hotlines if you have any issues at your polling location:

#### **Election Protection Hotlines**

ENGLISH: 866-OUR-VOTE (866-867-8683)

SPANISH: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

ASIAN LANGUAGES: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)

ARABIC: 866-YALLA-US (866-925-5287)

ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)

DISABILITY RIGHTS TX: 888-796-VOTE

(888-796-8683)

#### **SAVE TIME—USE OUR INTERACTIVE VOTERS GUIDE!**

More information about the candidates can be reviewed by visiting VOTE411.org, a one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online Voters Guide, and compare candidates side by side. Answers from candidates who didn't respond by the print deadline may be available online.

### **CITY OF GEORGETOWN**

#### CITY COUNCIL

**Transparency:** What strategies will you use to ensure open communication and transparency from city hall?

COVID-19: How do you expect COVID-19 and its ongoing economic impact to affect your priorities?

**Public Safety:** What are your priorities for public safety?

Other Priorities: What other critical issues do you think are important to your community, and how would you address them?

#### DISTRICT 6 SPECIAL ELECTION



#### Jake French

Background: I've lived in Georgetown for 20 years. My career has provided the opportunity to work with city staffs, planning and zoning boards, utility companies, and city councils all over the country. My wife and I are

raising our family here in Georgetown.

#### Campaign Website: http://jakeforgeorgetown.com

**Transparency:** I will encourage direct conversation among council members by asking why they support or oppose issues. I'll do my homework on council agendas, ask insightful questions of applicants and city staff, and seek the input of the community on digital platforms to verify that decisions are made in the interest of the public and not special interest groups. I will make myself accessible to listen and communicate with constituents and stake holders. I think this job is about representing peo-

COVID-19: I think local government can do a better job of presenting credible, data-driven information regarding vaccination efficacy and PPE use to help shape public behavior rather than taking a punitive approach ("Do this or else we'll shut down parks and restaurants"). I do not believe in shutting down businesses if possible as shutdowns disproportionately impact lowincome workers. I believe risk can often be minimized with sensible pivots like PPE use and outdoor options which minimize

**Public Safety:** First, I think it is important for the safety of our community that we make sure first responders, firefighters, and police are well resourced with facilities, manpower, and equipment to keep pace with the rate of city growth. Second, I want to prioritize traffic safety in the District. The city should improve sidewalk infrastructure to help keep pedestrians off streets and improve visibility at crosswalks and intersections in pedestrian areas, especially along University and Austin Avenues.

**Other Priorities:** One of my priorities is bringing a long-range outlook to City Council. We live in a community with 150 years of history and the decisions made should be shaped by that paradigm. As the city looks beyond it's 2030 plan we cannot just think about what is expedient to manage today's or tomorrow's needs but also ask if these decisions are likely to stand the test of time 100 years from now.

#### Chere Heintzmann

Background: 35 years experience in the technology industry working for Fortune 100 and 500 companies at an executive level holding positions of SVP, President and CMO as well as overseeing several technology startups as

President / CEO.

Campaign Website: http://www.chereforgeorgetown.com **Transparency:** I have a career history of providing open communication and transparency to employees and citizens of communities that I served. In my role as a city councilman - I am committed to the same transparency from city hall. This will include an informative web-site that citizens can access to gain knowledge on current issues facing their city, ask questions and provide input. In addition, I plan to conduct community gatherings, provide video and newsletter updates.

**COVID-19:** COVID-19 economic impact will continue to affect the small business ecosystem in particular, which employs almost 50% of American workers. Many small businesses are financially fragile with the medium business having no more than \$10k in monthly expenses and only two weeks of cash on hand. While the CARES Act has provided relief, the continued impact of COVID-19 will affect business growth, the financial health of our citizens, employment opportunities and sales tax revenues to name a few.

Public Safety: Supporting first responders in protecting and serving Georgetown is a key priority. This includes added staff to support growth across all critical segments to ensure continued public safety for Georgetown's citizens.

Other Priorities: I am committed to leaning into Georgetown and preserving the small-town feel of the city while helping to guide and manage growth, support infrastructure needs critical to the community, and maintain affordability for its citizens. Key Priorities are: Expanding mobility across the city (roads, bridges, sidewalks and transportation). Preserving historic neighborhoods and downtown. Ensuring smart growth. Being fiscally responsible as Georgetown grows.

#### INFORMATION ON WHERE TO VOTE

Voters can look up information on where to vote at your county's election website:

#### VoteTravis.com

https://www.wilco.org/Departments/Elections

These websites list the most up-to-date information on the locations of polling places and their hours of operation.

For Travis County, there is also a live map with the current wait times for each polling location.

Remember, you can vote at ANY polling location in your county!

### CITY OF GEORGETOWN

#### **CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

#### **Background**

What is a charter? A municipal charter is a legal document that establishes a town and defines its powers. Think of it like the constitution of a city. To view a copy of Georgetown's charter with proposed changes highlighted in red, visit https://government .georgetown.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2021/08 /ORD-2021-56.pdf.

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 2.01 of the City Charter be amended to add term limits of no more than three consecutive terms for City Council members and the Mayor until at least two years has elapsed since their last term of office with an exception allowing for a councilmember to serve as mayor without waiting for two years to elapse?

#### **Explanation**

Georgetown's current charter has no term limits for a city council member or mayor. Proposition A, if passed, would limit city council members and the mayor to three consecutive terms before they would have to sit out for two years before being able to run again. The "sitting out" period wouldn't be required if a councilmember ran for mayor. This rule change, if passed, would go into effect for councilmembers elected after 2022.

#### PROPOSITION B

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 2.02 of the City Charter be amended to provide that a Councilmember and Mayor must be at least twentyone (21) years of age on the first day of the term to be filled; to provide that a Councilmember must reside in the council district the member would be representing for at least twelve (12) months preceding the election date; to provide that the Mayor must reside in the city limits for at least twelve (12) months preceding election day; and to reduce the time that a former councilmember or mayor may not be employed by the City from two years to one year after leaving office?

#### **Explanation**

In the current charter, councilmembers and the mayor must be 21 on election day, have lived in their district 12 months from filing for office, and cannot work for the city for at least two years after serving on the council. Proposition B, if passed, would change the age requirement to being 21 on the first day of the term filled either by election or appointment. Additionally, this proposed amendment would align the city charter with state law that says a councilmember must live in their district and the mayor must reside within the city limits for a period of 12 months prior to election day (not filing). And finally, Proposition B, if passed, would change the amount of time a person must wait to work for the city after serving on council from two years to one year.

#### **PROPOSITION C**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 2.03 of the City Charter be amended to provide that the City Council shall fill a councilmember vacancy with less than twelve months left of a term by appointment within thirty (30) days of the vacancy?

#### **Explanation**

In the current charter, when there is a vacancy on the city council, a special election is called within 120 days of the vacancy to fill the position. Proposition C, if passed, would allow the mayor to recommend an appointee that the city council would approve to fill the vacancy if there are fewer than 12 months left of the term remaining. If there are more than 12 months left in the term, a special election would be called within 120 days.

#### PROPOSITION D

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 2.09 of the City Charter be amended to clarify that City Council actions require an affirmative vote of a majority of council members present and voting?

#### **Explanation**

In the current charter, an action by the city council needs an affirmative vote of the majority of all members on the council. Proposition D, if passed, would amend the city council procedure to allow an action by the city council to be approved by the majority of the councilmembers present, as opposed to the majority of all members of the council.

#### **PROPOSITION E**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 2.10 of the City Charter be amended to remove the ordinance caption publication requirement; to remove the requirement to file an ordinance with the City Secretary seven days prior to its consideration; to provide that an ordinance must be approved at two separate meetings; and to provide that an ordinance caption must be read at one of the two meetings?

#### **Explanation**

The current charter requires that the text of the proposed ordinance be filed with the city secretary seven days prior to the first consideration of the ordinance and that the ordinance be read out at two separate meetings of city council. Proposition E, if passed, would eliminate those requirements. Instead of reading the ordinance in its entirety at two separate council meetings, the proposition provides that an ordinance's descriptive caption must be read at one of the two meetings. The proposition also requires that the proposed ordinance be approved at two separate meetings even though the readout of the entire ordinance at two meetings is no longer required. The requirement that a descriptive caption of the ordinance be published 72 hours prior to its consideration remains; however instead of publishing the cap-

### CITY OF GEORGETOWN

#### PROPOSITION E (continued)

tion in the Williamson County Sun, the caption would be published on the official City of Georgetown website.

#### **PROPOSITION F**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Sections 4.01, 4.02 and 4.07 of the City Charter be amended to provide that a petition for an initiative, referendum or recall of city officials must be signed by fifteen (15) percent of the registered voters of the City on the date of the last municipal election?

#### **Explanation**

The current charter requires petitioners who gather signatures for ballot initiatives, ballot referendums rejecting city council ordinances, and recalling city officials to have as many signatures as 15 percent of the qualified voters in the last municipal election. Proposition F, if passed, would require petitions for initiatives and referendums to have signatures from 15% of registered voters in the city, but not fewer than 250 signatures. In the case of recalling city officials, petitions would have to include 15 percent of registered voters in a council district to recall a councilmember and 15 percent of registered voters citywide to recall the mayor.

#### **PROPOSITION G**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Sections 5.03, 5.04, and 5.05 of the City Charter be amended to remove all references to divisions with the City's administrative organization?

#### **Explanation**

In the current charter, sections 5.03, 5.04, and 5.05 describe how divisions or departments are set up and assign duties. Proposition G, if passed, would remove language referencing divisions and leave language referencing departments.

#### **PROPOSITION H**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Sections 6.03 and 6.04 of the City Charter be amended to remove references to divisions with the City's administrative organization and to provide for budget amendments in cases of emergency and for municipal purposes as allowed under State law?

#### **Explanation**

In the current charter, Sections 6.03 and 6.04 describe appropriation and budget rules for divisions and departments. Proposition H, if passed, would remove the language referencing divisions and leave the language referencing departments.

#### **PROPOSITION I**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall Section 8.03 of the City Charter be amended to remove the requirement to publish a proposed ordinance granting a franchise and to provide that a proposed ordinance granting a franchise shall be posted on the City's webpage for thirty (30) days prior to final passage?

#### **Explanation**

The city council has the power to contract with private companies for public utilities. In the current charter, the franchisee whose contract is being given, extended, renewed, or amended must publish the full change in the Williamson County Sun newspaper. Proposition I, if passed, would require the franchisee to publish the information on the city's website instead.

#### JOIN THE LEAGUE— **BE PART OF THE SOLUTION**

Be part of a respected national, state, and local grassroots organization where individuals like you are actively engaged in creating positive change on all levels. Add your voice to more than 100,000 members and supporters across the country in Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Membership is open to everyone at least 16 years of age.

The Austin Area needs you to be part of the solution, to help ensure our communities are strong, safe and vibrant places to live. Joining is easy online at LWVAustin.org /join-us.

#### LOCAL OPTION ELECTION

#### PROPOSITION J

#### **Ballot Language**

The legal sale of all alcoholic beverages including mixed beverages.

#### **Explanation**

In 2010, Georgetown residents voted to allow alcohol sales in the city limits. In 2017, a development known as Wolf Lakes Village was annexed into the City of Georgetown, but alcohol sale rules for Wolf Lakes Village predated the annexation. A citizen-initiated petition led by Georgetown residents and H-E-B representatives was submitted to the City of Georgetown with the required signatures to put Proposition A on the ballot. Proposition A, if passed, would make the alcohol sale rules apply to all of Georgetown, including Wolf Lakes Village.

### **CITY OF LAGO VISTA**

MAYOR

Edward (Ed) Tidwell

Unopposed

CITY COUNCIL

PLACE 1

**Gage Hunt** 

Unopposed

#### SPECIAL ELECTION

#### **CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

#### **Background**

What is a charter? A municipal charter is a legal document that establishes a town and defines its powers. Think of it like the constitution of a city.

#### **Explanation**

On August 10, 2021, Lago Vista City Council called a special election and voted to put 14 amendments to the City Charter on the ballot based on the recommendations from the 2021 Charter Review Committee. The Charter Review Committee is a group of Lago Vista residents who are selected by city council to review and suggest changes to the City of Lago Vista's charter, the legal governing document that defines the organization, powers, function and essential procedures of the city government.

#### **Proposition A**

Shall Section 1.04, entitled "Annexation and Dis-Annexation" be amended to provide for the City's annexation authority to include non-contiguous City property in accordance with State Law?

#### **Proposition B**

Shall Section 3.03 be amended in accordance with State Law to make the City Secretary the judge of the qualifications of all candidates for elected office?

#### **Proposition C**

Shall the second paragraph of Section 3.15 be amended to clarify that a required ordinance may regulate persons, property or both?

#### **Proposition D**

Shall the first paragraph of Section 3.16 be amended in accordance with State Law regarding enactment of ordinances?

#### **Proposition E**

Shall Section 3.19 be amended to refer to a "Code of Ordinances," to require that all amendments be codified and maintained by the City Secretary, and to provide means of access to all other adopted codes, no longer requiring the City to provide printed copies of third-party intellectual property?

PLACE 3

**Rob Durbin** 

Unopposed\*

PLACE 5

#### **Paul Roberts**

Unopposed\*

\*There are write-in candidates who are allowed for this race.

#### **Proposition F**

Shall the first paragraph of Section 4.01 be amended to require at least five affirmative votes to appoint the City Manager and raise or lower the City Manager's compensation?

#### **Proposition G**

Shall the third paragraph of Section 4.01 be amended to correct a reference from Subsection to the entire Charter regarding investigations by the City Council? If approved, the word "Charter" would be substituted for the word "Subsection."

#### **Proposition H**

Shall Section 4.03 be amended in accordance with State Law regarding appointment of Municipal Judges and court clerks and compensation of Municipal Judges?

#### **Proposition I**

Shall Section 5.01 be amended to delete an obsolete sentence regarding prior Council Member terms and to make nonsubstantive corrections?"

#### **Proposition J**

Shall Section 6.08 be amended to reduce the percentage of registered voters required for a recall petition from twenty percent to ten percent?

#### **Proposition K**

Shall Section 6.11 be amended to allow recall petition limitations to apply equally to newly elected and re-elected officials?

#### **Proposition L**

Shall the first paragraph of Section 8.10 be amended in accordance with State Law regarding petitions and bond elections?

#### **Proposition M**

Shall last paragraph of Section 8.11 be amended to reduce the percentage from ten percent to five percent of registered voters required to protest issuance of debt instruments?

#### **Proposition N**

Shall the Charter be amended to correct non-substantive grammatical, typographical errors and scrivener's errors?

### CITY OF MANOR

#### MAYOR

**Transparency:** What strategies will you use to ensure open communication and transparency from city hall?

COVID-19: How do you expect COVID-19 and its ongoing economic impact to affect your priorities?

**Diversity:** What steps would you take, if any, to ensure that members of city boards, commissions, and city hall staff reflect the demographics of your community?

Other issue: What other critical issue do you think is important to your community, and how will you address it?



#### **Christopher Harvey**

**Background:** Dr. Harvey is married and has 3 girls. He is currently the Mayor Pro Tem in the City of Manor, also leads in his church, 2 non-profits, a consulting business, and teaches at Texas State University. He enjoys

watching movies, sports, and dating his wife.

Campaign Website: http://www.buildmanorstrong.com **Transparency:** I will continue to use my Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages to ensure open communication and transparency from city hall. I've also shared my city phone number, business cards, and email with many residents. My campaign website is another avenue for communication and transparency. Last, the city website has a lot of great information for the public. My communication will include links to relevant City of Manor website pages.

COVID-19: Manor has continued to grow and see revenue increases during the pandemic. We started in 2020 building capacity in our small businesses and we are collaborating more with our Chamber of Commerce. Many businesses switched to contactless services to stay open. We communicated grant opportunities and some businesses received \$40,000 in support. We are recruiting retail and industry to our area for higher paying jobs and more sales tax revenue. Last, I am exploring incubator opportunities. **Diversity:** Thankfully, in Manor we do have diverse leadership on our city boards and commissions. Our city hall staff are great

and value diversity. Nevertheless, we must stay engaged with all members of the community to ensure everyone's voice is heard and has opportunities to engage in the work of building a stronger Manor. Thus, we created committees to allow more residents to engage beyond the traditional charter required methods of community engagement. We will continue with these committees.

Other issue: The City of Manor elected to partner with an agency to provide transportation opportunities for Manor residents. The cost of the program eliminates the traditional ways, means, or methods to do city driven economic development projects. With the City Council, I am going to push to partner with our ISD, County, and State entities, as well as public/private partnerships so we can ensure we generate the necessary revenue from sales taxes to build the amenities our residents want in our city.

#### **Danny Scarbrough**

No Response Received

#### CITY COUNCIL

PLACE 1

#### **Emily Hill**

Unopposed

PLACE 3

#### Maria Amezcua

No Response Received

#### **Prince John Chavis**

No Response Received

PLACE 5

#### **Aaron Moreno**

Unopposed

#### INFORMATION ON WHERE TO VOTE

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https://www.wilco.org/Departments/Elections

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For Travis County, there is also a live map with the current wait times for each polling location.

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### CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE

#### CITY COUNCIL

**Transparency:** What strategies will you use to ensure open communication and transparency from city hall?

COVID-19: How do you expect COVID-19 and its ongoing economic impact to affect your priorities?

**Public Safety:** What are your priorities for public safety?

Other Priorities: What other critical issues do you think are important to your community, and how would you address them?

#### PLACE 3



Adline "A.K." Brewer

Background: A 20 year Pflugerville resident, Proud Mom of five Pflugerville Panther graduates. Served City and community for past 20 years on multiple youth and local organizations, appointed to Charter Commission, Li-

brary Board, PCDC and now Finance and Budget.

#### Campaign Website: https://www.facebook.com/electak brewerpfplace3

Transparency: I will seek to implement Strategies of Accountability for the conveyance of qualitative and quantitative progress of projects that significantly involve voter supports. Audit policy standards requiring citizen responses and actions using straightforward and consistent reporting practices. Manage dedicated resources, policies and practices through user friendly social media platforms that generate social-sharing rebuilding City's integrity to Gold Star standards. More ETJ information on website.

**COVID-19:** COVID-19 ongoing economic impact affects my community-driven and city led, public efforts to engage citizens and visitors thru town-halls or citizenry associations to gauge needs and interests. Smarter spending on mass public health vaccinations, tracking and facility upkeep reroutes allocated spending which changes promoting park and recreational services from a consistent flow of activity to a creative, innovative virtual approach or postponements.

Public Safety: Public Safety is a broad spectrum of securities and public health measures: Enabling and mandating Severe Contingency Emergency Protocols specific to Pflugerville; improving water services standards; EMS and First Responder Agreements and Strategic Action; Improve Infrastructure planning of traffic control planning with future insight affecting neighborhood and business developments; Support equitable internal and external police department improvements; Upgraded technology for citizen alerts.

Other Priorities: Other critical issues are small-business rebuilding throughout the various communities that need financial relief and support via the ARA funding; Outdated City ordinances designating city-scape issues need updates reflecting and accommodating diverse business growth; Service providers impacting daily and essential services monopoly are limiting progress, amend Approved Vendor List; Project Bonds increase taxes need rollout accountability with fair tax rate adjustments.



#### **Bradley Scott Hickman**

Background: Hometown, raised, works, and lives in the city of Pflugerville.

Campaign Website: http://brad4pf.com Transparency: Simply pushing information out there is not effective communication. Re-

cently, the city shared from a survey that most citizens still get most of their information from flyers included with their water bills, followed by city billboards and banners. Being deliberate in those areas are key, but also engaging citizens where they are -> churches, grocery stores and events around town and continuing all other forms of communication

**COVID-19:** Covid has made everyone question their life priorities. To get through this, people are continuing to think differently. The recent budget approved had a sales tax increase of almost 12% next year, this on the back of a 28% increase during the first part of the pandemic. I will focus on reducing property taxes and diversifying the economic engines in our city so that if one source of income changes, others will fill the void to have balanced income streams in the years to come.

**Public Safety:** A strong, equipped police force is paramount. I am committed to giving our police department what they need to do their job today and the training for tomorrow to grow with the changes happening in our city.

Other Priorities: Better infrastructure - Our roads and water are key to a robust community. Where schools are being opened that the roads need to be in place at the same time. Our water needs to be dependable, the freeze showed us how fragile the system is for our city. Fiscal responsibility - Manage tax dollars to their fullest. Continue to lower tax rates and grow the base. Planning our future - Future development is self funding and does not burden the entire community



**Kimberly Holiday** 

Background: I have a Bachelor of Science in Social Psychology and work with homeless youth at Caritas. I am a public speaker, published author, radio personality, restorative justice practitioner and philanthropist that has

called Pflugerville home for 15 years.

#### Campaign Website: http://kim4council.com

**Transparency:** Transparent communication is one thing the City does well, however there is always room for improvement. Communication efforts from the City include The Weekly Key to the City emails, a strong social media presence, video clips from the Mayor, Coffee with A Cop, and safety alert texts. I attended an Open House the City hosted to meet the final candidate for Chief of Police. Once on council, I will explore any methods we can use to support and expand upon these efforts with an opendoor approach.

**COVID-19:** Our City has experienced financial impacts of COVID. Local businesses are struggling, some closing. There are rising costs, product shortages and lost income. One of the worst outcomes is seeing people lose their homes. With incomes affected and property values rising, tax burden on homeowners has increased. Once on council, I will evaluate homestead

### CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE

#### PLACE 3

#### Kimberly Holiday (continued)

exemptions, which were recently raised in other cities. This will provide much needed tax relief, especially to our most vulnerable citizens.

Public Safety: Public safety is front and center for the citizens of Pflugerville and its future. My top priority for public safety is a police force that positively engages the community. Equally important is ensuring that those who serve and protect will receive full budgetary, salary, and quality of life support for police and emergency services. Public safety is the health of our citizens, including mental health. It is crucial that we provide community resources, especially in the middle of a pandemic.

Other Priorities: I will work to ensure Pflugerville keeps it's rich history and identity as we experience rapid growth. I connect with citizens and hear their feedback on the importance of a "hometown feel". One topic that continues to come out of these conversations is the upkeep of the historic Colored Addition Cemetery. I give gratitude to those who volunteer to maintain the cemetery. Thank you American Legion, Rotary Club, Black Pflugerville and others. My call to action is to find a permanent solution.

#### PLACE 5



#### Mike Heath

**Background:** Mike is a: Native Texan; Married to Gayle for 36+ yrs; Moved to Pflugerville in 1994; 6 yrs on City Council; Committed to having a strategic plan that focuses the City's efforts/resources; Business owner;

Texas A&M Graduate (Civil/MBA) Dad and Grandad Campaign Website: http://MikeHeath.org

**Transparency:** First off, it's imperative that you are open and honest with everyone that you interact with. During my time on Council, I've stayed focused on the health, safety and welfare of people living in our community, that way my decision making has been consistent for the six years that I've been on Council. By establishing a Strategic Plan, the Council agrees and openly communicates its priorities to the community. This helps develop consensus in an open, transparent way.

**COVID-19:** There isn't a clear picture about COVID-19-caused changes; work-from-home, reduced travel, modified water usage, reduced sales-taxes, slowed growth will be permanent, We're blessed in Pflugerville. The economy has rebounded quickly, even w/ the delta variant. We will continue to learn and adapt our forecasts as things change, but the City's economy continues to grow. So we will have to continue to plan for growth by focusing on transportation, water/ww infrastructure, and City

**Public Safety:** I want Pflugerville to be the safest City in Texas. Talking through performance metrics for the City: I proposed that we have the lowest property crime and violent crime rates in Texas; and establish policies to realize this lofty goal. I would like

to see Pflugerville continue it's community-based policing that has led to the PPD being a high mark in our community survey. I am hopeful that we work with and continue our successful partnership with ESD No. 2 to provide emergency services.

**Other Priorities:** In the 3rd fastest growing City over 50,000, its important to have the right mix of residential and commercial businesses to ensure a fiscally sustainable community that does not over tax our residents and provides the amenities that our residents want. I recall from previous City reports that for every dollar of property taxes that the City receives, the City pays approx. \$1.35 in services for homes, and \$0.80 for businesses. This shows the need for the right mix of business to homes (30:70).



#### Jim McDonald

Background: Father, husband and volunteer, I moved to Pflugerville during the Dot Com frenzy developing innovative ecommerce technologies. Now a small business owner these last three years, I understand first hand the im-

pact of the pandemic and local governance.

Campaign Website: http://www.jimmcdonald.com **Transparency:** One of the best tools employed by the City of Pflugerville is Social Media. A Council summary is presented in the Pflugerville Pfocus video series, available on Facebook and YouTube. The Key to the City newsletter arrives via email and in utility bills. New projects impacting residents appear on the online dashboard. The City sponsors events to solicit citizen input, like the recent Open House for the Kelly Lane improvements

and two park projects. My door will always be open for citizen

**COVID-19:** Pflugerville reported record gains in Sales Tax collections in 2020, due primarily to folks working from home and shopping locally. There are, however, many businesses that continue to suffer. We must use every available resource to fight the pandemic to get these businesses back on track, including neighborhood pop-up vaccination sites, mask distribution to at-risk populations (but available to everyone), and testing availability 3-5 days following a known exposure to COVID-19.

Public Safety: While our focus must remain on Public Health, Public Safety remains a concern. The Pflugerville Police Department has an excellent reputation in our community and is currently transitioning to new Leadership. I met with the Police Chief finalist and am excited to see the positive impact he will have on the morale and operations of our officers. We also benefit from better lines of communication with our Fire Department, leading to more productive outcomes.

Other Priorities: Pflugerville is a growth City with rapidly changing needs. We can't afford to be stuck over-analyzing, looking for the "perfect answer". Flexible solutions that easily adapt to future growth are needed. We must stop being short-sighted by making the easy decisions that save a few dollars today, but cost thousands down the road and create traffic nightmares for everyone. Infrastructure is important, but we must also protect our Quality of Life and create positive spaces for our Youth and Seniors.

### CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE

#### **CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

#### **Background**

What is a charter? A municipal charter is a legal document that establishes a town and defines its powers. Think of it like the constitution of a city.

#### **Explanation**

On August 10, 2021, Pflugerville City Council called a special election and voted to put 13 amendments to the city's Home Rule Charter on the ballot based on the recommendations from the 2021 Charter Review Commission. The Charter Review Commission is a group of Pflugerville residents who are selected by city council at least every five years to review and suggest changes to the City of Pflugerville's charter, the legal governing document that defines the organization, powers, function and essential procedures of the city government.

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide that public hearings on disannexation are to be noticed pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act?

#### **PROPOSITION B**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide that the caption of proposed ordinances be published on the City's website?

#### **PROPOSITION C**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide the creation of the position of an executive assistant to the city council?

#### **PROPOSITION D**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation?

#### **PROPOSITION E**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide gender neutral wording?

#### PROPOSITION F

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to correct spelling and grammatical errors?

#### **PROPOSITION G**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to prohibit Council Members or city employees from being voting members of boards and commissions created by Charter or Ordinance?

#### **PROPOSITION H**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to provide that the Mayor, with the assistance and input of the City Manager, shall set and approve the agendas for City Council Meetings?

#### **PROPOSITION I**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to prohibit departments specifically eliminated by the Charter to be otherwise established?

#### **PROPOSITION J**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to require the city manager to submit a proposed budget and an accompanying message on or before the first day of August each year?

#### **PROPOSITION K**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to require the city manager to submit financial reports on a quarterly basis?

#### **PROPOSITION L**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the City of Pflugerville amend its Charter to prohibit any officer of the city or member of any city board or commission from participating in the deliberation of or voting upon the appointment or confirmation of any person, related to them within the second degree by affinity or within the third degree by consanguinity, to any office, position, clerkship, employment, or duty of the city even where state law authorizes their participation?

#### **PROPOSITION M**

#### **Ballot Language**

Shall the Charter of the City of Pflugerville be amended for compliance with state law?

### CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD

#### CITY COUNCIL

Voters may choose 0, 1, 2, or 3

**Transparency:** What strategies will you use to ensure open communication and transparency from city hall?

COVID-19: How do you expect COVID-19 and its ongoing economic impact to affect your priorities?

**Public Safety:** What are your priorities for public safety?

Other Priorities: What other critical issues do you think are important to your community, and how would you address them?

#### **Chris Braden**

. . . . . . .

No Response Received



#### **Brook Brown**

Background: I moved to Rollingwood in 1980, have served as municipal judge for three years, and am on the Comprehensive Plan Strike Force and Board of Adjustment. I am a step-mom, step-grandmother, godmother and

girlfriend to my long-term boyfriend.

**Transparency:** In my view, the council's job is to listen to the community, seek consensus as to the community's priorities, then accomplish those priorities. To do its part, the community needs transparency in what is under consideration, full and accurate information, and ample time for open discussion. To this end, I support a monthly Council newsletter, Q and A discussions in non-voting workshops, 5 to 7-day advance posting of the council agenda and input, and competitive bidding whenever possible.

**COVID-19:** To be able to work from home and for at-home education, residents need reliable internet. My priority would be to invite internet carriers to meet with the council and community to discuss what can be done to better meet residents' needs. For Rollingwood staff, my priority would be to ensure a safe working environment. For Rollingwood businesses, I would continue the policy to make grants of federal funds available to meet costs associated with the pandemic.

**Public Safety:** I would continue support for our excellent police force, and seek an affordable solution to the need for additional space at city hall for the police force, for police records, and to secure evidence. I would also prioritize storm water projects where flooding impacts public safety, drill down the costs, and address as funds are available. I would recommend that attention be given to walking paths, safer crossings for Bee Caves Road, and better control of traffic on Rollingwood Drive.

Other Priorities: The current council has undertaken a project to identify and remedy water pipeline outages, and I would continue that project. I would urge the Council to review current residential and commercial drainage policies and determine effective means to manage storm water run-off to prevent costly future flooding issues. I would also prioritize development of a city financial policy that would address funds for maintenance of our streets, water, waste-water and storm-water drainage systems.



**Emily G. Doran** 

Background: Emily is an experienced leader with over a decade in higher education fundraising. She is dedicated to her community through supporting the Junior League of Austin, Eanes Elementary and the City of

Rollingwood.

Campaign Website: http://www.facebook.com /Emily-Doran-for-City-Council-City-of-Rollingwood -101538028937298

**Transparency:** In order to have open communication and transparency, you have to be an involved citizen, ask tough questions, work through issues and keep an open mind. If I am elected as a City Council Member for the City of Rollingwood, I will make it imperative that I have a working relationship with the city staff that allows for an open door to communicate and solve problems. I cannot do my job alone.

COVID-19: COVID-19 has thrown us all for a loop. Communities, businesses, schools are having a hard time right now and often looking to each other for support. Problems arise when there is not enough resources for all of these entities. My goals will be to focus on economic development opportunities to improve my community. I understand that in my lifetime there will be other events that shape and change our world like the pandemic and my hope is that my community of Rollingwood is prepared. Public Safety: A big reason why my husband and I decided to live in Rollingwood is that we have our own police department. We are a very lucky community. Safety issues that concern me are homelessness and our proximity to downtown Austin; speed limits controls; and making Rollingwood a more walkable, bike able community for the residents.

Other Priorities: Educating the community of the tremendous funding needs of the city to support info structure, the park, streets, water and so much more. We must focus on bringing businesses to our commercial district but also ensuring we are doing our part to make them feel welcomed, supported and enable to run their business. Rollingwood is a gem but if we do not do the work to keep is shiny we will loose out.



#### **Phil McDuffee**

Background: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. Masters in Business Administration with Honors. Related community skills/experience; computer programming, renewable energy, land leases and tax abatement.

Rollingwood Park Commission Chair 2019 to Present. Transparency: Communications between citizens and their elected officials is of paramount importance. Currently, the city website is the primary means of communication between the city and residents. While this form of information sharing meets the letter of the law, it puts the onus on citizens to monitor the website in order to stay informed. Email, mailed notices, a revival of the monthly newsletter, and personal conversations should all be used to inform constituents of pending council initiatives. **COVID-19:** We must follow existing guidelines so that our city

staff and residents remain safe and healthy. While revenues have

### CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD

#### CITY COUNCIL

#### Phil McDuffee (continued)

stayed positive due to increased property valuations, small businesses have struggled. Rollingwood has provided financial aid to help affected businesses. I would consider prioritizing the revitalization of our business district with tax and other incentives where needed. Fiscal responsibility and treating community funds with the utmost care is imperative at all times.

Public Safety: Our aging water delivery system needs work to ensure clean safe water for the citizens of Rollingwood. Serious flooding issues need to be addressed. Public safety starts with trained officers patrolling the city and providing pedestrian and vehicular safety on the roads in the residential and commercial corridors. Kids on bicycles, cyclists, runners, and walkers all deserve safe streets. I will work with our police to achieve the highest level of safety possible for our community.

Other Priorities: Rollingwood has consistently been ranked as one of the best cities in Texas. We must prioritize the maintenance and improvement of our aging infrastructure in an efficient and fiscally responsible way. A number of initiatives have been proposed that would have diminished the quality of life and property values of surrounding households. In the absence of a crisis, such actions should not move forward without the blessing of those households and a strong majority consensus of the community.



#### **Amy Pattillo**

Background: Amy Pattillo is currently a Rollingwood City Council member, and serves as Council Liaison for Transportation issues and the Utility Commission.

**Transparency:** Improving accessibility to

public meetings is a key strategy for improving governmental transparency. If re-elected, I look forward to continuing to support the use of technology-based solutions, updated policies, and infrastructure improvements to improve the accessibility of Rollingwood's public meetings.

**COVID-19:** Covid-19 is one of multiple emergency and disaster situations that have had a negative economic impact on residents and businesses in Rollingwood over the last 18 months. These emergency situations have highlighted the need for Rollingwood's city government to emphasize planning and budgeting that supports additional redundancies in emergency protocols, services, and infrastructure in the City.

Public Safety: I appreciate the Rollingwood Police Department's daily oversight over innumerable aspects of public safety in our community. If re-elected, I look forward to continuing to advocate for the resources and equipment needed by Officers, as well as infrastructure improvements in Rollingwood that are needed to address exigent safety issues. If re-elected, I also look forward to finding additional ways to support Rollingwood residents and businesses in engaging in the wildfire preparedness

Other Priorities: If re-elected, I look forward to receiving the public-input guided recommendation of the Strike Force regarding a Comprehensive Plan and finalizing this cohesive community vision that will provide a roadmap and clarity for the future of our City. I also look forward to advocating to identify and allocate funding as soon as possible to address critical water infrastructure issues in multiple areas of the City.



#### **Alec Robinson**

Background: My name is Alec Robinson, and I've been a resident of Rollingwood since 2009 along with my wife and two daughters. I am running for a seat on Rollingwood City Council with a goal to bring transparency, tranquil-

ity and more fiscal focus to our city.

#### Campaign Website: http://www.alecrobinson.org

**Transparency:** I will work to ensure that all residents are made aware of topics that affect them and are offered an opportunity to participate in discussions from the beginning. I am open to new ideas, but, in considering any new idea, our city should primarily concern itself with protecting residential property rights and making decisions consistent with our municipal codes. These codes have successfully guided our city for many years and have helped make Rollingwood a great place to live.

**COVID-19:** Attention to the budget is a top priority of mine. I have a keen interest in ensuring spending decisions are well thought out and needed. Our city should monitor the ongoing pandemic for potential impacts to the well being of our community. Any spending decisions we make should anticipate the potential effects of the pandemic on our sales tax income and other city expenditures. To the extent we can help business in our commercial corridor impacted by COVID-19, I am supportive of these efforts.

Public Safety: I will seek to understand all public safety implications before casting my vote on any topic where the safety of our citizens is concerned. I am a strong supporter of our police and believe we should continue to provide resources necessary and appropriate to keep our neighborhood safe. I am concerned with traffic and congestion on our residential streets. We must consider how decisions at city hall affect our community's desire for streets that are safe and secure for all pedestrians.

Other Priorities: Our city is currently in the process of completing a master plan which will help guide city hall in making well thought out decisions for our future. As a member of the council, I would use this plan and the concerns raised by our citizens in the process to help prioritize our investments in infrastructure and utilities. There are some specific issues on storm drainage and telecommunications services that will need to be tackled in a thoughtful, fiscally responsible way.



### CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD

#### SPECIAL ELECTION

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Ballot Language**

The reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the City of Rollingwood at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to provide for maintenance and repair of municipal streets. The tax expires

on the fourth anniversary of the date of this election unless the imposition of the tax is reauthorized.

#### **Explanation**

This proposition, if passed, reapproves the City of Rollingwood's sales tax rate of one-fourth of one percent (.25%) to fund maintenance and repair of city streets. For example, the sales tax rate would be 25 cents for every 100 dollars.

### CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY

#### CITY COUNCIL

Voters may choose 0, 1, 2, or 3

**Transparency:** What strategies will you use to ensure open communication and transparency from city hall?

COVID-19: How do you expect COVID-19 and its ongoing economic impact to affect your priorities?

**Public Safety:** What are your priorities for public safety?

Other Priorities: What other critical issues do you think are important to your community, and how would you address them? 

#### Justin D. Litchfield

No Response Received



#### Karen Medicus

Background: Thirty years in non-profit leadership. Over twenty years of volunteer commitment to Sunset Valley. Certification as a Dialogue Education Fellow; Mediator; Appreciative Inquiry and MBTI Practitioner; and

former Certified Fund Raising Executive.

**Transparency:** Launch the new easy to navigate City website. Provide meaningful information and effective public processes to build awareness to support planning and decision making. I believe open dialogue and sharing of ideas will provide pathways for unifying our community. I will always be open to residents and staff to hear their thoughts and ideas.

**COVID-19:** As a city reliant on sales tax revenue to operate we need to closely monitor the impact on our shopping district, restaurant, and lodging industry. As businesses modify their operations we need to be aware of changes needed for new models. **Public Safety:** Cybersecurity is a high priority. We must put safety precautions in place to ensure our systems are secure and our data is protected from cyber-attacks. Support of our police department and enhancing the safety of our facilities for our staff and visitors.

Other Priorities: Complete the updates to our Land Development Code including additional expertise to re-write sections of the code to ensure alignment with the Comprehensive Plan and Building Codes. I would help guide the utilization of city owned property to benefit the community by engaging in public forums to develop the Parks and Open Space Master Plan.



#### **Wanda Reetz**

**Background:** I am currently a business owner. Previous occupations include Accountant, Human Resources Director, and Teacher. I have a B.S in Education and an M.A. in Education from the University of Texas at Austin, and

Professional Acct Certificate from ACC.

**Transparency:** Communication and transparency are two of the most important roles for council. As a current council member, I co-sponsored the agenda item to bring Open Gov to SV. Open Gov is software that allows access for residents to detailed city financial information and improved city communications. Residents can publish written comments for any city meeting. But we still need to use other methods such as newsletters and surveys. We are also updating the city website to improve overall communication. **COVID-19:** As a city, we must continue to provide the appropri-

ate resources to our residents and visitors for their health and safety. We need to continue to budget conservatively as we are financially dependent upon our sales tax collections. Fortunately, our economy has been strong in the past months. But we need to continue to evaluate the cost of city services and use that information for future projects and staffing.

Public Safety: We are so fortunate to have an outstanding police force in our city. We need to continue to fully support the department and I also support the renewal of the Crime Control and Prevention tax. I am an advocate of cameras in our shopping district to deter crime and vandalism. We also need to evaluate our salary structures to remain competitive with the surrounding area. I would also like to see more in depth employee satisfaction surveys for all of our departments to retain our staff. Other Priorities: Our shopping district is critical as we depend on city sales tax. We need to encourage our retail to provide the shopping experience that consumers demand. I support the concept for improving and beautifying the parkland at Upper Cougar Creek, the land behind and next to La Madeline's. This would encourage our visitors to spend time in our city and in our shops and restaurants. The connectivity of the Violet Crown Trail is also a fantastic opportunity to attract visitors to SV.

### CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY

#### CITY COUNCIL (continued)



#### Rudi Rosengarten

Background: Active on the ABoR Water Issues Committee 2008-2019, Budget and Finance Committee since 2011, Business Owner, Real Estate Investor Education: B.A. Mt. Marty College—4 years

Campaign Website: https://www.facebook.com /rosengarten2019

Transparency: Town hall meetings, engage residents in one-onone meetings during neighborhood walks, answer questions by personal phone, and City Facebook page. 311 for residents to log concerns, City Newsletter, new City website which allows access to municipal information, financial data, linked resources, has a better search engine, allows for the posting of more information on the website, and is a more open and transparent conduit for information to flow between City Hall and residents **COVID-19:** The financial expenditure pause button might be

used a couple of times until I am certain we are economically sound. As a Budget and Finance Committee liaison, we have had to project the impact of Covid-19 to our revenues, consequently

recommending a fiscally conservative budget. Consequential projects will be funded on a prioritized basis, e.g., the refurbishing of a sewer lift station will be done this next year with funds already set aside. Pay as we go strategy.

Public Safety: I will listen to the Police Chief on his recommendations on how to attract officers and retain existing officers, i.e., lower the turnover ratio. With the national perception that some officers abuse their power, we are performing additional training to raise inclusive community awareness. Community safety is not just about injury prevention and crime prevention; it is about building strong, cohesive, vibrant, participatory communities. We are a city that believes in Community policing.

Other Priorities: The City is working with a marketing team to raise the public profile of our shopping centers. We need to oversee the expenditures of the marketing firm to assure a cost beneficial performance metric. We are embarking on "social" infrastructure planning for activities at our shopping centers. We need to set aside funds for developing ideas brought to us by our marketing and consulting engineers for an enhancement of the shopping experience. Our Land Development code needs to be updated.

#### SPECIAL ELECTION

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Ballot Language**

Reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in City of Sunset Valley at the rate of one-fourth of one percent to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets. The tax expires on the fourth anniversary of the date of this election unless the imposition of the tax is reauthorized.

#### **Explanation**

This proposition, if passed, reapproves the City of Sunset Valley's sales tax rate of one-fourth of one percent (.25%) to fund maintenance and repair of city streets. For example, the sales tax rate would be 25 cents for every 100 dollars.

#### SAVE TIME—USE OUR INTERACTIVE VOTERS GUIDE!

More information about the candidates can be reviewed by visiting **VOTE411.org**, a one-stop online resource for upcoming elections made possible by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Simply enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online Voters Guide, and compare candidates side by side. Answers from candidates who didn't respond by the print deadline may be available online.

#### **PROPOSITION B**

#### **Ballot Language**

Whether the City of Sunset Valley Crime Control and Prevention District should be continued for five (5) years and the crime control and prevention district sales tax should be continued for five (5) years.

#### **Explanation**

A Crime Control and Prevention District is a special district created to help smaller cities located within larger metropolitan areas. This district allows the smaller cities to collect sales tax specifically dedicated to crime control and reduction. In 2016, the City of Sunset Valley created a Crime Control and Prevention District with a sales tax rate of .125%. This proposition, if passed, will continue the City of Sunset Valley's Crime Control and Prevention District and the .125% sales tax for five more years.



### **CITY OF WEST LAKE HILLS**

#### **BOND ELECTION**

#### **Background**

On August 11, 2021, the West Lake Hills City Council ordered an election for two separate bond propositions totaling \$25 million. If both propositions pass, the average homeowner in West Lake Hills would expect to pay an additional \$828 in property taxes per year. https://westlakehills.org/261/Bond-Information

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of bonds in the amount of \$13,200,000 and the imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds for a new City Hall and Police Building and related infrastructure.

#### **Explanation**

This \$13.2 million dollar bond proposal would fund a project to increase the city's municipal complex, including adding more

space for the Police Department, city administration, City Hall, and municipal court.

#### **PROPOSITION B**

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of bonds in the amount of \$11,800,000 and the imposition of taxes sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds for street and drainage improvements to Camp Craft Road, Laurel Valley Road, Redbud Trail, Westlake Drive, Yaupon Valley Road and Terrace Mountain Drive.

#### **Explanation**

This \$11.8 million dollar bond proposal would fund improvements on six city roads including Camp Craft Road, Laurel Valley Road, Redbud Trail, Westlake Drive, Yaupon Valley Road, and Terrace Mountain Drive.

#### SPECIAL ELECTION

#### **PROPOSITION C**

#### **Ballot Language**

The abolition of the one-half of one percent (0.50%) additional sales and use tax for property tax relief; and the adoption of the local sales and use tax in the City of West Lake Hills, Texas, at the rate of one-half percent (0.50%) to provide for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

#### **Explanation**

In 1996, West Lake Hills dedicated half a percent of the City's sales tax to lowering property taxes for residents. This proposition, if passed, stops the use of this sales tax from going to lower property taxes and instead uses the one-half percent sales tax for a dedicated street maintenance fund to repair municipal streets.

### **GEORGETOWN ISD**

#### **BOND ELECTION**

#### **Background**

In the Spring of 2021, a Citizens Advisory Committee that included 60 community members was convened. The committee met six times and initiated a voter survey to receive community feedback. On July 19th, the committee presented recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees voted to call a bond election based on the committee's recommendations. Together, the five propositions total \$381 million dollars and would be funded by general obligation bonds, which are repaid by property taxes. If all five propositions pass, the average homeowner in Georgetown ISD would expect to pay an additional \$101 in property taxes per year.

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$333,420,000 of bonds by Georgetown Independent School District for the acquisition, construction, renovation and equipment of school buildings, the purchase of school sites and school buses and vehicles and levying the tax in payment thereof. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

This \$333.4 million dollar bond proposal would fund the construction of two new elementary schools, a new middle school, and a complex that would house many programs, including the advanced career and technical programs, Richarte High School,

## **GEORGETOWN ISD**

the Bridges 18+ program, Early Learning Center, and the GISD Health & Wellness Center. Additionally, Proposition A would pay for safety and security measures at all campuses, the purchase of land for future school sites, Ag barns at East View and Georgetown High Schools, HVAC and roof upgrades, and bus maintenance.

#### PROPOSITION B

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$16,500,000 of bonds by Georgetown Independent School District for the acquisition and improvement of district-wide school technology and levying the tax in payment thereof. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

This \$16.5 million bond proposal would fund new educational technology equipment, data center equipment, and technology infrastructure, as well as acquisition of computing devices for students and staff.

#### PROPOSITION C

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$7,300,000 of bonds by Georgetown Independent School District for the renovation and improvement of the district's performing arts center and levying the tax in payment thereof. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

This \$7.3 million dollar bond proposal would renovate Klett Performing Arts Center.

#### **PROPOSITION D**

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$23,600,000 of bonds by Georgetown Independent School District for the acquisition, construction and equipment of a district swim center and levying the tax in payment thereof. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

This \$23.6 million bond proposal would fund the construction of a swim center.

#### **PROPOSITION E**

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$850,000 of bonds by Georgetown Independent School District for the renovation and improvement of the Georgetown High School tennis complex and levying the tax in payment thereof. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

This \$850,000 bond proposal would resurface tennis courts and renovate the Georgetown High School tennis complex.

## **LAGO VISTA ISD**

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

COVID-19 and Equity: Given the effects of COVID-19, how will you promote equitable learning opportunities and equal access to resources for all students?

Student Outcomes: What would you do to address the longterm academic, social, and emotional effects of the pandemic on students?

**Budget:** What strategies would you use to manage your school district's funding to maintain or improve educational quality?

Discipline: How would you ensure that schools implement fair and unbiased disciplinary policies district-wide?

#### PLACE 7



#### Jason Hergenreder

**Background:** I spent 20yrs. teaching math/ coaching football/basketball. 2019 100% of my students passed the STAAR. I recently moved to financial advising and assist teachers in planning their retirement.

**COVID-19 and Equity:** Firstly, I would keep with the use of tablets. Work with local companies to obtain FREE internet access to low-income families so mobile data will not be used. Use pedagogical resources, distribute free material to families that could not afford access. A NEW online learning space; hard copy learning packs for those needing accommodations/modifications, large print or translated languages. Lastly, training teachers for effective online teaching and packet distribution, collection and

**Student Outcomes:** Emotional safety is important and must be cultivated regardless of the mode of instruction. Students could participate in a daily advisory session where they learn socialemotional skills. Provide mental health support for teachers/administration. Communicate with students and their families

#### PLACE 6

#### **David Scott**

Unopposed

### LAGO VISTA ISD

#### PLACE 7

#### Jason Hergenreder (continued)

about their plan to keep them physically and emotionally safe. Monitor changes over time, provide professional development on how to read and understand the data; and promote an open and growth mindset.

Budget: Funding is a crucial component to high quality educational opportunities. Implement accountability frameworks to ensure student success. Early childhood education, effective teachers, and rigorous curriculum. Spend money wisely and target funds for programs that have evidence based interventions. Focus monies on being allocated to high quality resources, programs and services to boost work force readiness. Funding

should go to providing equitable and equal learning opportunities for ALL students.

**Discipline:** Districts need to structure behavioral initiatives to account for issues of biases/cultural differences that enforce unequal discipline. Ensure that teachers possess the skills necessary for culturally competent classroom instruction; that disciplinary programs are culturally responsive. Professional development to ensure competence in engaging family support. Administrators need discipline date to evaluate current practices and how they contribute to a positive climate at school.

#### **Kevin Walker**

No Response Received

## LAKE TRAVIS ISD

#### SPECIAL TAX RATE ELECTION

#### **Background**

Texas requires school districts that spend more than \$6,030 per student, like Lake Travis ISD, to send money back to the state, where it is then redistributed to less affluent school districts in a process called the school recapture system. At the same time, school districts have the option to hold elections where voters can decide to move some tax funds to a school district's maintenance and operations budget, which is not subject to the school recapture payments.

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Ballot Language**

Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.2301 per \$100 valuation in the Lake Travis Independent School District for the current

year, a rate that will result in an increase of 2.3 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$3,000,000.

#### **Explanation**

Proposition A, if passed, would increase Lake Travis ISD's maintenance and operations tax rate by 2.3 percent, while decreasing the district's interest and debt rate by the same amount. Homeowners would not see an increase in taxes because the tax raise and tax decrease would effectively cancel each other out. Lake Travis ISD would then have an estimated \$3 million in the maintenance and operations budget that would not be subject to the school recapture payments.

#### **IF YOU HAVE ISSUES** AT YOUR POLLING LOCATION

Please call one of these nonpartisan hotlines if you have any issues at your polling location:

#### **Election Protection Hotlines**

ENGLISH: 866-OUR-VOTE (866-867-8683) SPANISH: 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682)

ASIAN LANGUAGES: 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)

ARABIC: 866-YALLA-US (866-925-5287) ASL (Video): 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683) DISABILITY RIGHTS TX: 888-796-VOTE

(888-796-8683)

#### JOIN THE LEAGUE— **BE PART OF THE SOLUTION**

Be part of a respected national, state, and local grassroots organization where individuals like you are actively engaged in creating positive change on all levels. Add your voice to more than 100,000 members and supporters across the country in Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Membership is open to everyone at least 16 years of age.

The Austin Area needs you to be part of the solution, to help ensure our communities are strong, safe and vibrant places to live. Joining is easy online at LWVAustin.org /join-us.

### **LEANDER ISD**

#### **BOND ELECTION**

#### **Background**

In the Spring of 2021, the Citizen's Facility Advisory Committee, which included five subcommittees and more than 150 volunteers, was convened. The committee met multiple times in the spring and summer and presented recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees voted to call a bond election based on the committee's recommendations. Together, the three propositions total \$772.2 million dollars and would not require a tax increase if passed.

#### **PROPOSITION A**

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$727,210,817 of bonds by the Leander Independent School District for school facilities, the necessary sites for school facilities, buses and vehicles and the imposition of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

This \$727.2 million bond proposal would fund the construction of three new elementary schools, a new middle school, a new building for New Hope High School, and a high school-level school of choice, or magnet program. Additionally, the bond would provide for renovations and improvements at elementary

and middle schools, updates to Cedar Park, Vista Ridge, and Leander high schools, and school bus replacements.

#### **PROPOSITION B**

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$33,298,077 of bonds by the Leander Independent School District for technology equipment and the imposition of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

This \$33.2 million bond proposal would fund upgrades to technology equipment throughout the district.

#### **PROPOSITION C**

#### **Ballot Language**

The issuance of \$11,662,346 of bonds by the Leander Independent School District for renovations to the performing arts centers and auditoriums at each high school campus and the imposition of a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds. This is a property tax increase.

#### **Explanation**

This \$11.6 million bond proposal would fund renovations of performing arts centers and auditoriums at high schools.

### PFLUGERVILLE ISD

#### **DISTRICT TAX RATIFICATION ELECTION**

#### **Background**

Texas requires school districts that spend more than \$6,030 per student, like Pflugerville ISD, to send money back to the state, where it is then redistributed to less affluent school districts in a process called the school recapture system. At the same time, school districts have the option to hold elections where voters can decide to move some tax funds to a school district's maintenance and operations budget, which is not subject to the school recapture payments.

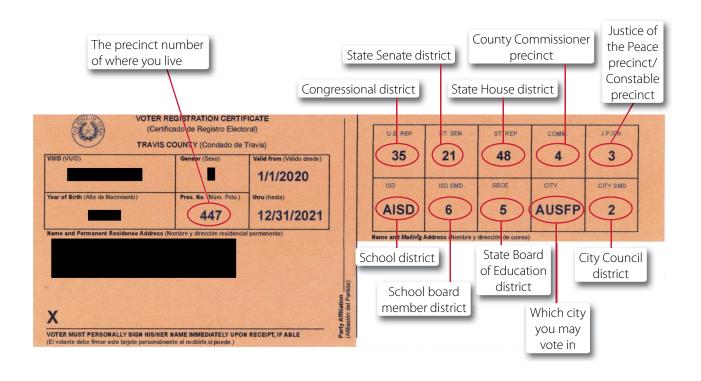
#### PROPOSITION A

#### **Ballot Language**

Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.4080 in Pflugerville Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 8.6 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$14,227,238.

### **VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE/CARD**

The Voter Registration Certificate/Card provides the district numbers for each race, or you may go to **VOTE411.org**, **VoteTravis.com**, or **Wilco.org/elections** to receive the list of all candidates you will consider. All citizens wishing to vote must be on the official list of registered voters in their county of residence and provide ID.







## **Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

Founded in 1919, the League of Women Voters® Austin Area is a nonpartisan, all-volunteer political organization striving to *Make Democracy Work*®.

#### Join Us

Membership is open to **everyone at least 16 years or older**. Annual dues are \$60 per person, \$90 for two people in the same household, and only \$5 for high school and college students.

Become a Sustaining Household for \$150 or Sustaining Individual for \$100 annually, and ALL of the extra dues amount stays with our local league.

For more information, please visit **LWVAustin.org/join-us/** 

#### Volunteer

Our exciting group is on the front lines of voter engagement. LWV-AA **Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs)** and others promote voter registration and work on getting people to the polls. We conduct **Candidate Forums** and we develop voter education campaigns and materials. Most importantly, we produce the **Voters Guide** for Travis and Williamson counties.

## **Donate to the League**

Because we are an all-volunteer organization, your support goes a long way in helping us to

- Register eligible voters
- · Produce a nonpartisan Voters Guide every election season
- Host informative Candidate Forums and promote voter education
- Fund programs like First Vote! offering high school students voter registration and civic education
- Advocate at the local level to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy

LWV-AA is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations to LWV-AA are tax-deductable to the extent permitted by law.

For more information, please visit LWVAustin.org/donate/

# YOUR VOTE MATTERS