**WHAT’S ON THE BALLOT?**

On November 2, Harris County voters will cast votes to elect:

- President / Vice President
- Representatives to U.S. Congress
- Railroad Commissioner
- State & District Judges
- State Legislators
- Board of Education Trustees
- County Officials
- Justices of the Peace / Constables

and decide:

- City of Houston Propositions

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**ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE**

The League of Women Voters of the Houston area published this information to help voters cast an informed vote. Inside you will find candidates’ qualifications, answers to our questions and photographs. Our state organization, League of Women Voters of Texas, provided the statewide candidate information.

The League of Women Voters is non-partisan. It DOES NOT support or oppose any political party or candidate.

We thank and acknowledge contributors who fund the Voters Guide. See page 24 for a list of contributors.

League of Women Voters of the Houston Area • www.lwvhouston.org • 713.784.2923
New precinct-specific information now on the Web! View your voting location and specific ballot. Enter your name or precinct number.

- Go to www.harrisvotes.com
- click on English
- click on Election Info on left
- click on 2004 Election box on right
- on drop down window click on Precinct Specific Voting Information
- on screen behind the drop down window scroll down
- enter your name or your precinct – your information comes up!

WRITE-IN ELECTION PROCESS

Anyone meeting the position and filing requirements and either paying a fee or petitioning with voter signatures may run as a write-in candidate. The names of all certified write-in candidates will be posted in the voting booths. For each race in which certified write-in candidates are running, there will be a space on the ballot in which the voter may “write in” a candidate’s name. Using the eSlate this is done by turning the wheel and selecting the letters necessary to spell the candidate’s name.

Certified write-in candidates are running for President, Vice President, District 10 U.S. Representative, and District 6 State Senator.

VOTER INFORMATION

Facts about Voting
You can vote if:
- You are a U.S. Citizen, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of Harris County.
- You are not on parole, probation, or in prison for a felony.
- You have not been declared mentally incompetent by a final judgment of a court.
- You are registered to vote in Harris County. (October 4 was the last day to register for this election.)

How do I register to vote?
Each county has a Voter Registrar. In Harris County the Voter Registrar is the County Tax Assessor-Collector. You may register in person at 1001 Preston Avenue – 2nd Floor, at many of 15 Tax Office substations throughout the County, at all Texas Department of Public Safety Offices, at Public Libraries and at several other state agency offices. Or you can mail in your application. Applications are available at the sites just mentioned, on line at www.hcvoter.net, or by calling 713.368.2200 to request one via mail. During voter registration drives, you can register with a deputized volunteer voter registrar. After you register, you should receive your Voters Registration Certificate (VRC) within 30 days. Every 2 years, you will be mailed a replacement VRC. To maintain your registered status you must notify the Voter Registrar of any address or name change.

How can I vote on in this election?
You may vote for candidates running for U. S. President; Texas Supreme, Appellate and District Court Justice; Railroad Commissioner; U. S. House Representative for your district; State Senator and House Representative for your district; State Board of Education Trustee for your district; some Harris County offices; and, in some school districts, local school board trustees. Three City of Houston propositions will be on the ballot. Pasadena ISD and the City of South Houston have local issues on the ballot.

On line at www.harrisvotes.com you can view which races and candidates will be on your specific ballot. Follow the directions at the top of this page.

To find out which U. S. Representative, State Senate and State House Districts and which County Commissioner and Justice of the Peace Precincts you are in, look on the right half of your Voter Registration Certificate. Those designations, as well as other district/precinct designations are available from the Voter Registrar, 713.368.2200 or the County Clerk’s Voter Information Line, 713.755.6965

When can I vote?
You may vote:
- on Election day at your Precinct’s polling place
- early at designated times and locations from October 18-29 – see schedule on Page 23
- by ballot-by-mail if you are at least age 65, disabled, confined in jail, or if absence from county will prevent you from voting. For this election your application must be received by October 26 and you must follow the requirements for voting by mail.

Contact the County Clerk’s Office, 713.755.6965 for information.

How do I vote?
During the Early Voting Period, October 18-29, you may vote at any of the designated Early Voting locations. Go to page 23 for a list of these locations. They are posted on line at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713.755.6965.

On Election Day you must vote in the polling location designated for your precinct of residence. polling locations for each precinct are listed in the newspaper the day of the election. Also, they are online at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713.755.6965.

Where do I vote?
Your Precinct Number (Pct. No.) shows in the middle of the left side of your Voter Registration Certificate (VRC). Many Harris County precinct lines recently were redrawn. Check the precinct number on your VRC before going to the polling location.

Or, you can contact the Harris County Clerk’s Office, 713.755.6965 or www.harrisvotes.com or the Voter Registrar, 713.368.2200 / www.hcvoter.net.

What do I find my Precinct Number?
Your Precinct Number (Pct. No.) shows in the middle of the left side of your Voter Registration Certificate (VRC). Many Harris County precinct lines recently were redrawn. Check the precinct number on your VRC before going to the polling location.

Or, you can contact the Harris County Clerk’s Office, 713.755.6965 or www.harrisvotes.com or the Voter Registrar, 713.368.2200 / www.hcvoter.net.

What do I take to the Polls?
Take your Voter Registration Certificate (VRC). This is all that is needed unless this is your first time to vote in this county for a federal office. Other identification, such as a Texas Drivers License, is accepted but it’s much faster to sign in with your VRC, which has helpful information on it. Keep it in a safe place.

Attention: First Time Voters. If this is your first time to vote in this county for a federal office and you registered by mail and did not include identification with your application, you will be required to show identification such as valid photo identification, utility bill, bank statement, or government document that shows your name and address.

You can take this Voters Guide or other written material into the Voting Booth. However, voters are not allowed to display or share any campaign material in the polling place.

What if my name is not on the list of registered voters and the Voter Registrar has no record of my registration but I think I have registered?
If your name is not on the list and you think you have registered, the Precinct Judge will contact the Voter Registrar. If the Voter Registrar cannot confirm your registration, you may vote a “provisional ballot”. First, you must complete an affidavit stating that you are a registered voter in the precinct in which you are attempting to vote and that you are eligible to vote in this election and you must present valid identification. Your ballot will be counted only if State or local officials determine you are eligible under State law. You will be given information on how to ascertain whether your vote was counted.

What is a provisional ballot?
A provisional ballot is a ballot provided to voters when the registration status of the voter is questionable. The electorate must be a registered voter in the precinct in which you are attempting to vote and you must present valid identification. Your ballot will be counted only if State or local officials determine you are eligible under State law. You will be given information on how to ascertain whether your vote was counted.

What if I move from one county to another county and my registration is not yet effective. You must apply for a limited ballot and vote by personal appearance at the early voting clerk conducting the election in your new county during the early voting period – not on Election Day.

What does the term “suspense” mean on a voter’s record?
The term “suspense” is used to designate those voters for whom the Harris County Voter Registrar does not have a current address. A voter in “suspense” status on the rolls is allowed to vote after completing a change of residence form. Once the address is corrected, the “suspense” designation will be removed from the voter’s record. On November 30 of even-numbered years, the Voter Registrar cancels registrations of suspense list voters if two general elections have occurred since the voter was first listed as a suspense voter if the voter has not submitted an address correction.
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Four-year term. Must be a natural-born U.S. citizen, at least 35 years old, and a U.S. resident for at least 14 years. Powers and duties include to serve as commander-in-chief of the U.S. armed forces; with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, to appoint ambassadors and other public ministers, justices of the Supreme Court, and judges of other federal courts; and to faithfully execute the laws of the U.S. Salary: $400,000 plus $50,000 non-taxable expense account.

Republican  GEORGE W. BUSH, President  DICK CHENEY, Vice President
Democrat  JOHN KERRY, President  JOHN EDWARDS, Vice President
Libertarian  MICHAEL BADNARIK, President  RICHARD CAMPAGNA, Vice President
Write-In  DEBORAH ELAINE ALLEN, President  JOSEPH H. SENEGLAS, Vice President

WALTER BROWN, President  www.waltbrownforpresident.org • 16 S.W. Monticello Drive, Lake Oswego, OR 97035-1416 • (503) 490-4551
MARY ALICE HERBERT, Vice President

DAVID KEITH COBB, President  www.votecobb.org • 1402 M. Street, Eureka, CA 95501 • (707) 476-8502
PATRICIA LAMARCHE, Vice President

ANDREW J. FALK, President  171 Chesterfield Road, Bogart, GA 30622 • (706) 542-9271
MARIJOHN PETERMAN, President

JOHN JOSEPH KENNEDY, President  www.johnjosephkennedy.com • 1100 Hammond Drive #410-A, Atlanta, GA 30328 • (404) 759-2267
DANIEL R. REZAC, Vice President

RALPH NADER, President  www.votenader.com • P. O. Box 18002, Washington D.C. 20036 • (202) 265-4000
PETER MIGUEL CAMEJO, Vice President

MICHAEL ANTHONY PEROUTKA, President  www.peroutka2004.com • 151 Longfellow Drive, Millersville, MD 21108 • (410) 768-2280
CHUCK BALDWIN, Vice President

What is the Electoral College?
The Electoral College is a group of 538 selected citizens who meet after a presidential election to actually “elect” the president and vice-president. Each state and the District of Columbia have a designated number of electors. To be elected to the presidency, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the electoral votes (270). If there were more than two candidates for president and none received a majority, the House of Representatives would pick the winner with each state casting one vote.

Why do we have an Electoral College system?
Over two centuries ago when the United States’ form of representative democracy was designed into the Constitution, the choice of the president was to be made by “a small number of persons, selected by their fellow citizens from the general mass.” These persons “will be most likely to possess the information and discernment requisite to such complicated investigations.” (Both quotes from Alexander Hamilton, The Federalist Papers, No. 68.) It was a way to monitor a possibly uneducated and uninformed electorate and, in the beginning, it had considerable power to make a choice which did not reflect the popular vote.

At that time there were no political parties or national campaigns. Today the sole function of the Electoral College is to confirm the decision made by the voters.

How does the Electoral College system work?
The number of electors chosen in each state is equal to the combined number of that state’s U.S. senators and representatives. Each political party and independent and write-in presidential candidate selects the allowed number of electors in each state. When voters choose a slate of president and vice-president, they are actually voting for electors pledged to that slate.

Under this electoral system, voters do not directly elect a president and vice-president on a “one-person, one-vote” basis. In 48 of the 50 states, whichever candidate gets the most popular votes wins all of that state’s electors. Only Maine and Nebraska do not use this “winner-take-all” system but award electors based on who wins in each congressional district plus two votes for the winner of the popular vote. While states cannot opt out of the Electoral College system, they do have the authority to determine how they allocate their electoral votes.

In Texas we have a “winner-take-all” system for our 34 electoral votes, the second largest number of electoral votes in the nation. California is first with 55.

On a designated day in December after the November election at a designated location in each state, the electors who were selected by the winning slate (or slates in the case of Maine and Nebraska) for president and vice-president in that state will cast their electoral ballots. While the electors are not legally bound to vote for the slate to whom they are pledged, it is highly unusual for them not to fulfill that pledge.

Observations on the Electoral College system.
• The system allows someone to be elected president without receiving more popular votes than any other candidate.
• It fosters the two-party system because independent and third party candidates get few electoral votes.
• By voting for each state’s choice for the presidency, it reflects our federal system of government, which reserves important political powers to the states.
• It discourages voter turnout if voters feel their choice will not win the popular vote in their state.


For coverage of the Presidential race, visit the League’s online voter resource: www.DNet.org
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
Member of U.S. Congress. Serves in the House of Representatives. The House has equal legislative functions and powers with the Senate, except that only the House may originate revenue bills and, by tradition, appropriation bills. The House brings charges of impeachment for trial in the Senate. Both the House and the Senate count electoral votes following a presidential election and, if no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, the House chooses the President from among the top three candidates. A Representative serves as an advocate for citizens in home district. 2-year term.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:
Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What conflicts do you see, if any, with the current policies on protecting domestic employment and encouraging global trade? Please explain what approach should be taken. (60 word limit)

What is your opinion regarding access to affordable health care by all Americans? Please explain. (60 word limit)

Ted Poe Republican
Doctor of Jurisprudence, University of Houston Law Center; B.A., Abilene Christian University; Chief felony prosecutor District Attorney’s office, never lost a jury trial; appointed 1981 felony court judge; one of the first Republican judges elected in Harris County since Reconstruction; re-elected six times.

It is vital that the United States secure its borders and pursue all potential threats. I support President Bush’s position of making our national defense second to none - both in manpower and intelligence. It is the first duty of government to protect and provide a safe environment to live and work.

Current policies regarding domestic employment and global trade are sometimes at odds. To ensure a continued and stable economic recovery we must explore options to secure jobs for our citizens here in the United States and bring our global trading partners to a level “playing field” so U.S. goods and services are able to compete in the global market.

Every American should have the right to affordable healthcare and the freedom to choose their own doctor. We recently made progress on funding a real prescription drug plan for seniors and I believe we must continue to look for ways to continue to bring quality healthcare to our citizens while helping to ease the burden of the ever-rising costs.

John Culberson Republican
I have represented Houstonians in the Texas House and in the U.S. House. I grew up in West University Place, graduated from Lamar, and earned a BA from SMU and a JD from South Texas College of Law. My record shows I understand the responsibilities of being a representative and . . .

Now that the Katy Freeway is fully funded and will be built in record time, my top priority is to control illegal immigration. We cannot win the war on terror until we protect our borders by defending illegal immigration with strict enforcement of existing laws, strengthening checkpoints, swift deportations, and ensuring that illegal aliens are ineligible for welfare and social . . .

Access to affordable healthcare is crucial to care, support, and dignity for our seniors. The prescription drug bill was written with no funding and for the big drug companies, and will not improve access to important and crucial medicines. We must lower Medicare premiums without raiding Social Security for funding, and allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug costs.

Sandra Leigh Saulsbury, Libertarian — NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Questions to Candidates:
Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What conflicts do you see, if any, with the current policies on protecting domestic employment and encouraging global trade? Please explain what approach should be taken. (60 word limit)

What is your opinion regarding access to affordable health care by all Americans? Please explain. (60 word limit)

John Martínez Democrat
As an oil and gas engineer, international consultant, and small businessman, I bring a background of creating solutions. My experience lends itself to leadership on job creation, energy policy, international relations, transportation, infrastructure improvements, healthcare, and the environment. Learn more about my bio at www.johnmartinezforcongress.com.

Now that the Katy Freeway is fully funded and will be built in record time, my top priority is to control illegal immigration. We cannot win the war on terror until we protect our borders by defending illegal immigration with strict enforcement of existing laws, strengthening checkpoints, swift deportations, and ensuring that illegal aliens are ineligible for welfare and social . . .

We are reasonably protected, but Congress should aggressively pursue a policy of hope rather than fear. A “Peace Corps” strategy will put our doctors, teachers, builders, and aid workers into communities worldwide to export our American values of fairness and opportunity for all. Humanitarian acts that promote goodwill are the best preventative against the world’s festering terrorist dangers.

New local jobs in the technology, medical, oil, gas, and infrastructure improvement areas can be created with our leadership. Tax policy, used wisely, can encourage such job creation and stabilizes industries vital to Houston. We should continue global trade pacts but write them to include worker protections and safety, environmental standards, and labor conditions equal to US regulations.

The fact that we, the world’s richest country, have the greatest number of people, among the most major industrialized nations, with out health care insurance is a disgrace. We can revise insurance programs to include all, lowering costs through improved preventative care and reduced emergency visits. We need affordable, accessible health care, Medicare coverage for seniors, and extension of CHIP for children.

Drew Parks Libertarian
I am a Research Designer at the University of Houston. I have worked over 17 years in nuclear physics research. My chief concerns are the expansion of government and our loss of privacy due to terrorism. My long range thinking and analytical skills may prevent bureaucratic overreaction and government waste.

Our intelligence agencies made major mistakes in the past decade with few people fired. We have had dozens of bogus Al Qaeda members one by one. Like Giuliani did in New York with the Mafia and the Israelis did with the Palestinian terrorists after the 1972 massacre in Munich. We must fight terrorism by using cunning and guile to outsmart our opponents.

Our Constitution authorized congress to regulate trade, not the president or the UN. Current trade agreements are not free trade. They are designed to create with our leadership. Tax policy, used wisely, can encourage such job creation and stabilizes industries vital to Houston. We should continue global trade pacts but write them to include worker protections and safety, environmental standards, and labor conditions equal to US regulations.

Healthcare is overly expensive for many reasons, from government regulation, frivolous lawsuits, and third party payers inflating the price. I would reduce regulation, introduce tort reform, and encourage free market medical savings accounts. Doctors need to practice medicine without burdensome government interference or insurance bean counters. Instead of moving toward bureaucratic government regulation, I would move toward efficient market competition.

The rising cost of Healthcare is the number one issue facing American consumers. If elected, I will refuse the government’s generous healthcare plan until all American’s have access to similar medical care and prescription drug benefits. There are over 42 million Americans without medical insurance, which is shameful in the richest nation on earth. I am dedicated to changing this.

Paul F. Staton Independent
I have lived in Houston since 1957 and love this great city. I put myself through the University of Texas often working nights and weekends. I am self reliant and inclusive. My public service, financial prudence and sensible practicality will benefit all the people of the 7th district.

Our intelligence agencies made major mistakes in the past decade with few people fired. We have had dozens of bogus Al Qaeda members one by one. Like Giuliani did in New York with the Mafia and the Israelis did with the Palestinian terrorists after the 1972 massacre in Munich. We must fight terrorism by using cunning and guile to outsmart our opponents.

Current policies regarding domestic employment and global trade are sometimes at odds. To ensure a continued and stable economic recovery we must explore options to secure jobs for our citizens here in the United States and bring our global trading partners to a level “playing field” so U.S. goods and services are able to compete in the global market.

Every American should have the right to affordable healthcare and the freedom to choose their own doctor. We recently made progress on funding a real prescription drug plan for seniors and I believe we must continue to look for ways to continue to bring quality healthcare to our citizens while helping to ease the burden of the ever-rising costs.

J.D. from South Texas College of Law. My appointment 1981 felony court judge; one of the first Republican judges elected in Harris County since Reconstruction; re-elected six times.

We must do more to protect the homeland. I have co-sponsored important legislation such as the “Secure COAST ACT” (H.R. 4355), which protects against and for the big drug companies, and will continue to fight for more homeland security funding upon re-election.

We’ve lost close to 2 million jobs since January 2001, and new jobs being created pay considerably less than jobs that disappeared. We also face an army of jobless hard-working Texas families overseas, and believe fair trade policies can grow the American economy through global activity while creating jobs at home.

Access to affordable healthcare is crucial to care, support, and dignity for our seniors. The prescription drug bill was written with no funding and for the big drug companies, and will not improve access to important and crucial medicines. We must lower Medicare premiums without raiding Social Security for funding, and allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug costs.

It is essential that the United States secure its borders and pursue all potential threats. I support President Bush’s position of making our national defense second to none - both in manpower and intelligence. It is the first duty of government to protect and provide a safe environment to live and work.

Current policies regarding domestic employment and global trade are sometimes at odds. To ensure a continued and stable economic recovery we must explore options to secure jobs for our citizens here in the United States and bring our global trading partners to a level “playing field” so U.S. goods and services are able to compete in the global market.

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Joel E. Hirschhorn Independent
I grew up in Mexico and have lived in Houston since 1955. I have a Master’s degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Houston. I have worked over the past 30 years as the Corporate Program Director for the International Association of Fire Chiefs. I have lived in Houston since 1957 and love this great city. I put myself through the University of Texas often working nights and weekends. I am self reliant and inclusive. My public service, financial prudence and sensible practicality will benefit all the people of the 7th district.

Our intelligence agencies made major mistakes in the past decade with few people fired. We have had dozens of bogus Al Qaeda members one by one. Like Giuliani did in New York with the Mafia and the Israelis did with the Palestinian terrorists after the 1972 massacre in Munich. We must fight terrorism by using cunning and guile to outsmart our opponents.

American jobs should not be offshoreed until they have been offered to and refused by American workers. I will encourage American entrepreneurs to create work centers in America to compete with overseas call-centers and back office processing centers. The global village does not play well with a national retail sales tax. The “Freedom Tax” would allow Americans to keep 100% of our income, only pay tax when we buy a product or service, and the government would not know how much we . . .

I will always support free trade and free markets. The best way to strengthen the economy would be to replace the income tax with a national retail sales tax. The “Freedom Tax” would allow Americans to keep 100% of our income, only pay tax when we buy a product or service, and the government would not know how much we . . .

We are reasonably protected, but Congress should aggressively pursue a policy of hope rather than fear. A “Peace Corps” strategy will put our doctors, teachers, builders, and aid workers into communities worldwide to export our American values of fairness and opportunity for all. Humanitarian acts that promote goodwill are the best preventative against the world’s festering terrorist dangers.

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QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

Do you think U.S. residents are well protected against terrorist attacks in the U.S. and what, if any, new steps should be taken? (60 word limit)

What conflicts do you see, if any, with the current policies on protecting domestic employment and encouraging global trade? Please explain what approach should be taken. (60 word limit)

What is your opinion regarding access to affordable health care by all Americans? Please explain. (60 word limit)

**ARLETTE MOLINA Republican**

I attended Rice University and University of Houston. I am an Attorney. I have served as an appointee for the Houston Tower Commission, State Chair for the National Advisory Council Honorary for the National Republican Congressional Committee, Executive Board Member March of Dimes. I am honest, hard working and unshakable.

**AL GREEN Democrat**

I have a Doctorate of Jurisprudence. As a retired judge, lawyer, co-chairman of the Black and Brown Coalition, member of LULAC, former NAACP president and former YMCA board member, I have worked with people across ethnic, cultural, religious and political lines. I will represent All the District’s people.

**STACEY BOURLAND Libertarian**

I received my Bachelor’s Degree from Rice University and my Master’s Degree and Ph.D. from the University of Louisville. I am a practicing psychologist in the Houston area. I served on the Executive Committee of the Houston Psychological Association for four years.

**MICHAEL T. MCCaul Republican**


**ROB FRITSCHKE Libertarian**

BA University of Texas. Paramedic/Firefighter, small business manager. As an ordinary American I know how hard it is to make ends meet with the high level of taxes placed on us by the government. My experience is that of the average person. I want to ease the average person’s load.

**LORENZO SADUN Write-in**


We must shift the focus of the Department of Defense to face the new threat and protect the US first. We have to prevent those who intend to harm us from gaining entry into the US. Those who do harm us must feel the wrath of our justice. But always remember the Constitution did not change on 9-11.

The fact that there hasn’t been a new attempt on American soil since 9-11-01 is an encouraging sign. However, vigilance is essential since al Qaeda is patient and deliberate between acts of terror. The most critical steps in homeland security are to continue to strengthen the INS, the Border Patrol, and to protect critical infrastructures, specifically information technologies from disruption.

Although there has been progress since 9/11, there is still more to be done to protect personal security without compromising individual liberties. Our intelligence services must be better coordinated. We must: develop a fair and orderly immigration policy; enhance border security; provide police officers, firefighters and other public protectors with the resources to function safely and successfully.

We will never be “well” protected against terrorist attacks because of the free society that we enjoy. We must be vigilant of activities that might lead to terrorist attacks and take a strong stance to ensure the safety of our freedom and the citizens of this country. We should conduct more community emergency drills and educate the public.

I support an open trade policy that creates jobs for citizens, encourages healthy competition to deliver better, affordable products to consumers. However, effective export of our trade policy must take into account the impact it has on the domestic economy. We cannot afford to sacrifice American jobs and manufacturing for imports.

Although trade and domestic employment need not be at odds with each other. We need recognized and enforced international labor laws to protect workers and raise standards of living the world over. “Cheap labor” is often an onerous term that means “child exploitation” and “human degradation.”

We must provide affordable health care. This does not rest in one thing but a combination. We must encourage insurance and health care by employers through tax cuts and tax incentives. Tort reform is a must to reduce health care costs, assist ER crisis and reduce property taxes. I am confident we can provide affordable health care without tax increases.

The Federal Government’s interference with the health care system is the cause for the price of medical care to rise faster than the rate of inflation. We need to get the government out of the way and allow market forces to work. This will return the price of healthcare to an affordable range.

Access to affordable care is essential and can be achieved through rapid expansion of health savings accounts – made legal by the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 – and mandate-free health insurance policies. Government mandates have made health insurance unaffordable for millions of Americans, specifically small business owners.

We can’t forbid outsourcing, but it’s crazy to subsidize it with tax credits, as we are now doing. We need to invest in education and research to create new jobs, and in retraining for workers whose jobs are lost to outsourcing. Government contracts should go preferentially to companies that hire Americans, and that treat their workers right.

Global trade and domestic employment need not be at odds with each other. We need recognized and enforced international labor laws to protect workers and raise standards of living the world over. “Cheap labor” is often an onerous term that means “child exploitation” and “human degradation.”

Our policies should encourage global trade to the greatest extent possible. For each domestic job that is preserved through protectionist policies, at least one job is destroyed elsewhere in our economy. Protectionism also increases consumer costs, thereby lowering the standard of living of all U.S. citizens.

Healthcare was affordable prior to the implementation of Medicare in the 1960s. Since then, healthcare costs have skyrocketed. To reduce costs, we need to dismantle government healthcare programs. To improve access to healthcare, we need to give the same tax benefits to individuals who buy health insurance policies as are given to employers who buy group policies.

I favor free trade which means open markets, low (or even non-existent) tariffs, competitive industries and less government intervention in specific trade matters. We have learned over the course of centuries that free trade encourages domestic job creation and increases our standard of living.

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We will never be “well” protected against terrorist attacks because of the free society that we enjoy. We must be vigilant of activities that might lead to terrorist attacks and take a strong stance to ensure the safety of our freedom and the citizens of this country. We should conduct more community emergency drills and educate the public.

We must shift the focus of the Department of Defense to face the new threat and protect the US first. We have to prevent those who intend to harm us from gaining entry into the US. Those who do harm us must feel the wrath of our justice. But always remember the Constitution did not change on 9-11.

I support an open trade policy that creates jobs for citizens, encourages healthy competition to deliver better, affordable products to consumers. However, effective export of our trade policy must take into account the impact it has on the domestic economy. We cannot afford to sacrifice American jobs and manufacturing for imports.

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The fact that there hasn’t been a new attempt on American soil since 9-11-01 is an encouraging sign. However, vigilance is essential since al Qaeda is patient and deliberate between acts of terror. The most critical steps in homeland security are to continue to strengthen the INS, the Border Patrol, and to protect critical infrastructures, specifically information technologies from disruption.

Although there has been progress since 9/11, there is still more to be done to protect personal security without compromising individual liberties. Our intelligence services must be better coordinated. We must: develop a fair and orderly immigration policy; enhance border security; provide police officers, firefighters and other public protectors with the resources to function safely and successfully.

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SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Democrat

Yale University (Pol.Sci.Honors-B.A.), University of Virginia School of law(JD), formerly practiced corporate and personal injury law, former associate Municipal Court Judge, Member, U.S. House Homeland Security Committee, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, Senior member, U.S. House Space and Aeronautics Committee, Member, Democratic leadership.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, the key is to bring incremental federal funding, training and policies to the home communities of which last year I secured a total of $45 Million. I am a co-author of H.R. 3266, the “Faster, Smarter, Funding for First Responders Act of 2004, as well as the author of the “National Intelligence... We are less safe than we were before the Iraq war. Terrorists don’t hate us because we’re free. Terrorists hate our government because it mediates in the affairs of other nations and refuses to take responsibility for the outcome. A foreign policy of peaceful engagement, rather than intervention is the key to increasing our safety and spreading freedom and democracy.

We need truly free trade, not trade that is managed via agreements. Policies protecting domestic employment in one area cost us jobs in others, raise prices for US consumers and hurt the development of poorer nations. This is another area where US government action creates enemies in the world while doing nothing to help US citizens.

I am author of the “Comprehensive Immigration Fairness Reform Act of 2004,” that works to fix US immigration policies while protecting American jobs. Both a fair immigration policy and a fair employment policy will help the constituents of the 18th. My efforts secured the only Presidential Executive order that specifically provided resources for job loss and training.

I believe good health care is a civil rights issue for all Americans. In Congress, I worked on the CHIPS program to bring Federal dollars to Texas for children health care. However because of the State of Texas failures-many of our children were not served. We must provide legislation that supplement the 44 million uninsured Americans and Houstonians.

BRENT SULLIVAN
Libertarian

BA from UT Austin. I work at Houston’s largest software company managing products, marketing and alliances. There are no specialized skills required for Congress. The “experts” have gotten us where we are today. A plain reading of the Constitution and a solid work ethic are my training and experience.

We are less safe than we were before the Iraq war. Terrorists don’t hate us because we’re free. Terrorists hate our government because it mediates in the affairs of other nations and refuses to take responsibility for the outcome. A foreign policy of peaceful engagement, rather than intervention is the key to increasing our safety and spreading freedom and democracy.

No. The Department of Homeland Security has been slow to address weaknesses along the borders, and there must be more attention paid in apprehending aliens who have been ordered to leave the USA, and who have not, or, those with expired visas. Existing mass transit systems must be made secure, and no new systems built until after security experts approve.

We must protect strategic industries and demand domestic production of basic food stuffs and energy. Promoting competition in education will produce better educated and skilled American citizens who will not only be able to provide for themselves and their families, they will thrive as Americans are enabled to dominate global markets due to less government bureaucracy here than over there.

Managing healthcare is not a proper role for the federal government. Increasing federal involvement in healthcare has lead to higher costs and less access. Allowing the free market to work, or leaving central planning schemes to the states will increase our chances for finding the best solution. This issue is too important to have all our eggs in one basket.

TOM BAZÁN
Independent

B.S. Degree: Business & Commerce from UH-D; Real Estate major. Real Estate & Environmental Consultant. Licensed TX Real Estate Broker & Appraiser with specialized certifications as an Environmental Consultant. I am Qualified under the U.S. Constitution to represent all my constituents in Congress, and I promise to do so.

No. Additional steps must be taken at both of our borders to ensure our national crossings come to an end. We currently have 1.5 million people crossing our borders each year. This poses an undue risk. I support prosecution of those in government and private sector who assist illegal action through their aid and policies. Examples: safe harbor policies.

Domestic employment could be enhanced through the use of road and public building projects that focus the people on a stated goal to increase national pride, like parks and general infrastructure repair and development. Encouraging global trade could increase through the targeted use of government and private partnership on exporting new technologies. Examples: Chip technology and food production.

America must abolish the current Federal Tax Code which adds on average 22% to the cost of American products. We should adopt the National sales tax as written in the Fair Tax Act of 2003. See www.fairtax.org. We should stop illegal immigrant from flooding the labor market and lowering wages to those working on the lower end of the jobs...
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE continued

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

Do you think U.S. residents are well protected against terrorist attacks in the U.S. and what, if any, new steps should be taken? (60 word limit)

What conflicts do you see, if any, with the current policies on protecting domestic employment and encouraging global trade? Please explain what approach should be taken. (60 word limit)

What is your opinion regarding access to affordable health care by all Americans? Please explain. (60 word limit)

GENE GREEN
Democrat
Jefferson Davis High School HJSD; University of Houston, Bachelor Business Administration 1971; University of Houston Law Center; Admitted to State Bar of Texas 1977; Texas State Representative 1973-1985; Texas State Senator 1985-1993; United States Congress 1993-Present; Serving on Energy and Commerce Committee; Senior Deputy Whip, Democratic Caucus

U. S. residents are better protected now than on 9/11, but we can do much more. We should expand federal assistance to local communities to protect our residents, including grants for additional staff to local police and emergency responders. This current Administration has cut funds for local law enforcement – this must change.

In the last three years, we have seen more people lose private sector health insurance. We should expand the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to more children and their families. More and more employers are cutting or dropping coverage and a national health care safety net is needed. Texas has cut children’s health care and we must reverse this trend.

CLIFFORD LEE MESSINA
Libertarian
High school. Classes at San. Jac. for air conditioning & electrical, and American history.

I think the solution to this problem is to get rid of the Rep. & Dem. parties. We’ve traded liberty and property for both. It seems strange that the only one profiting from this and all other wars is the govt.

As long as the gov’t (Rep. & Dem) has so much control over the health industry, things will get worse not better. The first step to solving this problem is to get rid of the Rep. & Dem. Party.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER

Six-year term (on a three-person commission). Must be a Texas resident and qualified voter, not less than 25 years old, and must have no interest in any railroad. Among duties: regulation of the oil and gas industry, including drilling production, and environmental protection; mining of coal, uranium, and iron ore gravel, including land reclamation; transportation and storage of liquefied petroleum gas, compressed natural gas, and liquefied natural gas; railroad safety; and encourages the use of clean-burning propane and research new technologies for its use. Salary: $92,217.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office. (50 word limit)

How would you prioritize the goals of the Railroad Commission’s Strategic Plan for 2005-09 in light of limited funding? (75 word limit)

How do you propose to meet the Railroad Commission’s stated responsibility for supporting research, education, training, and marketing of clean-burning alternative fuels? (75 word limit)

VICTOR G. CARRILLO
Republican
Geologist, petroleum geophysicist and energy attorney. Texas Railroad Commissioner since February 2003. Elected Chairman by colleagues. Former petroleum geophysicist for Amoco Production. Energy attorney at the General Land Office. Assistant Abilene city attorney; political science and legal studies instructor, Hardin-Simmons University. Elected Abilene City Councilman and Taylor County Judge.

The top goal of the Texas Railroad Commission is to strengthen the safety and productivity of the Texas energy industry. In this era of record high oil prices, we must reduce dependence on foreign oil, increase responsible energy production, and promote conservation and renewable energies such as wind, fuel cell and biomass energy.

As Chairman of the Texas Energy Planning Council, I work hard to promote alternative energy sources. I have visited Texas wind farms and emerging technologies which promise to reduce dependence on foreign energy and improve environmental quality. My goal is to ensure emerging energy technologies are conceived and built in Texas, taking advantage of our vast expertise and infrastructure. The Railroad Commission also uses grants funds to promote cleaner burning fuels, such as propane.

BOB SCARBOROUGH
Democrat
Born and reared in west Texas. Degrees from Baylor, Southwestern Seminary, Yale, and the University of Illinois. Experienced in personal business development. Experienced in the formulation, support and implementation of public policy at the local, state, and national level. Experienced in the negotiation and management of mineral properties.

The Commission’s Strategic Plan for 2005-09 indicates it “does not expect significant changes in its mission, strategies, or goals during the next five years.” The development of our oil and gas resources is primary. Safety and environmental concerns are secondary. Scant attention is given to alternative energy. No attention is given to monitoring intrastate natural gas transmission. The public’s growing concern about the relationship between energy development and the environment needs a higher priority.

The State of Texas should not involve itself in research, education, training, or marketing of any fuels, alternative or otherwise. All such activities are the proper responsibility of the private sector.

ANTHONY GARCIA
Libertarian
I am a private citizen, not a professional bureaucrat. I am concerned about the growth in spending by the State of Texas, which has nearly doubled in the past 10 years. I support the abolishing of the Railroad Commission.

There may be an inherent conflict of interest in making a Commission devoted to the development of oil, gas and coal resources responsible for developing “clean-burning alternative fuels.” A much broader range of knowledge, concern and experience as well as a broader range of interests need to be involved. If this project is to remain the Commission’s responsibility, it would have to greatly expand its knowledge base and staff.

★ By registering and voting, American citizens decide how government affects us . . . at the nation’s capitol in Washington – at the state capitol in Austin at the county courthouse – at city hall – and at the school districts.
Texas has two high courts for the state: the Supreme Court to hear appeals in civil cases and the Court of Criminal Appeals for criminal cases. The Supreme Court has one Chief Justice and eight Justices, and the Court of Criminal Appeals has one Presiding Judge and eight Judges. The Supreme Court requires the concurrence of five members for a decision of a case. The Court of Criminal Appeals may sit in panels of three judges, and the concurrence of two judges is necessary for a decision.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas. Must have been a practicing lawyer or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for a total of 10 years or more. Serves as a member of the court of highest appellate jurisdiction in civil matters in the state; has the power to issue writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, and others; presides over proceedings for involuntary removal or removal of judges. Salary: $113,000.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

HARRIET O’NEILL, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PLACE 3

PAUL GREEN, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PLACE 5

SCOTT BRISTER

Republican

15 years judicial experience: trial judge (11 years), Chief Justice, 14th Court of Appeals (3 years), Texas Supreme Court (1 year). Native Texan. Honors graduate: Duke University, Harvard Law School. Author, speaker on jury reform and short-trials. Married, four daughters. Member, Salem Lutheran Church, Tomball, Texas.

Yes, in civil cases the jury system works. The problem is that the all Republican Texas Supreme Court is trying to abolish the right to jury trial in civil cases.

DAVID VAN OS

Democrat


The ongoing destruction of the right to jury trial by the all Republican Texas Supreme Court. — “Consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet devised by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution.” Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)

Make Democracy Work! VOTE NOVEMBER 2

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS JUSTICE

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Texas. Must have been a practicing lawyer or a lawyer and a judge of a court of record for a total of 10 years or more. Among duties shared with other judges: serves as a member of the court of highest appellate jurisdiction in criminal matters in the state; has the power to issue writs of habeas corpus and others. Salary: $113,000.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

LAWRENCE “LARRY” MEYERS

Republican

Senior Judge, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. 11 year member Associate Justice, Second Court of Appeals. 4 year member Board Certified in Criminal Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Masters Degree-Judicial Process, University of Virginia School of Law. Course Director-2003 Advanced Criminal Law Seminar, State Bar of Texas.

Since I have sat on the appellate bench for the past 16 years, I unfortunately have not had the experience to observe the jury selection process at the trial level. I do feel based upon the records on appeal involving jury selection, that the trial courts are diligently enforcing the constitutional protections allotted to protect jurors.

QUANAH PARKER, Libertarian — NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

CHERYL JOHNSON, Republican — NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Our right to a jury trial provides the most important protection we have against the abuse of power by the state. If the composition of the jury does not fairly reflect society much of that protection is lost. Having picked many juries, I know that low income and minority Texans are not adequately represented in the jury pool. Remedying that requires both outreach to these communities and fair compensation for jury service.

Our state’s failure to provide adequate representation to indigent defendants, particularly in death penalty cases, is a national embarrassment. A statewide public defender’s office should be established with adequate funding and competent attorneys to handle these cases. In addition Appellate Courts must be more aggressive in reviewing these cases to assure the defendant received adequate representation at trial.

TOM OXFORD

Libertarian

I have practiced law for more than 20 years and have an extensive background in both civil and criminal trial work. As a part of my practice I have successfully argued cases before both The Supreme Court and The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Today, it is commonplace for people to protest in front of the White House; but that was not always the case. The first protesters were women suffragists on January 10, 1917 protesting for the right to vote.
J.R. MOLINA, Democrat – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

LAWRENCE ALLEN, JR., Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 4

TERRI LEO, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 6

DAVID BRADLEY, Republican


Every parent should have the right to send their child to a school that best meets that child's needs. Under federal legislation, children in failing public schools have the right to transfer to better schools. Basic economics teaches that market competition ensures fair pricing and quality products/service. True school choice would bring vast improvement to our monopolistic education system.

This is impossible. There is no scheme of government financing or control of schools that all would consider equitable. Government financing simply takes money from some for the benefit of others. Such an approach produces victims and beneficiaries but no net benefit. The solution is to end government financing altogether and return responsibility for education to parents where it belongs.

WILLIAM J. MCNICOLL, Libertarian

There is no education, training or experience that can prepare a person to be part of a socialist central planning committee. The ability of parents to make their own choices when it comes to the education of their children needs to be restored. The SBoE should be done away with.

STATE SENATOR

Member of upper house of Texas Legislature. Senate, with House, has power to legislate, i.e. to make public policy. Confirms gubernatorial appointments to administrative and judicial posts. Participates in the initiation of proposals for constitutional amendments. “Canvasses” the returns in elections for governor and lieutenant governor. Tries officials impeached by the House. Serves as an advocate for citizens in home district. 4-year term.

TOMMY WILLIAMS, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 4

MARIO GALLEGOS, JR., Democrat

I am a graduate of the University of Houston and a retired firefighter. I have been a legislator for 13 years, serving in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. I am a former Chair of the Senate Hispanic Caucus and currently serve on the National Labor Caucus.

Recent budget cuts have limited or removed access to health care for hundreds of thousands of children and families. There is something wrong with that. We should be improving our health care system and creating solutions to serve all Texans who have a need. We should streamline delivery of care, while increasing accessibility and funding to expand services.

To find out where your precinct votes on Election Day
Call 713.755.6965 or 713.368.2200
www.harrisvotes.com or www.hcvoter.net
Read it in the newspaper on Election Day

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HOUSTON • GENERAL ELECTION 2004 VOTERS GUIDE
DISTRICT 128

CANDIDATES:

BILL CALLEGARI, Republican
ALMA A. ALLEN, Democrat
STEVEN HOWARD CAPUANO, Republican
JOHN E. DAVIS, Republican

As a thirty-one year resident of the district, a thirteen year incumbent, a Committee Chairman, and leader in the House, I believe that I have the knowledge and experience to get things done. Education: B.S. Elementary Education, University of Oklahoma; Member, House Select Committee on Education Finance.

PEGGY HAMRIC
Republican

As a thirty-one year resident of the district, a thirteen year incumbent, a Committee Chairman, and leader in the House, I believe that I have the knowledge and experience to get things done. Education: B.S. Elementary Education, University of Oklahoma; Member, House Select Committee on Education Finance.

JOE CRABB, Republican – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

CHARLOTTE H. COFFELT
Democrat

Yes, I certainly do believe that changes must be made in our citizens’ ability to access affordable health care in Texas. Far too many of our neighbors are unable to acquire health care for themselves and their children in a timely manner. Adequately funding the Childrens’ Health Insurance Program should be a priority for the Texas Legislature.

WAYNE SMITH
Republican

Currently, State Representative of District 128. Chairman of County Affairs Committee. Holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington. Past President of Wayne Smith and Associates, an engineering firm specializing in public infrastructure. Community leader having chaired many civic and professional committees and organizations.

MITCH CONTRERAS
Democrat

B. S. in Chemistry (UH, 1972); J.D. in Law (UH, 1981); I am currently employed by CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC (formerly HL&E) as a Senior Environmental Specialist. During my 32+ years with CenterPoint, I have served in different capacities, Chemist, Lab Supervisor, Attorney and Environmental Specialist. Additionally, I serve...

JOHN E. DAVIS, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 129

CORBIN VAN ARSDALE, Republican – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED
STEVEN HOWARD CAPUANO, Libertarian – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

ALMA A. ALLEN, Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 131

BILL CALLEGARI, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 132
STATE REPRESENTATIVE continued

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (60 word limit)

JOE NIXON
Republican

Texas A&M University, BS Economics, 1978; St. Mary’s University School of Law, JD, 1982. Attorney, I have represent-ed District 133 since 1975 and currently chair the House Committee on Civil Practices. I support, vote for, and file leg-islation which reduces taxes, diminishes regulations, and eliminates waste.

We should always continue to improve our health care system. Level one trauma centers need to be made financially secure. Community health centers should be established to take the pres-sure off our emergency rooms. But, we can and should meet these needs within our current tax structure.

“NO” to a tax increase. “Additional rev- enue source” is code for “new addition-al taxes.” The state is able to shift tax burdens off property owners and to equitably spread the burden out across our economy in our existing tax struc-ture. We do not need to increase tax rev- enue. And, “NO” to an income tax.

A combination of state and local taxes should be used. State taxes are needed to provide fairness in all school districts. Local taxes should be used to provide for local control and accountability to local taxpayers.

JAMES RICE “J.R.” HARRIS
Independent

I attended Walnut Bend, Paul Revere, and Strake Jesuit College Preparatory. After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, I returned to Houston and taught at Sharpstown Middle School. I’m cur-rently in my final year of law school at South Texas College of Law. www.jamesriceharris.com

The rising costs of medical care affects both the public and private sector. Unfortunately, due to medical inflation from insurance in all medical procedures (private insurance companies) the real vic-tims are our children. Texas should also be a leader in cancer research. Therefore, I support full funding of the Texas Cancer Council and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

State income tax? No. We already have the revenue generating mechanisms in place to provide for a responsible and sustainable budget. We shouldn’t support the expansion of gambling, when there is clearly waste within our revenue system. If the fat is trimmed and more revenue is needed, a “sin-tax” approach is much more logical and reaps a double reward.

The main problem (which the legislature failed to solve this last special session) comes down to how our property taxes are distributed. Equality dictates that each district should receive a sufficient amount of money per student to provide a quality education. I believe that once that threshold is met, districts should be able to retain any and all excess funds.

MARTHA WONG
Republican

Education: ED.D and M.ED - U of H; BS - UT; Graduate of Reagan HS. Occupation: teacher, special ed. Teacher, principal, associate professor, Director, Houston Councilmember, Texas Representative, Training: Leadership Houston, American Leadership Forum, Leadership Texas, National State Legislators Leadership Training, 78th Regular Session, 4 Special Sessions.

Changes and improvements can be made in Texas public health care system. HB 2292 made major reforms and consolidat-ed 11 health and human service agencies into 5. Tort Reform bill will improve access to health care services. Public/pri-vate clinics should provide easier access instead of using emergency rooms. CHIP’s should be funded to maximize Federal dollars.

Revenue sources Texas has during a healthy economy are adequate, but alloca-tions must be carefully distributed and measurements implemented to prevent waste and abuse of funds. When there is a short fall, government should tighten its belt the way that all Texans must tighten their belts in “touch” times.

Education should be financed through a broader based revenue source rather than relying on property taxes. I would make the appraisal cap 5% and reduce the rate from $1.50 to $1.20. I propose broaden-ing the resources to include a choice by businesses of a lower 2% franchise tax, a business activity tax or a payroll tax.

JIM DOUGHERTY
Democrat

B.B.A., Notre Dame; J.D., University of Texas Law; Attorney/ CPA 30 years; Federal Prosecutor/ Mediator, 10 years each; Civic Leader, including: Former District Attorney Candidate, Former PTO Officer, Board Member, St. Luke’s Methodist Church, Former Committee Chair, MHRMA, Former Civic Club President, President Houston Dance Coalition, Asia Society, Sierra Club.

End monopolistic medical licensing that cause high doctors’ fees in Texas. Support creation of private medical standards-setting organization(s). Remove government from intrusion in all medical records for any reason. Abolish government subsi-dies for health care, and allow a private marketplace to reduce prices, as is the ten-dency in any free-market setting.

End monopoly of drug rehabilitation programs and commu-nity based health services need to be implemented.

First, close the loophole in the Franchise Tax which allows some of our largest cor-porations to avoid paying any state taxes. Afterwards, add some selected services to the sales and use tax. Increase the ciga-rette tax. Work with other states to apply a uniform sales tax to Internet and catalog sales that now enjoy a competitive advan-tage over Texas business.

The State itself must pay more of its share in order to lower the excessive local property tax burden. Financing options are included in the prior answer. Fair, equitable and permanent funding solutions must meet needs of students throughout the state and be designed to keep pace with the 80-85,000 student per year growth projec-tions. www.jimfortex.com

MONICA GRANGER
Libertarian

Senior: Economics and Political Science at University of Houston; Local Government Intern with Mark Goldberg; Libertarian Candidate for Harris County Clerk, 2002.

Affordable health insurance must be made available to all. Initially, the Children’s Health Insurance Program should be fully funded to maximize federal matching grants and relieve our overburdened emer-gency rooms. Mental health and home health care services cut by the last legisla-ture need to be restored. More alcohol/drug rehabilitation programs and commu-nity based health services need to be implemented.

End monopolistic medical licensing that cause high doctors’ fees in Texas. Support creation of private medical standards-setting organization(s). Remove government from intrusion in all medical records for any reason. Abolish government subsi-dies for health care, and allow a private marketplace to reduce prices, as is the ten-dency in any free-market setting.

No. The needs of Texas residents will be best met by limiting the sources from which government may take revenue. I support a complete repeal of all property taxes in the budget. We should encourage home owner-ship, community enhancement, and eco-nomic development.

Education in Texas should be privately provided. Until such time, I support end-ing government education/reliance upon property taxes for funding.

GARY ELKINS, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 135

Restructuring our tax and school finance system will be a major issue in the 2005 legis-lative session. It is my position that any revenue generating tax system must be fair and equitable and aim toward tax-ing consumption rather than production to ensure a strong economic vitality for Texas.

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THOMAS CLARK
Libertarian
MBA, Research Manager, public and private sectors. My research experience, learning the opinions of Texans from many walks of life, convinces me that Texans want their civil liberties defended more vigorously. I have the energy and enthusiasm to represent Texans who want smaller government and lower taxes.

ANN WITT
Republican
A UT graduate, I taught math in HISD. I am married with six children and grandchildren; and I am a Realtor, property manager, and residential developer. My experience shows creative problem-solving and hard work, and I believe, “It’s only a good deal if it’s a good deal for everyone.”

SCOTT HOCHBERG
Democrat

DWAYNE BOHAC
Republican
Cum Laude graduate Texas A&M University, BBA in Marketing, BS in Political Science, Small Business Owner, Long Time Civic Leader, Active Church Member, Husband, Father, and State Representative.

FRED ASHMEAD, Democrat – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

SYLVESTER TURNER, Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 139

DON LARGE, Republican – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

KEVIN BAILEY
Democrat
BA UT-El Paso, MA Sam Houston State, Post-Grad Oklahoma, U. of Houston. Former College Professor, former assistant to City Council member. President - Multi Media Advertising and KB Consulting. 14 years state representative. Chair General Investigating Committee; Member Urban Affairs Committee. Texas has done a poor job of providing adequate health care, particularly to the elderly and children. We need to lower insurance rates of all types; provide for a low cost prescription drug program and increase funding for CHIP.

SENFRONIA THOMPSON, Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 141

DNet is another voter information resource available. Visit the award-winning site at www.dnet.org to find opposed and unopposed candidates at the federal, state, and district levels.
MATTHEW TAYLOR MORONES, Republican – NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Yes, changes must be made. The last legislature worsened a disastrous health care system by taking away eyeglasses, dental coverage and mental health benefits for over 500,000 children and cut off prenatal care for almost 8,000 working class and pregnant women. This simply shifted the cost of health care from the state to local communities and is most unacceptable.

Yes but Texas has an outdated tax system that should be scrapped and replaced with a system that more closely matches our economy. An appropriate non-regressive tax system would stimulate the economy and generate additional revenues. Irrespective of what a tax is called, people are the only source to pay them.

TALMADGE L. HEFLIN
Republican

We should always be looking for improvement and efficiencies so that more money goes to services instead of overhead. Reorganization of the health and human service system, mandated by HB-2292, reducing the number of agencies from 12 to 5 should be completed. Minor changes can be made in the 2005 session where fine tuning is needed.

The Children’s Health Insurance Program is for working families. The state should fully fund it, quit leaving on the table millions in federal government money (they pay 75% of the cost), make enrollment easier, and add vision and dental coverage. By cutting CHIP the legislature has just pushed the cost burden down to local governments and emergency rooms.

More important than additional revenue sources is the need for Texas to re-set her priorities. Public education must come first when writing the budget rather than an afterthought. We have to take better advantage of federal matching funds with programs like the Children’s Health Insurance Program. We also have to close loopholes that allow most corporations to pay 75% of the cost, make enrollment easier, and add back vision and dental coverage. By cutting CHIP the legislature has just pushed the cost burden down to local governments and emergency rooms.

No one person has the answer to this problem. We must listen to a broad-range of ideas, a variety of proposals and use the best parts to put together a fair solution. It should be fair to the taxpayers and to all the children. Education should be the number one priority not just something to be worked into the budget.

ROBERT E. TALTON, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 144

We should refine our tax code to reflect the current business and economic drivers. With proper discipline in spending, growth in our economy should provide adequate revenue for state services.

In the 2005 session we should move the Maintenance & Operation property tax cap from $1.50 down to $1.00. This revenue can be replaced by broadening the sales tax, eliminating the franchise tax and creating a low rate, broad based business tax.

DEBBIE RIDDLE, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN DISTRICT 150

**TO FIND OUT WHERE YOUR PRECINCT VOTES ON ELECTION DAY:**

Call 713.755.6965 or 713.368.2200

www.harrisvotes.com or www.hcvoter.net

Read it in the newspaper on Election Day
Texas is divided into 14 Courts of Appeals Districts, each of which has a Chief Justice and two or more other Justices. They have appellate jurisdiction within the limits of their districts. The justices are elected for six-year terms by the voters of their district, and their qualifications and the method of filling vacancies is the same as for the two high courts.

**COURT OF APPEALS CHIEF JUSTICE**

ADELE HEDGES, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR 14TH COURT OF APPEALS CHIEF JUSTICE

SHERRY RADACK, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR 1ST COURT OF APPEALS CHIEF JUSTICE

**1ST COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE**

Six-year term. Must be at least 35 years old, a United States citizen, and a resident of Texas and the district for which he or she is seeking office. Must have been a practicing lawyer or judge for at least 10 years. Among duties: appellate jurisdiction co-extensive with the limits of judges' respective districts, which shall extend to all cases of which the District Courts or County Courts have original or appellate jurisdiction. Salary: Between $107,350 and $112,000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE 4</th>
<th>QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:</th>
<th>Please describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office. (50 word limit)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JANE BLAND, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PLACE 2</td>
<td>Yes. Defendants have a right to a fair jury. Our jury pool is broad, and many serve. Parties’ protections include the obligation of attorneys to object to unfair jurors, of judges to remove them, and of appellate courts, like ours, to review juror and trial court decisions. In over 500 appeals, I have seen only one appeal on juror fairness and few cases where jurors were wrong. The system works.</td>
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<tr>
<th>PLACE 6</th>
<th>Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? (75 word limit)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JIM SHARP, Democrat</td>
<td>Not yet. There seem to be fewer wage-earning workers and no impoverished persons on juries or the panels from which jurors are selected. Whether this results from the absence of meaningful compensation for jury service, “cleverness” in avoiding service, reliance on drivers’ licenses and voter registration for jury rolls, or other factors, I don’t know. Of course, juries to a significant extent reflect attorneys’ use of voir dire to eliminate jurors thought to be…</td>
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<tr>
<th>PLACE 4</th>
<th>What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice? Please explain. (75 word limit)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JANE BLAND, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PLACE 2</td>
<td>Any judge who sees his duty as legislating from the bench rather as interpreting the law fairly, consistently, and efficiently to serve the judicial system, the bar, and the people; any attorney who fails to render effective assistance to his client, recognize conflicts of interest, or obey ethical rules; the cost of litigation.</td>
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<tr>
<th>PLACE 6</th>
<th>While serving on the bench, do you believe you have a role in bringing important legal or judicial issues before the public or the legislature? Why or why not? (75 word limit)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JIM SHARP, Democrat</td>
<td>Judges have an important duty to work to improve the legal system, but the primary duty of judges is to interpret the law fairly, efficiently, and consistently. The Code of Judicial Ethics forbids judges from making any pledge or promise – or any statement that can be so construed – on a pending case or a political issue. Separation of powers and judicial impartiality protect us all. Legislators, not judges, should take political positions.</td>
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<tr>
<th>PLACE 4</th>
<th>Each voter must vote in their designated precinct of residence. Your precinct number is shown on your Voter Registration Certificate. Or, you can contact the Harris County Clerk's Office, 713.755.6965 / <a href="http://www.harrisvotes.com">www.harrisvotes.com</a> or the Voter Registrar, 713.368.2200 / <a href="http://www.hcvoter.net">www.hcvoter.net</a>.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JANE BLAND, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PLACE 2</td>
<td>Yes. Appellate justices identify key issues and problematic statutory language in the course of their work and provide valuable service to the state’s jurisprudence when they alert the public and legislature rather than usurping the roles of others by writing legislation from the bench.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**14TH COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE**

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<tr>
<th>PLACE 2</th>
<th>LESPITE BROCK YATES, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PLACE 2</th>
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<tr>
<th>PLACE 9</th>
<th>EVA GUZMAN, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PLACE 9</th>
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**YOU MAY TAKE THE VOTERS GUIDE INTO THE VOTING BOOTH!**

Since 1995, there's no law prohibiting printed materials in the polling place.
Twenty-five civil courts have jurisdiction over civil actions, which include disputes over personal or real property, civil rights, contractual matters or other business dealings, and personal injuries. In addition, there are 9 specialized civil courts dedicated solely to family matters such as divorce and child custody. (No juvenile or family courts are on the ballot in this election.) 4-year term.

**CIVIL DISTRICT JUDGE 11TH – 165TH**

**MARK DAVIDSON**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 11TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**JOHN DONOVAN**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 61ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**KENT SULLIVAN**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 80TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**JOHN COSELLI**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 157TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**SHAROLYN WOOD**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 127TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**GRANT DORFMAN**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 129TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**JUDGE LAMAR MCCORKLE**

Republican

I graduated from South Texas College of Law in 1980. During school I was on the law review and worked for Judge David Hittner. I became an attorney to the Chief Justice of an appellate court and later practiced civil law. Elected in 1986, I am a 16 year incumbent. Former prosecutor, former defense attorney, Board Certified in Criminal Law since 1985. Actual trial experience in thousands of cases. Member State Judicial Advisory Council, Harris County Juvenile Board, Former Administrative Judge of the Criminal Courts. JudgeGodwin.com/new

**CAROLINE E. BAKER**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 151ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**KEN WISE**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 152ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**RANDY WILSON**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 157TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**MARTHA HILL JAMISON**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 164TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**ELIZABETH RAY**, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 165TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**CRIMINAL DISTRICT JUDGE 174TH – 177TH**

**GEORGE H. GODWIN**

Republican


**HERB RITCHIE**

Democrat

U.T. honor graduate (B.A. 1967, M.A. 1969, J.D. 1974); numerous honors and awards; Phi Beta Kappa; Phi Delta Phi; Eta Sigma Phi; Teacher's Award-Mortgages; third highest grade, Texas Bar Examination. Taught at U.T.-Austin and Baylor. Practicing attorney, 30 years; Board Certified, Criminal Law, Texas Board, Legal Specialization (1987).

**ROBERT VOIGT**

Democrat

J.D., South Texas College of Law, MBA from SMU, B.A. Franklin & Marshall College. Studied at Universities of Heidelberg, Germany and Geneva, Switzerland. Lawyer for 22 years including four years as a State Criminal District Judge. Speak Spanish, German, French. Broad life experience: Army veteran. Student worker.

**DEVON ANDERSON**

Republican

J.D., U.T. School of Law 1991; B.A., U.T. at Austin 1988; Harris County District Attorney's Office, 12 years; Chief Felony Prosecutor, 6 years; Tried over 100 felony jury trials, including 7 capital murders. Prosecuted "The Railroad Killer." Teaches continuing legal education courses to lawyers; Married to Mike Anderson, 2 children.

**LESLIE M. RIBNIK**

Democrat

BA, Rice University, 1975. J.D., South Texas College of Law, 1988. Attorney in solo practice with 15 years experience in criminal, civil, and appellate litigation including habeas corpus review of capital punishment cases. Mediator (certificated from A. A. White Institute).

In representing clients from individuals to governmental entities and large corporations, as plaintiffs and defendants, I found one common problem: litigation consumes people's lives. Therefore, as a judge, I want to speed the court docket by making timely rulings and moving cases to settlement or trial. I want to get people through their stressful but important litigation quickly and efficiently.

“Problems within the H.P.D. Crime Lab must be rectified. As judge, I would require experts be properly qualified prior to testifying. Before admitting scientific evidence like DNA, I would require proof that: (1) the underlying scientific theory is valid; (2) the technique applying the theory is valid; and (3) the technique was properly applied on the occasion in question.”

Our District Courts are congested with cases involving possession of less than 1 gram of cocaine, many involving trace amounts. I would propose legislation to designate this type of offense a misdemeanor, punishable by jail or fine, so that our District Courts can spend valuable time on truly serious offense's where an individual or property have been harmed.

We are replacing an experienced jurist. This job demands experience. I have been honored with the title of Chief Felony Prosecutor. For six years, I have been responsible for supervising the training of young prosecutors and the daily operations of a district court precisely like the 177th. I have also exacted justice for hundreds of the victims of violent felons.

In representing clients from individuals to governmental entities and large corporations, as plaintiffs and defendants, I found one common problem: litigation consumes people's lives. Therefore, as a judge, I want to speed the court docket by making timely rulings and moving cases to settlement or trial. I want to get people through their stressful but important litigation quickly and efficiently.

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Improving public confidence in the integrity and reliability of courts by faithfully and evenly-handedly applying the rules governing trials to guarantee the righteousness of convictions and the certainty of punishment; and giving reasonable, common sense consideration to the rehabilitative, therapeutic needs of mentally ill defendants to prevent repetition of crimes growing from mental defects while avoiding counterproductive, unnecessary punishment.
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:
Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

BILL BURKE
Republican
I am a graduate of Rice University (1965) and Texas Law School (1968) with Honors. I have always practiced law in Houston before being appointed as Judge, 189th District Court, effective 11/1/03. My experience in 35 years practicing trial law, mediation, arbitration, and as a civil district judge qualifies me to be a civil judge.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:
What do you see as the most critical administration of justice issue facing this Court and how would you address it? (60 word limit)

BRUCE MOSIER
Democrat
BBA (1960) and JD (1965), University of Houston; 39+ years lead counsel - many kinds of civil litigation matters (both sides of most issues); two Board Certifications (both Residential and Commercial Real Estate Law); former Division Chief, County Attorney's office, former General Counsel/Vice President of a Title Insurance company; Mediator.

Following the law and protecting the rights of all litigants must take precedence over simply pushing cases through the court. The reversal of these goals has, in many cases, resulted in the failure of our judicial system to accomplish its main purpose - seeing that justice is done in every case and acting as the final arbiter of disputes.

CIVIL DISTRICT JUDGE 281ST – 334TH

DAVID BERNAL, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 281ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

JOSEPH “TAD” HALBACH, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 333RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

SHARON MCCALLY
Republican
I'm an attorney with 43 years of life experience (treasured husband, daughter, family and friends), 8 years of small business experience (mechanical contracting); and 13 years of courtroom experience (U.S. District Judge David Hittner; Fisher, Gallagher, Perrin & Lewis; Storey, Moore & McCally). Graduated South Texas College of Law.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:
Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

KATHY STONE
Democrat
Almost 14 years Judicial experience ruling on thousand of cases; Attorney for 25 years; Board Certified in Trial Law 1997; Past President of Texas Association of District Judges; Active in the Houston Bar and State Bar of Texas; former Small Business owner; local American Cancer Society volunteer; one son, Joshua

The critical administration issue facing any court is the prompt resolution of cases. The litigants should be able to schedule hearings without undue delay and expect prompt rulings. With almost 14 years experience as a trial Judge, I know how to actively manage a Court's docket always keeping in mind that equality under the law and Justice is the goal.
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSIONER

CRIMINAL JUDGE 337TH – 351ST

DON STRICKLIN, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 337TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
BROCK THOMAS, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 338TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
CAPRICE COSPER, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 339TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MARK KENT ELLIS, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN 351ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Represents the State of Texas in criminal cases pending in Harris County Criminal District Courts and in all inferior courts of the county. Screens all cases and advises police and citizens on criminal justice matters. Primary duty is to see that justice is done. 4-year term.

HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

CHARLES A. ROSENTHAL, JR., Republican

Charles A. Rosenthal, Jr. received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baylor University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law. After being licensed to practice law, he joined the Harris County District Attorneys Office in March of 1977. In November of 2000 he was elected Harris County District Attorney.

Questions to Candidates:

Harris County has such a high volume of cases that they could not all possibly be disposed of by trial. The plea bargaining process allows the defendant and victim, if any, to have an early resolution of the case. Plea bargains require judicial approval. Risks are minimized when attorneys for the state and defense know all applicable evidence.

REGINALD E. MCKAMIE, Democrat

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, B.S., University of Southern California, MBA, University of Houston, JD, Texas CPA, Captain, USNR, Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law; 18 year Experienced trial attorney, civil and criminal law, significant management experience in human resources, budgeting, and administration of large organizations, both governmental and corporate.

Questions to Candidates:

Plea bargains are essential to the efficient administration of justice. Pleas are convenient for offenders and courts. Criminal cases require justice and fairness for victims and accused persons. Convenience cannot drive our decisions or else citizen safety will be jeopardized and the guilty may go free and innocent parties may be imprisoned. I believe in Justice first and fairness always.

HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MIKE STAFFORD, Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF

CRIMINAL DISTRICT JUDGE 337TH – 351ST

POLL WILL BE OPEN FROM 7AM TO 7PM
If you are in line by 7PM you’re allowed to vote.
HARRIS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR

Collects property taxes, the hotel-motel tax, and contracts with other taxing jurisdictions to collect their taxes. Issues motor vehicle licenses and titles. Voter Registrar for the County. 4-year term.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position.

What do you think are the two biggest challenges facing the Tax Office and how would you address them?

PAUL BETTENCOURT
Republican

The incumbent since 1998, Paul Bettencourt has used his extensive business management experience to build a culture of Smart Technology, Improved Efficiency, and Enhanced Customer Service for all the 3.4 million residents of Harris County. Paul Bettencourt champions property tax relief.

First, finish the Tax Office Property Tax System's upgrade to modern technology from 30 year old software, allowing more consolidated operations and tax bills for county's 1.2 million taxpayers. Second, help pass a bill in 2005 lowering the cap on rising property appraisals from 10% to 5%, keeping homeowners from paying another 105% property tax bill increase in 7 years.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position.

What do you think are the two biggest challenges facing the Tax Office and how would you address them?

JOHN T. WEBB
Democrat

Former Harris County tax office employee with over 28 years experience, combined with supervisory management background. My knowledge of the tax office's inner workings qualify me for this position. A lifetime resident of Harris County, attending all local public schools, graduating Channelview ’69

Delinquencies have increased due to the weak economy. In order to alleviate tax payers distress, I would propose a tax payment plan allowing taxpayers to pay property taxes in two installments. There have been problems with voters arbitrarily suspended from the voter rolls. I would propose an improved system to assure all voters receive their greatest right. “Right to Vote”

HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOL TRUSTEE

Member of the School Board which is the governing body of the County’s Department of Education. Appoints the county school superintendent. Arbitrates controversies between independent school districts within the county. Serves without pay. 4-year term.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position.

What impact can a County School Trustee have on public education?

CARL J. SCHWARTZ
Republican

Education: B.S. & Master Degrees. U of H, & Dr. of Jurisprudence, South Texas College. Training: Former High School teacher, former member of P.S.S. School Board, retired atty., presently associate Judge, City of Pasadena, member of Harris County Board of Education for 14 years.

Continue to assist the Superintendent with establishing a vision and strategy for quality education. Exercise prudent judgment with respect to board policies that contribute to quality education. Ensure adequate allocation of budget resources to accomplish the mission and vision. Hold the Superintendent accountable for delivering of quality & cost-effective educational programming. Serve for fairness for all levels of employees.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position.

What impact can a County School Trustee have on public education?

MICHAEL GOMEZ
Democrat

Education: Rice University (BA), UH Law Center (JD); Occupation: Attorney; Experience: I have extensive experience in volunteering, working with others, and finding solutions to complicated issues. I believe my experience and professional training will allow me to be a passionate and effective advocate for our children.

A County School Trustee can have a tremendous impact on public education by being an advocate for lifelong education. This means pushing for the development of more early childhood education centers, helping increase access to higher education for our young people, and helping adults continue to develop their skills and abilities at any age.

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Member of Commissioners Court, which supervises and controls the courthouses and jails; appoints/employs personnel; fills vacancies in elective and appointive positions; determines county tax rates; adopts budget; calls bond elections; sets voting precinct boundaries; lets contracts; builds/maintains roads, bridges, libraries and parks; and appoints members to numerous boards and commissions. Within own precinct, a Commissioner is directly responsible for administration and parks, road and bridge programs. 4-year term.

EL FRANCO LEE, Democrat — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 1
STEVE RADACK, Republican — RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 3

Sixteen Justice of the Peace courts handle misdemeanor cases with fines less than $500. Hear cases such as assault, disorderly conduct, bad check writing, public intoxication, theft. Hear civil cases involving less than $500. Issue emergency commitment papers for the mentally ill, conduct hearings on truancy cases and perform marriages. 4-year term.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What do you consider the two biggest challenges facing your position and how would you address them? (60 word limit)

RIECKE BAUMANN
Republican

Attorney 30 years. Board Certified, 300+ monthly JP appearances statewide. Have learned from good and bad judges, therefore qualified to improve this court. The keys to handling JP cases are courtesy and patience, mixed with as much speed as appropriate.

Trunucy: increasing focus. Adding courtesy, professionalism: following the law. Saving taxpayers money by modernizing procedures. Trunucy: Answering the telephone. (Citizens must now leave messages and wait for a return call.) Paperwork is six months behind. Post statutes, hearings, rulings, and wedding pictures on web site. Trunucy: community involvement.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What do you consider the two biggest challenges facing your position and how would you address them? (60 word limit)

DALE M. GORCZYNSKI
Democrat

Judge Dale Gorczynski has been a Harris County Justice of the Peace for 12 years. Prior to that Judge Gorczynski served on Houston City Council. Judge Gorczynski is a graduate of Rice University (BA), UT School of Public Health (MPH), and UH Law Center (JD).

Two challenges facing the court are maintaining high efficiency and combating truancy. Judge Gorczynski’s staff has been shown to be among the most efficient in Harris County, according to a study by the National Center for State Courts. Judge Gorczynski handles the most truancy cases for Houston and Aldine districts. His innovative programs are effective in keeping children in school.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

League of Women Voters Houston • General Election 2004 Voters Guide
Sixteen Justice of the Peace courts handle misdemeanor cases with fines less than $500. Hear cases such as assault, disorderly conduct, bad check writing, public intoxication, theft. Hear civil cases involving less than $500. Issue emergency commitment papers for the mentally ill, conduct hearings on truancy cases and perform marriages. 4-year term.

**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What do you consider the two biggest challenges facing this position and how would you address them? (60 word limit)

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What do you consider the two biggest challenges facing this position and how would you address them? (60 word limit)

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**CANDIDATES:**

**Molly Maness-Barnes,** Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 2, PLACE 1

**J. Kent Adams,** Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 4, PLACE 1

**Russ Ridgway**

Republican

I am the incumbent judge. My education includes a MBA from the University of Houston, and a BS in Petroleum Engineering. My judicial experience includes dealing with over 80,000 cases in the last 15 months, and my prior experience includes mediation, litigation support, dispute resolution, consulting and managing personnel.

**Richard W. Phillips**

Libertarian

MBA and BBA from University of Texas at Austin and UT Law school. Certified Public Accountant in public practice. Dealt with hundreds of cases in Precinct 5, primarily real estate related. President and Director of various organizations including non-profit groups. Resident of the precinct for forty years.

**Richard C. Vara,** Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 6, PLACE 1

**Betty Brock Bell,** Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 7, PLACE 1

**Zinetta Burney,** Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 7, PLACE 2

**Molly Maness-Barnes,** Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 8, PLACE 1

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**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What do you consider the two biggest challenges facing this position and how would you address them? (60 word limit)

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What do you consider the two biggest challenges facing this position and how would you address them? (60 word limit)

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**CANDIDATES:**

**Jack Abercia,** Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 1

**Daniel Vela**

Republican


**Gary L. Freeman**

Democrat

Attended San Jacinto College and Lamar University and received an Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Has 32 years experience as a certified Police Officer, and holds a Masters Certification. Elected Constable in 1988, and has increased the department adding many programs to better serve the community.

**Ken Jones,** Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 3

**Ron Hickman,** Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 4

**Glen Cheek,** Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 5

**Jesus Elias**

Republican

Jesus Elias is a public school graduate and a Desert Storm veteran who served with the 82nd Airborne Division. Elias was cross trained with the 75th Ranger Battalion and the 5th Special Forces, education compared to none in law enforcement. Elias serves his community now as a Deputy Constable.

**Victor Trevino**

Democrat

I graduated from H.L.S.D. – Austin High School. In 1976, I graduated from the Houston Police Academy where I served as a Houston Police Officer for 13 years. I received my Criminal Justice Degree at the University of Houston Downtown. In 1988, I was elected Harris County Constable Precinct six.

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**QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What do you consider the two biggest challenges facing this position and how would you address them? (60 word limit)

Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position. (50 word limit)

What do you consider the two biggest challenges facing this position and how would you address them? (60 word limit)

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**CANDIDATES:**

**Jack Abercia,** Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 1

**Daniel Vela**

Republican


**Gary L. Freeman**

Democrat

Attended San Jacinto College and Lamar University and received an Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Has 32 years experience as a certified Police Officer, and holds a Masters Certification. Elected Constable in 1988, and has increased the department adding many programs to better serve the community.

**Ken Jones,** Democrat – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 3

**Ron Hickman,** Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 4

**Glen Cheek,** Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 5

**Jesus Elias**

Republican

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Eight constables serve civil process issued by courts, such as suits for debts, divorce, eviction writs, foreclosure papers and summons. Serve warrant papers issued by justice of the peace courts and provide bailiffs for these courts. Have patrol personnel and may provide contract subdivision patrol. In most large courtroom facilities, Precinct 1 constables handle mental warrants.

**Questions to Candidates:**

**JAMES K. SHIPLEY**

**Republican**

BS degree in Criminal Justice, certified in several law enforcement areas. Retired, decorated war veteran over 20 years. Retired Master Peace Officer, over 20 years Harris County Sheriff’s Department, first African American Court Supervisor to supervise 160 Deputy Sheriff’s assigned to Civil and Criminal courts. Business owner and corporate security.

**MYA WALKER**

**Democrat**

I have the experience and qualifications to be an excellent leader as Constable. Graduate of the 1974 Houston Police Department Academy and The Blackenon Law Enforcement Management Institute – Sam Houston State University and Texas A&M University. I have a Master Peace Officer Certification and a Crime Prevention Certificate.

**BILL BAILEY**

**Republican – RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR PRECINCT 8**

**HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION**

Special Arrangements – Separate Election for District VI Trustee

On Election Day, November 2, at the General Election polling places within HISD’s District VI boundaries, HISD will hold a separate election to fill the District VI Trustee vacancy. Voters will first sign in and vote in the General Election. Then, they will move to the HISD sign-in location and vote in the HISD Trustee Election. If you are in District VI, you will be able to vote in both the General Election and the HISD Trustee Election at your precinct’s polling place on November 2. You can find out whether or not you are in District VI by going to www.houstonisd.org, then to Board of Education, then to Trustee District Map.

To vote early for HISD Trustee during the Early Voting Period October 18 – 29 you must go to one of three separate HISD early voting locations in District VI. The Early Voting Locations for the General Election will not have the HISD Election on their ballots and the HISD Early Voting Locations will not have the General Election on their ballots. The three HISD Early Voting Locations and Schedule are shown below.

**Voting Locations:**

- PINEY POINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 8921 Pagemound
- WEST BRIAR MIDDLE SCHOOL, 13733 Brinhurst
- SHARPSTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL, 8330 Triola

**Early Voting Schedule:**

- Monday - Saturday October 18 - 23 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday October 24 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Monday - Friday October 25 - 29 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Questions about this Special Election can be directed to HISD’s Government Relations Office, 713.892.6532.

**Candidates for HISD District VI Trustee**

Member of the HISD Board of Education, which establishes HISD policy and appoints the school superintendent. Serves without pay 4-year term.

**Questions to Candidates:**

**MIKE ANDRIES**

**District VI**

Rice MBA, LSU BS Computer Science; Management Consultant; Shell retiree with 27 years management, operations, strategic planning, business and technology development, quality improvement and cost reduction experience; PTA President, PTA Treasurer, SDMC member, PTO member; coordinated building Spark Park and implementing in-school budgeting process, IMC Board Member / Treasurer.

Aggressively monitor spending and approve innovative cost reduction strategies including outsourcing of non-core administrative and operational functions. Hold state legislators accountable for adequately funding public education while reducing the tax burden on local property owners. Implement statewide standards-based curricula to reduce the cost of education delivery and ensure equal and high quality educational content across all HISD schools.

**GREG MEYERS**

Earning a business degree and MBA from Texas A&M and St. Mary’s University has enabled me to start and operate my current position as President-Owner of Osk Dental. I won an HISD award, am a PTO member, and I am on the Board of the Houston West Chamber of Commerce.

An important determinant of student achievement over time is the quality of the teacher in the classroom. One problem in closing the equity gap is that above average at-risk schools have the lowest quality teachers. Reducing the number of levels on the compensation scale and broadening the ranges will provide greater incentives to teachers assigned to these schools.

**Questions to Candidates:**

**Please describe your education, your occupation, and the training and experience that qualify you for this position.** (50 word limit)

**What do you consider the two biggest challenges facing this position and how would you address them?** (50 word limit)

**With the current strain on public school financing, what policy and budget measures can HISD trustees take to help secure an equal and high quality education for all students in HISD?** (60 word limit)

**How would you rate the performance and impact of charter schools as contributing to the overall quality of education in HISD to date and what role, if any, should they have in the future?** (60 word limit)

**What measures can the HISD Board take to significantly reduce the drop out rate?** (60 word limit)

**HISD administered charter schools achieve excellent results; otherwise, results are mixed. Publicly funded charter schools must be held to strict NCLB performance standards. Charter schools often deal with challenging academic situations; however, their promise is to achieve the same or higher standard of performance as traditional schools. When they deliver, charter schools offer a viable alternative for Houston families.**

**Success in senior high starts early in the education process and requires end-to-end student progress monitoring from pre-K through graduation. System accountability to deliver seamless pre-K through 12 curricula; Statewide monitoring of all students’ attendance/enrollment and tracking of transient students; Understand dropout root cause, recognize Houston’s unique situations; quickly approving effective recommendations that directly meet the at-risk student needs.**

A significant factor in dropping out is the inability to read at grade level. HISD uses the Lexile reading scale, which shows many HISD students not reading at grade level. The challenge cannot be addressed short of the moral equivalent of a war on illiteracy, and must include more time on task, use of technology, and enhancement of teacher preparation.
Vote FOR or AGAINST each of the following City of Houston Propositions/Charter Amendments:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – CHARTER AMENDMENT □ FOR □ AGAINST
[Relating to Limits on Annual Increases in City Property Taxes and Utility Rates]
The Charter of the City of Houston shall be amended to require voter approval before property tax revenues may be increased in any future fiscal year above a limit measured by the lesser of 4.5% or the cumulative combined rates of inflation and population growth. Water and sewer rates would not increase more than the cumulative combined rates of inflation and population growth without prior voter approval. The Charter Amendment also requires minimum annual increases of 10% in the senior and disabled homestead property tax exemptions through the 2008 tax year.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 – CHARTER AMENDMENT □ FOR □ AGAINST
[Relating to Limits on All Combined City Revenues]
The City Charter of the City of Houston shall be amended to require voter approval before the City may increase total revenues from all sources by more than the combined rates of inflation and population, without requiring any limit of any specific revenue source, including water and sewer revenues, property taxes, sales taxes, fees paid by utilities and developers, user fees, or any other sources of revenues.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 – CHARTER AMENDMENT □ FOR □ AGAINST
[Relating to the City Controller’s role in performing internal audits]
The City Charter of the City of Houston shall be amended to provide for the City Controller to conduct internal audits of City departments, offices, agencies and programs.

NOTE: If both Proposition 1 and 2 pass, the one with the most votes will take effect.

PROPOSITION NO. 1
This proposition was put forth by Mayor Bill White and approved by a majority vote of Houston City Council as a less restrictive revenue-limiting option than Proposition 2. For information supporting this proposition, go to www.keephoustonstrong.com.

• Unless prior voter approval is obtained,
  increases in property tax revenues cannot exceed the lesser of 4.5% or the combined rates of inflation and population growth.
  increases in water and sewer rates cannot exceed the combined rates of inflation and population growth.

• Senior and disabled homestead property tax exemptions will be increased at least 10% per year through the 2008 tax year.

PROPOSITION NO. 2
This proposition was initiated by two citizen groups, Citizens for Public Accountability and Let the People Vote, and had more than the required 20,000 petition signatures. For information supporting this proposition, go to www.revcap.org.

• Unless prior voter approval is obtained, increases in total revenues from all sources, including property taxes, water/sewer revenues, sales taxes, utilities/developers fees, user fees, etc., cannot exceed the combined rates of inflation and population.

PROPOSITION NO. 3
This proposition was initiated by City Controller Parker to enable the Controllers Office to fully perform its audit function. For details of the audit authority, go to www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/controller/.

• Provides for the city controller to conduct internal audits of City departments, offices, agencies and programs.
League of Women Voters – Houston Area ................................. www.lwvhouston.org / 713.784.2923
League of Women Voters of Texas ........................................... www.lwvtexas.org / 512.472.1100
The Democracy Network, national voter information resource of the League of Women Voters .................. www.dnet.org
Texas Secretary of State ....................................................... www.sos.state.tx.us/elections
Texas Legislature Online w/links to Texas House and Senate, legislation and other state resources ........... www.capitol.state.tx.us
Harris County ......................................................................... www.co.harris.tx.us / 713.755.5000
Harris County Clerk’s Voter/Election Information .............................................. www.harrisvotes.com / 713.755.6965
Harris County Voter Registrar .................................................. www.hcvoter.net / 713.368.2200
Texas Democratic Party ......................................................... www.txdemocrats.org
Libertarian Party of Texas ..................................................... www.txlp.org
Republican Party of Texas ..................................................... www.texasgop.org

The Constitution of the United States was amended to give or broaden the Right to Vote…

- Male citizens, 21 years of age Amendment XIV July 9, 1868
- Male citizens regardless of race, color, former servitude Amendment XV February 3, 1870
- Women citizens, 21 years of age Amendment XIX August 18, 1920
- Tax on registering to vote (Poll Tax) eliminated Amendment XXIV January 23, 1964
- Voting age lowered to 18 Amendment XXVI July 1, 1979

Your Right To Vote Is Precious – But Unused It Has No Value

★ VOTE! ★

The League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization founded in 1920, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

For more information call the Houston Area League at 713.784.2923 or visit our web site, www.lwvhouston.org.

Or, complete the application form to join us and receive our monthly newsletter, Voters Guides, Voters Key – a handy directory of elected officials and useful voter information – and much more!!

Membership Application

Name_________________________________________________________
Address___________________City____________State ____Zip _______
Phone:    Home______________________ Work ____________________
E-mail_______________________________Fax ______________________

❏ One Year Individual Membership $50.00
❏ One Year Household (Two members who share the same address) $75.00
❏ Student Membership (With ID) $25.00
❏ Donation $__________________

Mail check and application to:
League of Women Voters of the Houston Area
2650 Fountainview #328
Houston,TX 77057
How do I use the Voting Machine?

1. Use the SELECT wheel and ENTER button to select English, Spanish, or Vietnamese language.

2. Use the SELECT wheel and ENTER button to enter the number code you will receive, the ballot for your precinct appears on screen.

3. Turn the SELECT wheel to move the blue bar over the choice you wish to make.

4. Press the ENTER button to mark your choice.

5. Use the PREV and NEXT buttons to move back and forth between ballot pages.

6. Press the HELP button once to get instructions on the screen; press it twice to ask for help from a pollworker.

7. After entering all your choices, then review the summary list of your choices. When finished, press the CAST BALLOT button. You will see the American flag on screen indicating your ballot has been recorded.

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Just follow these 7 easy steps.

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE & LOCATIONS

EARLY VOTING IN HARRIS COUNTY

Early voting in person for the November 2 general election runs from Monday, October 18 through Friday, October 29 at many locations throughout Harris County.

Any eligible voter may vote at any one of the early voting polling locations.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

MAIN OFFICE: (Downtown Houston) 1310 Prairie, 16th Floor

NORTHEAST AREA

Humble: (SRD 141-H) Octavio Fields Branch Library 1503 South Houston Avenue, Humble

Kashmere: (SRD 142-K) Kashmere Multi-Service Center 4802 Lockwood

Kingwood: (SRD 127) Fire Station 102 4102 Lake Houston Parkway, Kingwood

Moody Park: (SRD 148) Moody Park Recreation Center 3725 Fulton

Port: (SRD 140) Hardy Senior Center 11901 West Hardy Road

Northeast Houston: (SRD 141-C) BeBeTabernacle Methodist Church 7210 Langley

Southeast Area: (SRD 141) Bayland Park Community Center 6400 Bissonnet near Hillcroft

Far West Houston: (SRD 133-M) Courtyard by Marriott (Board Room) 12401 Katy Freeway @ Dairy Ashford

SOUTHWEST AREA

Humble: (SRD 149) Alief Regional Branch Library 7979 South Kirkwood

Astrodome Area: (SRD 146-F) Fiesta Mart, Inc. 8130 Kirby Drive

Near West Side: (SRD 134) Metropolitan Multi-Service Center 1475 West Gray

Near West Side: (SRD 137-T) Tracy Gee Community Center 3599 Westcenter Drive (One block East of Sam Houston Tollway - off Richmond)

West Houston: (SRD 133-V) VN TeamWork 11210 Bellaire, Suite 118

South Houston Area: (SRD 131) The Power Center 12401 South Post Oak Road

Southwest Houston: (SRD 137-B) Bayland Park Community Center 6400 Bissonnet near Hillcroft

Far West Houston: (SRD 133-M) Courtyard by Marriott (Board Room) 12401 Katy Freeway @ Dairy Ashford

NORTHWEST AREA

Acres Homes: (SRD 139) Acres Homes Multi-Service Center 6719 W. Montgomery Road, 2nd Floor

Bear Creek: (SRD 138) Bear Creek Park Community Center Bear Creek Drive @ Patterson Road

Cypress Creek: (SRD 126) Barbara Bush Library 6817 Cypresswood, Spring

Far West/Katy: (SRD 132) Harris County M.U.D.No.81 805 Hidden Canyon @ Cimarron, Katy

Jersey Village: (SRD 135) Epiphany Lutheran Church 8101 Senate

Spring Branch: (SRD 136) Harris County Courthouse Annex #35 1721 Pech Road, 2nd Floor

Tomball: (SRD 130) Tomball Public Works Building 501 B James, Tomball

Houston: (SRD 150) Ponderosa Fire Station No.1 17061 Rolling Creek Drive, Houston

SRD (State Representative District)

Polling locations are subject to change.

SOUTHEAST AREA

Clear Lake: (SRD 129) Freeman Branch Library 16616 Diana Lane, Clear Lake

Galena Park: (SRD 143) Galena Park Branch Library 1500 Keene Street, Galena Park

Palm Center: (SRD 147) Justice of the Peace/Constable Entry 5300 Griggs Road

Baytown: (SRD 128-B) Remington Park Assisted Living 901 West Baker Road, Baytown

Pasadena: (SRD 128-P) Harris County Courthouse Annex #25 7330 Spencer Highway, Pasadena

Hobby Area: (SRD 144) I.B.E.W.Hall, #66 4345 Allen Genoa Road

Southeast Houston: (SRD 145) H.C.C.S. Southeast College 2524 Garland @ Rustic Eastside Campus Annex

Sunnyvale: (SRD 146-S) Sunnyvale Multi-Service Center 4605 Wilmingon

EARLY VOTING HOURS

Monday, October 18 – Friday, October 22: 8 AM to 4:30 PM

Saturday, October 23: 7 AM to 7 PM

Sunday, October 24: 1 PM to 6 PM

Monday, October 25 – Friday, October 29: 7 AM to 7 PM
The League of Women Voters appreciates the companies that make the Voters Guide possible.

LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORT VOTERS GUIDE DISTRIBUTION TO SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES

Area schools and libraries will receive free Voters Guides thanks to the generosity of several companies. The companies shown below made this happen. On behalf of the libraries and schools and our organization, the League of Women Voters – Houston Area sincerely thanks you.

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International Association of Business Communicators
Southwest Bank of Texas
Structural Consulting Co., Inc.
Turbo Components and Engineering

Special Thanks to Fiesta for Spanish Voters Guide
Fiesta Mart is sponsoring the Spanish Edition of the Voters Guide. It is available in their stores and some libraries. Thank you, Fiesta, for helping us reach Spanish-speaking voters.

LEAGUE’S EDUCATION FUNDS ARE ESSENTIAL TO VOTERS GUIDE

The Education Funds of the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area and the League of Women Voters of Texas make substantial contributions to the Harris County and the State Voters Guides. These Education Funds are supported by individuals, businesses and foundations. Major contributors since September 2003 to the Education Funds are gratefully acknowledged and named below.

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