



VOTERS GUIDE

Nonpartisan

NOVEMBER 3, 2020, GENERAL ELECTION

PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL & ISD

Early voting: October 13-30

Election Day Polls: November 3 – 7 am to 7 pm

ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This Voters Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Collin County to help citizens prepare to cast an informed vote. The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

This guide is available online at www.LWVCollin.org, along with guides for other offices that include all or part of Collin County. Candidate responses for all races are also available at www.VOTE411.org, where you can enter an address and view a personalized ballot with races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates for each office, whether or not the race is contested. Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response received" is printed. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This Voters Guide is organized by office sought, with candidates listed in alphabetical order.

Table of Contents

Princeton Mayor	2
Princeton City Council, Place 3	6
Princeton City Council, Place 4	10
Princeton City Council, Place 5	14
Princeton ISD Trustee (2 seats)	17

<p>League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization</p> <p>The LWV never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.</p>
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Princeton Mayor and City Council

2-year term, elected citywide. Must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen, a qualified voter, and a resident of the city. The City Council establishes city policy through ordinances and resolutions.

Questions

Growth: Collin County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. What should the City Council do, if anything, to address population growth?

Economy: Should the City Council try to attract more businesses? Why or why not?

Finance: What would you like to change, if anything, about the city budget and taxation?

Trust: How will you work with residents to earn their trust in city government?

Services: What changes should be made, if any, to city services? What would it take to make these changes?

Other issues: What other important issues are facing the City Council, and how would you address them?

Philip Anthony Princeton Mayor



Education: Bachelor of Business Master of Educational Administration

Experience: Superintendent Princeton ISD 19 years Director Chamber of Commerce 8 years Dir. Economic Dev. Committee 1 year Lions Club Officer 10+ years Onion Festival Organizer 10+ years Angle Tree Organizer 10+ years City Planning Committee

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Growth: Long Range Planning is the key to being prepared for the explosive growth that is and will continue to effect Princeton. Proper planning would involve demographic projections, priority list with cost projections and completion dates for each priority. Citizen committees would consider the demographic and cost information and present recommendations to the council. This Long-Range Plan would ensure infrastructure plans are in place (roads, water, wastewater) to meet our demographic projections for at least the next 10 years. As Supt of PISD we have been following this model for 19 years.

Economy: The City Council should absolutely do as much as possible to attract more businesses to our community. The cost of infrastructure and services will continue to rise, and we need to remove much of that tax burden from our citizens. I am currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Corporation. I would continue to be very pro-business and develop incentive programs to attract business and services to meet the needs of our citizens.

Finance: When I began as Supt. of PISD 19 years ago, it was overcrowded, in bad financial shape and we did not have a plan for the future. We began our planning and developed top priorities. PISD is currently in good financial shape, has excellent facilities, and has a plan for additional campuses each year for the next 6 years, yet our tax rate is lower than when I arrived. I would want to follow a similar plan for the City. The budget would be built around priorities, and infrastructure cost should be structured so the tax burden lands in the future after new construction has broadened our tax base.

Trust: You earn people's trust by being honest with them, even when the message is something they don't agree with or want to hear. During my time as Supt, I had disagreements with parents over the best course of action for their child, but we could disagree and still respect the others opinion as long as we believed each had the best interest of the student at heart. If elected, I would continue to be open and honest with all citizens. The second portion is increasing community input for the decision process. I believe more community input would greatly increase ownership and trust.

Services: First, I would see the water and wastewater rates adjusted by utilizing winter averaging and inclusion of some amount of water in the base fee. Second, I would like to see City Hall opened for services. Most of our businesses have re-opened and with the Plexiglas already in the design, there is very little exposure. Third, I would also like to have discussions concerning increased offerings for the youth and elderly.

Other Issues: Our society is currently very polarized. The City Council should work to unite the community despite the efforts of extremist that utilize name calling and bullying tactics to divide us.

**Brianna Chacon
Princeton Mayor**



Education: Associate of Science--Richland College Bachelors of Geoscience--In Progress Field Camp/Mountain Charting--Oklahoma State University Aerospace Scholar--NASA Licensed Real Estate Agent

Experience: Licensed Realtor Have served on numerous boards and committees Current chairholder on the "Leadership Committee" with Simply Texas Real Estate, which is an elected position. 15 year resident of Princeton Former Princeton ISD employee

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Growth: The growth we are experiencing was inevitable. It's the natural attrition of people to move further north and start spreading out to the suburban cities. However, growth does not necessarily equate to "thriving" and does not ensure a better quality of life. In all honesty, it could actually mean the opposite if not led carefully. The key is for city council, our chamber of commerce, city admin, and our Mayor to work in a united fashion to make for sure the growth plan designed by the hired consultant group in 2018 is fully executed but also has fluidity to accomodate immediate needs.

Economy: Our City Council MUST try to attract new businesses. It will be a key factor in the success of our city. The more commercial businesses, warehouses, restaurants, etc. we have then the more job opportunities will be given to our citizens. Their revenue will help with the price of infrastructure and contribute towards our taxes which will be a huge relief to our citizens who are already hurting. However, we must be creative in how we try to drive these businesses into our town other than just tax abatement since every other city offers the same thing and essentially nullifies the incentive.

Finance: Again, this is where development really will play a vital key in our success with the budget. Every move we make has to be fiscally responsible. However, our city is in need of much! Our fire fighters are underpaid, many of our city officials are underpaid, our roads need repair, we need more parks, our downtown needs a complete revitalization. However, all of these come with a price tag. Simply put, we need the help from commercial builders and developers to make this work. There just is not enough money in our budget to do all that we need to do to make this a thriving town that can compete.

Trust: Integrity, Honesty, and Relationship building will be key. This is the same practice I have adopted on my own personal Real Estate business and have seen my business thrive because of my integrity and heart. People want to be heard, listened to, and want to feel that they have a place in our city. I intend to give them that. Every person, every voice, WE are Princeton. We are strong but we are stronger together. I will work side by side with city officials and our council members as well as I will work hand in hand with our residents to bridge the gap in relationships.

Services: The greatest potential change I want to see in the immediate future is an audit into our water bills. While this has been addressed already at our last city council meeting, I still feel there is a problem. I believe that the rates are on par for our city, but our residents are consistently voicing their concern over the reported usage and fluctuation of usage. I believe an outside entity needs to do a full audit into the system and analytics that deliver the usage data to find any errors or discrepancies. This has been an ongoing issue for too long with our residents and we must find answers.

Other Issues: One of the greatest issues I can directly see right now that will be a challenge for our city council is Unity. There are so many different thoughts and ideas for our town and so many different ideologies on if/how it should grow. Getting everyone on the same page will not be an easy task, but with a strong leader it will make it much more feasible. Our city has to operate on a unified front. From our city officials and residents, to our law enforcement and first responders. We have to create a bridge to gap divisions and create trust and a true partnership.

David Sprawls
Princeton Mayor

No photo provided

Education: Texas Tech University BA

Experience: 5 years at City of Lubbock Public Information Officer 30+ years in construction/development

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Growth: Foster growth by deregulation and helping increase ability to build without governmental interference. The City Manager, Economic Development Coordinator and staff are instrumental in helping with the process of development in Princeton. I feel I add to the ability to foster Construction, small business and growth in our city. Helping our city staff become better and fostering innovation will grow our City and the trust of our residents.

Economy: Absolutely. We should work to increase business to give citizens a wide variety of venues to enjoy. This also provides a wider tax base and increased revenues to the city ultimately allowing government to decrease property taxes.

Finance: As mentioned... increase business diversity and development, therefore increasing ability to lower taxes.

Trust: By standing for what is right and always working hard to do what is right; for the residents of Princeton and those who work hard to make our City government run well.

Services: Improvements in downtown roads, improving water service/costs and working to always honor our police and frontline workers. Being active and diligent in understanding all departments and working hard to find efficiencies in each of those departments to take advantage of and strengthen or reduce inefficiencies.

Other Issues: I feel the biggest challenge of any City Council is relevant work toward strategic growth. Not all growth is efficient and best. As we build new City offices in Princeton... we need to hire well moving forward. Individuals that are from the business world, deploying their skills to better our city's development and fostering the best, most efficient and cost effective growth.

Evan Lewis
Princeton City Council, Place 3



Education: Some College

Experience: My wife and I moved here 5 years ago and made Princeton our home. I have Served the past three years here in Princeton on the Forest Grove HOA. I have also done some volunteer work with the city of Princeton.

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Growth: The current rate of growth is something that cannot be ignored. Unfortunately growth is inevitable and must be addressed. I do believe that the current city council has done some great things to address this growth we need to be more proactive in creating a place that both people and businesses will want to call home and grow with us. I will address the business aspect in the next section. Princeton must look forward and look at having higher end housing

and business so that as our people grow they do not look outside of the town they love for their next home to grow into.

Economy: ABSOLUTELY! More businesses means more people stay in Princeton and spend their money here instead of McKinney or the Plano/Frisco area. Not only is that a source of more revenue for the city, it's good for retention and growth of our city. More businesses, means more job opportunities for the people of Princeton. More business/job opportunities means a better future for our people. It also means more options for the people of Princeton as well, I know personally as much as I love our small business my wife and I find ourselves outside of Princeton due to the lack of options.

Finance: Taxes are a huge issue with me, I believe in especially in Collin County that the people are overburdened with taxes. That being said, I would closely examine and work with the city to make sure there is no wasteful spending. I would love to provide any type of tax relief possible while maintaining and growing the much needed infrastructure. We need to make sure that the people think and know that their money is being put to good use for their benefit. I would also look at all the "permits" we have as those are just another form of taxation, I would eliminate the unnecessary or overreaching.

Trust: Trust is key, especially in this time when our nation is so divided. I would operate with a "open door" to make myself available to the people of Princeton as much as possible. I would remind the people that I'm not a politician, I'm your neighbor and a local business owner. I want to hear your voice, I want to know your dreams for the future. Remember we're in this to build a better Princeton together!

Services: I think with the growth we are experiencing I believe our city could possibly use a larger library with more resources. We might have citizens who do not have access to computers or the internet and a larger library equipped with the proper resources could be a large help. To address the so called "elephant in the room" we must find out why our people get erroneous water bills when their usage is fairly consistent. People getting bills that are hundreds more than their unusual bills with no change in usage should be a red flag.

Other Issues: I think "Downtown" needs to be addressed and something done more quickly than is currently being done. I love the "Main street Market", it's great to see local vendors and people gathering "downtown". But we need more, we need an area like McKinney has where people can go do a little shopping and enjoy a meal or some drinks. Right now we don't have that nor do we have an area with an atmosphere that would provide that. We could have that type of area, but we cannot sit by and make plans for years while our people search for that in our neighboring towns.

Mike McCandless
Princeton City Council, Place 3

No photo provided

Education: Radio Disc Jockey, Locksmith, Paramedic, Firefighter, Arson Investigator & Peace Officer,

Experience: Certified Master Locksmith, Professional Disc Jockey/Voice Over & Master of Ceremonies, Retired Firefighter, Paramedic & Retired Law Enforcement Officer & Current Business Owner

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Growth: Understand and work together on solutions that address the impact on traffic, roadway conditions, along with the impact on school and city resources, which includes bringing in businesses that help the tax base of the city. By no means should try to sprint to the finish. We should be looking to develop in the right way.

Economy: The City Council should continually work with the city staff, the EDC and CDC to help ensure positive economic growth which in turn can help lower the tax burden on the citizens. More businesses mean more job opportunities,

Finance: I would like to see substantially more effort and time put in addressing and working towards bringing in the right types of businesses that will help grow the city tax base, which in turn can lower the tax burden on the residents. We should lower the cost of building permits to make it more enticing to want to build here.

Trust: I will listen to their concerns and work towards peaceful solutions. Also by answering questions as that pertain to the city council decisions.

Services: We need a full time paid Fire Department (Full Staff) and other increased public services It will take focusing on and bringing in business that help the overall tax base. We have almost 20, 000 people in Princeton and only 3 full time paid firefighters (the rest are part-time/volunteers) and one fire station that is old and outdated. We need to take care of our first responders, the one who sacrifice and take care of us.

Other Issues: Traffic, housing and taxation. Per my earlier answers, I would work together to help build the overall tax based by working with the city staff, EDC and CDC to bring in the right type of businesses. Which would also help create local jobs for those that live here.

Bryan Washington
Princeton City Council, Place 3



Education: Amberton University, Business Management

Experience: Youth Sports Director, Small Business Owner, Community Outreach Volunteer, Director of Franchise Operations and Director of Field Operations

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Growth: The county, as well as the city of Princeton, is growing rapidly. Honestly, I feel the growth is inevitable. As a council, our focus should be making sure we grow responsibly and be proactive. This entails such things as having proper police and fire staff, attracting family entertainment businesses, constructing areas for activity and recreation and having affordable housing. Our goal should be to do all this while staying true to our city's identity.

Economy: Absolutely. If our city can attract more businesses, we will only benefit from those tax dollars. The more tax dollars we can acquire, the more we can improve as a city. As a council, we should work to attract what is needed to balance the city when it comes to businesses.

Finance: My primary knowledge of the city's budget is in Parks and Recreation. I would like to see a bit more allocated to areas to promote more biking, running and other lifestyle amenities. Although our parks have improved greatly, there are other things we could add based on NPRA standards. My biggest concern with our budget, goes back to our growth and making sure these are aligned. Once I've reviewed the entire budget in depth, I would want to ensure we have monies allocated for competitive pay for police and fire as well as dedicated capital for roads and other public safety items.

Trust: For me it will be listening and being as transparent as possible. As a city, I feel our public relations is lacking and at times absent. I would work to find a way we could provide information to our citizens without going against the integrity of the council role.

Services: The biggest area of opportunity is the cost of water, as this is the biggest pain point for our citizens. The first thing that needs to happen is we need the bills themselves to be clearer and have more information on them. Next, we need to see how developers can possibly incur more of the initial costs as it pertains to water to prevent the majority of the costs being passed to the citizens. Ultimately, we need to work to bring more commercial businesses into

our city in order to make this more affordable long term and eliminate the fluctuation that we currently see.

Other Issues: One of the concerns I hear often is our city needs to make things easier for small businesses to open. I would address this by looking at our current codes, development plans and structure to see where we could make improvements to our process. I would also work with the EDC and other action committees to identify gaps in our process and identify how we can fill.

Yesenia “Jessie” Lopez
Princeton City Council, Place 4



Education: Law Enforcement Academy Collin County Community College TCOLE Advanced Peace Officer

Experience: 12.5 Years Law Enforcement Princeton Police Department

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Growth: We are going to embrace growth in Princeton, Texas. In my experience in law enforcement, I was called upon to respond to many incidents involving language barriers and different cultures. A growing population will need to be prepared to address these differences. Google translate should not be the tool to bridge this gap. We should promote multi-cultural events to develop a strong community bond. The more we learn about each other, the stronger our city will be.

Economy: Princeton should want to revitalize and grow, which means courting new business that can relieve the tax burden from our citizens. Consider subsidizing rent for business, especially in our downtown area. Partner with the Chamber of Commerce to be an advocate on behalf of incoming business. Also look at what the workforce brings to the table. Young adults like great restaurants, fun nightlife, and cool places to live. Workforce development offers training and support for the business community. This will all benefit our citizens and attract more business.

Finance: City government will forever be sensitive to the fluctuations in their budget, and the procedures that hold it together. I would really like to see a budget review practice put in place for all major purchases. There needs to be stricter approval measures.

Trust: Trust of our residents is vital to the growth and stability of Princeton. I know that I will be making decisions that touch upon the quality of life for our residents. I want to ensure that any development will build a healthier and stronger community. As a former police officer, I have already established many great relationships with our residents and earned their trust. I plan on listening deeper and seeking out more areas to create resident participation. A City leader must be transparent and cooperative to win the trust of their residents.

Services: Changes should be as painless as possible. One service needing improvement is waste management. Many residents have already expressed concern over the poor quality of trash pickup. I feel that providing ways for citizen's input, like opinion polls and making your voice heard at City Council, would bring attention to these issues to bring about a resolution. Another area of major concern from our citizens is the current city water rate. The city government needs to have serious discussions on pricing and water service affordability. Residents should expect more and better services.

Other Issues: - no response -

Jodie Schmitt
Princeton City Council, Place 4



Education: I recently earned my Associate of Arts degree from Collin College in May of this year. Currently I am a full time student at Texas A&M-Commerce in their Bachelor of Social Work program.

Experience: I have no prior experience in the political field, but as a future social worker and founder of a local mom group, I see and hear the needs in my community. I understand how policies can affect our town, especially for those who struggle financially.

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Growth: Growth can be a good thing, but it can also be extremely hard on those who can not afford the increase in expenses that come with it. Affordable housing is a prime example of this and forces many families to move elsewhere. I think we need to find ways to help others live in

quality homes and safe neighborhoods. I have been a struggling single mother and know what it is like to not be able to afford a place for my children to live. We need to bring in builders that fit all economic statuses of our citizens and give them a reason to make Princeton their home.

Economy: I believe Princeton could benefit from more businesses if they are the right ones. We need to bring in those that our youth and families will benefit from and are willing to invest in our town and school district. While I understand the priority of a business is to make a profit, they will yield better monetary gains if the community knows they want to help our youth. Our children are the future of our city and we need to give them reasons to stay and raise their families where they grew up.

Finance: Our city is growing at a rapid rate, yet there is not much for our youth there. I know that the city has several things in the works, but I feel as though there needs to be more for the children there. I would love to see a budget/scholarship program set up for families who would like their children to participate in our youth sports organization programs but are unable to afford it. Over 50% our children are living at or below poverty level in Princeton and unfortunately their parents are usually unable to come up with extra money for programs like these.

Trust: It is especially important for the community to know who they elected to manage their city and being open and available for the citizens is one of the best ways to show they can trust you. I feel it is vital to participate in events and functions that the city and school district hold and to be seen and heard in the community, not from just behind a name posted on the city website. Actively listening to anyone who wants to contact or meet with me will be a priority for me to be sure their concerns are heard.

Services: A food pantry would be a great addition to city services. The recent pandemic has shown us that food sources and income can be depleted very quickly leaving families without food. While there are food banks that help, their open days and times are not always good for those in need. We already have three place to drop off food for those in need in our city, but to have an area that could keep other staples like diapers, milk, vegetables, and meats would be a wonderful addition to our city. The new community center project would be a great place to house these items.

Other Issues: The water rates are a huge issue for most of our citizens. Some months they are getting surprised with water bills over \$600 a month, even when their usage did not change. This can be devastating to a family with limited income sources. So, we need to re-examine the water rates and figure out why this is has been going on for over a year. This issue also keeps people from moving to our town, and it keeps them from staying. Our goal as a city is to bring in more money, not lose it.

Keven Underwood
Princeton City Council, Place 4



Education: Associates of Arts in Management Bachelors of Science in Administration

Experience: Former Senior Law Enforcement Officer Chairman of Youth Citizens Committee
Former Associate Reverend of True Vine Pentecostal Church City Chair For Southern States
Police Benevolent Association Current Collin GOP Precinct Chair

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Growth: As we continue to grow, we must make sure we pre-plan infrastructure including roadways, water towers and sidewalks. We have to ensure that we are taking in an adequate number of businesses as well. This relieves some of the tax and water bill burdens that the residential areas currently have to primarily carry. Our city is not pedestrian friendly and we need make sure that as we expand we plan out proper walk ways and byways so that we do not drive pedestrian traffic directly onto busy roadways like 380.

Economy: Yes. More business revenues us to complete necessary city projects in a timely manners. We also want Princeton to be a one stop shop for those of us who live here. We need choices on where to purchase goods and keep our money continually flowing back into our city. Likewise, business revenues relieve utility and tax burdens from falling solely on the residential citizens. We can choose to attract the right types of businesses that will foster our hometown feel but enhance the vibrancy of Princeton.

Finance: Taxation is always a controversial issue, but truth is we have to pay taxes and balance our city budget. We need fiscally conservative candidates like myself who are more comfortable saying no to certain tangible projects to protect the tax payers. I am against over extending ourselves and having short falls because we take on more than we can appropriately pay for in the near future. First responders must always have a full and fair budget that reflects the true cost of protecting our community. Grow without burdening the tax payers any further.

Trust: Honesty, telling people about what we are doing behind the scenes. I am a huge fan of neighborhood meetings and Town Halls. I would regularly keep my social media updated, as well as email out a monthly recap of the projects or initiatives that we are working on. Couple these together with the Town halls and neighborhood meetings, this would allow me to listen

and understand people personally. I believe it is essential for a governing body to have personal, first hand knowledge of how the citizens feel and what they are concerned about. My Motto "Come talk with me".

Services: We definitely need to look into the number of patrol officer we have. Right now, the city Police run such a tight shift that they can pretty much never run traffic enforcement. Which as we all know is needed in many neighborhoods. We also, need to begin moving our Fire department toward more full time employees in addition to the volunteers we have.

Other Issues: I believe that we need more people to volunteer for our committees and have a say in our governing body. I would like to have awards and bring more pride to our city. Citizen of the year awards, Senior of the year. A Youth Committee that would meet and advise council on how we can assist them with staying out of trouble, activities they can do during summer months and clubs to keep them engaged with their peers. Also, a Council mentor ship that would allow the kids to shadow us and see how a governing body works first hand.

Steve Deffibaugh
Princeton City Council, Place 5



Education: Graduated Sherman HS 1969, Associate Degree in Police Science from Grayson College, BS in Criminal Justice from Abilene Christian University at Dallas

Growth: Having been a public servant in Collin County since 1974, I have seen the tremendous growth. I have seen the cities grow and planned growth in a necessity. Working with developers to ensure the product they want to bring into the city offers a quality of life people are seeking to raise their families in. The City has to work in concert with developers every step of the way, to attract families and businesses.

Economy: Attracting businesses to a growing City is very competitive and we have to work within our means to bring the right businesses into the City. A local business is more than just tax revenue. The correct can be a local employer for our citizens. The correct businesses also attract other businesses and we should use all resources available to provide them a vibrant community to move to.

Finance: A growing Community such as Princeton has an ever-increasing budget. With growth comes the need to increase staffing in all city services and to do so without a tax increase takes strategic planning to ensure the needs of the citizens are not compromised. Citizen input will always be welcomed. Remembering, I am also a tax payer and no one likes to pay more taxes.

Trust: I have been a public servant since 1969 when I enlisted in the USMC. Public trust and integrity are something that cannot be bought or sold. Transparency in government is a must. I rely on my personal Christian values and integrity, which I will not compromise to satisfy anyone or any groups agenda.

Services: City services in a growing city are always increasing, rather it having to purchase more equipment or hiring personal to meet the demands of the growth, a great challenge has been laid at the feet of our City leaders to meet head on. Strategic planning for the growth, with the input of all city staff and citizens is a necessity, never forgetting not to compromise safety and quality of life sought after by our citizens

Other Issues: A survey and study were done a couple of years ago and the Citizens wanted improved parks and affordable housing. As part of the Community Development Corporation (funded by sales tax only) we have been able to make great strides in improving our community parks and walking trails, without using property tax money. Parks do bring families and the community together

Marlo Obera
Princeton City Council, Place 5



Education: -Western Michigan Law School

Experience: -Assistant Public Defender -Former Asst City Attorney

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Growth: City Council should most definitely address the population growth. City Council should plan accordingly to build the infrastructure to proactively prepare for the inevitable growth of the City such as utilities, tax rates, municipal services, emergency services, community resources, and youth activities to mention a few.

Economy: Yes, the City Council should try to attract more business; however, it needs to be done responsibly and selectively based on the needs of the Community. Due to the growth, a lot of the cost to build the supporting infrastructure is passed on to us residents. That cost can be shared with the business community to alleviate some of the strain on the residents.

Finance: I cannot rightfully answer this question at this time. What I will say is, I would like to audit the budget and the tax revenue to ascertain or question expenditures that may be unnecessary or unnecessarily costly.

Trust: Communication and transparency. I will represent to citizens of Princeton and not just my own interest. To properly represent, I must have open dialogue with the Community and transparency as to how their concerns are being addressed and how their tax dollars are being spent.

Services: I would work to grow our city services to meet the needs of the growing population. More police officers, more fireman, more access to medical services, and community centers for our youth. I feel it would take proper planning for responsible growth.

Other Issues: Two blaring issues at this moment are COVID and racial unrest in the nation. These issues are not at the doorstep of Princeton but have already entered the house. I don't want Princeton to be the next negative, national headline. I will address these issues by facing them head on and not ignore them like they don't exist. I would like to proactively deal with these issues through community engagement and outreach.

Princeton ISD Board of Trustees

3-year term, elected district wide. Must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen, a qualified voter, and a resident of the District. The Board of Trustees makes all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures, and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget, levy taxes, and submit bond issues to finance construction projects.

Questions

The whole child: What should your district do beyond academics, if anything, to better prepare students with career and life skills?

Finance: The HB3 school finance legislation changed recapture, increased the basic allotment per student, and increased employee compensation. What should the next steps be for your district's finances?

Involvement: What have you done to support public education in your community?

Teachers: What should your district do to attract and retain good teachers?

Demographics: How are the student demographics changing? What actions should the district take to address those changes in order to provide a high-quality education to all students?

Other issues: What other important issues are facing the school district, and how would you address them?

Cyndi Darland
Princeton ISD Trustee (2 seats)



Education: I graduated Cum Laude from Texas A&M University in 1974- one of the first women to have the privilege- with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, Health and PE. Previously, I graduated from Texarkana College with an Associate Degree in Music and Language

Experience: I taught 6th-12th grade from 1979-2016 with breaks to have children -at Trent School, Lincoln JHS and Cooper HS, Plano SHS, Allen HS and Lowery FC as well as Princeton HS before retiring. I currently teach private piano, voice and swimming.

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The whole child: We in education must do a better job of teaching practical education that is needed by everyone in life. We need to offer choices to those that do not choose to go to college. A couple of ideas are to strengthen our technology classes- offering auto, beauty, and IT to name a few.... Another need is a practical class that teaches older students topics like how to keep and balance a checkbook, how to do taxes, the importance and how to establish credit. Younger students would learn important practical information like how to use 911 and proper nutrition.

Finance: I know, as a retired teacher, that I personally spent hundreds of dollars each year for supplies all year long for my classroom! Some districts did not even supply paper clips or provide sufficient paper for running off assignments and tests. This issue needs to be addressed along with other issues that may vary from school to school. We need to listen to our teachers, students and administrators-I intend to be their voice!

Involvement: I have been immersed in Education since 1979, teaching and coaching in 7 different schools before retirement. I have coached every sport that girls play. I was awarded Dallas Morning News Coach of the Year and District Coach of the Year when my Soccer team went to State 2 years in a row. I am currently President of the Noino Club in Princeton. We raise money each year for Scholarships for Seniors and have given thousands of dollars of

scholarships to further education! I worked as President of our Teacher's Union in our District to make sure teachers had a voice in issues important to them.

Teachers: The first things that attract Teachers to a District are salary, reputation, location and opportunity. A District must be competitive with other Districts in their location. Great health insurance is a real need for teachers as well. Reputation is important. Administrators must support teachers in the classroom! Discipline must be handled appropriately so that learning may occur. Excellence in every aspect-including class size, number of preparations, and mentors for new teachers need to be considered. Teachers want to have the opportunity to grow and also be creative.

Demographics: Our schools are growing with new neighborhoods being built and more students enrolling in our schools. We are becoming a more diverse community. We need to address building new schools to house our students. We must attract great teachers. We need to make sure we have classes for ESL and Special Education. We must be aware of the different needs that arise and be diligent to creatively solve the issues. We must listen and look and care. And then- we must act.

Other issues: The biggest issue facing any School District right now is the Covid Pandemic. How do we provide the best education to our students while safeguarding them and our teachers and staff? I would provide on- site teaching with appropriate safety measures. I would also offer the option of learning from home for a period of time. There is a need to place an emphasis on reading and writing. There is a need to raise expectations for our students to go to college. The more rigor in the classroom, and the more positivity, will result in greater success.

Doug Ellyson
Princeton ISD Trustee (2 seats)



Education: B.A. in Education

Experience: 8 years' experience teaching wide-range of subjects at business colleges

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The whole child: The school district should enable and encourage students to engage in team and individual sports, performance or decorative arts, and "adulting" (balancing a checkbook,

applying for jobs, sewing, reading a contract, etc). The district should also provide resources for maintaining their personal physical and mental health, and understanding/expressing their sexuality. Vocational training should be available, as well as internships with various local businesses and types of occupations students might consider.

Finance: As a newcomer to the Board I can't speculate what I'll recommend if elected because I don't have enough information. My work history includes several years when my job titles were "Finance Manager," "Credit Manager," or "Budget Analyst," so I have the knowledge and experience needed to make informed financial decisions and recommendations.

Involvement: Our 4th grader attends Smith Elementary, and whenever the school has fundraisers or hosts events, we're always there to show our support. I'm running for School Board to try to do even more than that.

Teachers: I graduated college with a BA in Education and was certified to teach K-12. When I searched for teaching positions, I was attracted to districts that had high ratings, and which paid better than average for the area. I avoided school districts that had reputations of violence or low ratings, or which paid less than average. We moved here three years ago from North Carolina and picked Princeton primarily because of the school district rating, so as a School Board member I hope to help keep the high ratings and ensure the district teachers are paid and incentivised properly.

Demographics: Princeton is growing quickly, so the demographics will fluctuate until the growth stabilizes. The district should encourage all demographics to utilize the district schools (rather than homeschool or private school) to help ensure all school-age children within the district receive a high-quality education regardless of their demographics. The district should help alleviate or remove barriers to that (such as language, technology, or transportation) for the children's sake.

Other issues: My 4th grader has attended PISD since kindergarten, yet has already experienced bullying, misogyny, and sexism! Some gems she's learned at school: football and some other sports are only for boys, girls shouldn't like math or science, "boys will be boys" (an excuse provided by a teacher when a boy repeatedly hit her arm). My concerns for her expand to her friends and further to all little girls in PISD - I want all of them to grow up and graduate from Princeton High School having never been treated differently (certainly not poorly) due to their gender.

Chad Jones
Princeton ISD Trustee (2 seats)

No response received

John Murray
Princeton ISD Trustee (2 seats)

No response received

Lisa Ware
Princeton ISD Trustee (2 seats)

No response received

Ebony Wilson
Princeton ISD Trustee (2 seats)



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The whole child: The answer is in the question. Beyond academics are critical thinking-life skills. These disciplines are largely, not in text books. Intangibles. Offering new courses can be a costly risk to the District. Mitigation of this risk can be curriculum augmentation, to incorporate these intangibles, critical thinking-life skills. Examples of excellent mechanisms: group projects, assignments, classroom protocols, procedures and standards will help fill the gap in a low cost, low-risk way and offer a viable pathway to further encourage the "whole child" approach to teaching.

Finance: Understanding HB3's application germane to PISD should be the next step. The bill is over 300 pages long and has many facets that delve into complex issues. I believe, the priority should be teacher pay increases which is addressed in the HB3.

Involvement: Being a parent of a child within the school district has made more aware of the happenings within the District. Aside from staying abreast of changes germane to Princeton. I have offered support by way of establishing a scholarship program and hosting a platform on Facebook that offers personal edification and encouragement for the students of all ages, teachers and administrators. This Platform is called Alabaster Jar Ministries and Prayer For Kids In Schools, it has been operational for 2.5 years.

Teachers: Listen to them! Listen to their needs, listen to their suggestions. What works for their classrooms and advocate for them! Teachers should be empowered to be creative enough

to approach difficult problems and have the confidence to go to leadership with genuine concerns and suggestions on how to carry it out! Also stay competitive in compensation.

Demographics: PISD is quickly becoming more diverse. With housing developments spreading throughout and people seeking to come further east this is a positive consequence of growth. The district should always be taking assessment on the ever-changing landscape. Leadership should be ready, willing and able to shift emphasis to provide more inclusivity to reflect cultural diversity. Change can be a good thing! As long as it is stewarded with a steady hand!

Other issues: Child safety. Administrators face a host of threats everything from physical violence to COVID-19. If the school board, superintendent and administrators are willing to constantly reevaluate and shift courses of action to fit circumstances they will always be on the prepared side of the things.

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