



VOTERS GUIDE

Nonpartisan

NOVEMBER 3, 2020, GENERAL ELECTION
WESTON CITY COUNCIL

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.

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League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

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.

Weston 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?

Carol Decker
Weston City Council (3 seats)



Education: B.S. in Mathematics

Experience: 17 year resident of Weston, 10+ years on Weston City Council, Current Mayor Pro Tem, City representative to Collin County EMT board, Negotiated last two ambulance contracts, Coordinated 4th of July parades for 5+ years

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Growth: Weston will grow slower than other areas in Collin County due to its lack of infrastructure and the desire of the citizens to maintain its rural status. All residents are on septic systems so lot sizes need to be 1 acre or more. There are plans for a sewage system but this is a couple of years away. Currently there are two developments with one-acre + lots. As the area around Weston is developed the city is working with the developers to annex into the city so the citizens of Weston are protected.

Economy: The City Council would like to see more businesses in Weston and we encourage those that want to relocate here. Due to the limited number of roof tops, septic systems and well water most businesses at this time would be smaller entities. In the next couple of years we see this changing as the infrastructure will support it.

Finance: The city has maintained its .36 property tax rate for the last six years. Due to new construction and increased appraisal values the city has adequate funds at this time. I take great pride that we have been able to increase services and still maintain this tax rate.

Trust: Trust can only be developed by open communication and following through on your promises. I have tried over the years I have been on the city council to not make promises I could not keep and to always be honest when talking to citizens and answering questions.

Services: Currently the city provides roads, lighting, ambulance service and animal protection primarily. The water is a separate co-op and the fire department is also separate. I would like to see these entities merged into the city as well as providing some police protection instead of relying on the sheriff department. The city is also working on a sewer system. The city has been talking to these separate entities as in the long run it would be best for the citizens.

Other issues: - no response -

Stefen Glenn
Weston City Council (3 seats)

No response received

Michael Hill
Weston City Council (3 seats)

No photo provided

Education: I proudly graduated from Richardson High School, and after one year of college, began working in the construction industry. I have continued my education with extensive reading on all topics, including current events and local history.

Experience: My experience is rooted in service. Currently, I attend all Weston city council meetings, volunteered in the 2020 Independence Day parade, and am involved in the citizen committee to help redesign Weston's road plan.

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Growth: Growth in our area needs to be managed responsibly. We need to integrate the new developments while keeping the rural feel of Weston that people have come to know and love about our area. We must maintain the small town atmosphere we enjoy while welcoming newcomers and offering opportunities to participate in the Weston way of life.

Economy: Certainly, the developers plan to include commercial space in their communities and we hope to align their vision with Weston. We need to consider appropriate zoning to manage commercial spread during a period of growth. I want to see a prosperous future for the downtown district of Weston that maintains its character as unique businesses populate our historical Main Street.

Finance: Weston has long lived on a shoestring budget because of the small tax base and tax rate. However, things are changing as developments build within our city limits and increase the demand on our infrastructure. As our area develops, Weston will have increased revenue. We have to consider how to allocate funds to meet the infrastructure demands while keeping taxes low.

Trust: City council members are volunteers and are expected to go above and beyond the typical civic duty to serve Weston. For the past two and half years, I have attended nearly every city council meeting and volunteered to help the city draft an intelligent road plan that accommodates growth without destroying the rural character of our town. I regularly contribute articles to The Weston Post, and volunteered in Weston's historic 2020 Independence Day parade. Serving as an alderman for Weston would be an honor and another opportunity to demonstrate my commitment to my neighbors.

Services: Like our city council, our fire department is served by a committed team of volunteers. As our area grows, we will have to integrate services like the fire department into the city so it will be able to meet the demands of the area. Also, our Weston Water Supply Corporation is small and has served our town well over the years. We have to be thoughtful in how to accommodate new growth while preserving our precious water resources for the people who live here. However, Weston needs to reevaluate some regulations that were adopted from larger cities that don't seem to fit now.

Other issues: Last year, our most explosive city council meetings concerned Weston's road plan. There are better ways to direct traffic around and away from Weston that satisfy the increased pressure on our roads while preserving the beauty of Weston. We also need to ensure that we document our history, share the stories of locals, and preserve our history. As our town grows, it is essential to maintain Weston's unique character and elevate our local culture by hosting fun events.

Heather Richardson
Weston City Council (3 seats)

No photo provided

Education: Upon Graduating from the University of Scranton I served our great country by joining the United States Army. I attended both basic and advanced Counterintelligence schools and instructed at the Joint Counterintelligence Academy.

Experience: I had a career in the US army and the intelligence fields and worked as a US Federal Government contractor rep managing multi-million dollar contracts with Booz Allen Hamilton and Boeing. Now, I serve as the Secretary and Treasurer of the WWSC.

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Growth: For years, Weston residents have enjoyed a quiet country life but this is changing as developers begin building homes and commercial spaces. As Collin County grows, we need to balance rural, suburban and urban life here in Weston and the county at large. Locals want to see more green spaces and less cement sprawl. We can achieve this vision in a transparent way that encourages citizen engagement. We should encourage developers to propose 1+ acre plats for city approval and work with the citizens of Weston to discuss the aesthetics of the new neighborhoods that will soon be in their backyards.

Economy: Weston is surrounded by Anna, McKinney, and Prosper/Celina. These suburban cities look nearly identical and one can't differentiate when passing from McKinney into Prosper. Weston is a unique, small town and the city council should attract family businesses that dovetail with the Weston way of life. Folks moved here because they don't mind driving ten minutes for the convenience of big box stores. Currently, Weston has the opportunity to modify its land use plan and its ordinances and zoning to make Collin County achieve a healthy balance of urban, suburban and rural spaces.

Finance: Weston has done an amazing job of keeping our taxes low and this year, the council is proposing a continued tax rate of \$.36 per \$100. I support this tax rate and don't see any reason in the near future to modify it. With new annexation of larger plats, the city of Weston will continue to grow its tax base. Our budget should focus on not only maintaining and operating Weston but should make improvements for the residents who call Weston home. If funds allow it, perhaps Weston could develop the 6-acre plot that belongs to the city into a park space for kids and adults to play and socialize.

Trust: I have been a vocal supporter of folks in both the city limits and the ETJ. I defended Weston businesses to the city council who were harassed and fined by relentless code enforcers for bogus claims of unacceptable items behind their fence line. This unnecessarily stressful situation deteriorated the health of the residents involved and sadly, much of the previous Weston city council and mayor ignored the issue. I have also stood up for residents in the ETJ when, in early 2019, the council was ready to rubber stamp a proposal by Collin Cty that had a thoroughfare running through members homes!

Services: Eventually, as the city's tax revenue increases, there will be a shift in ownership of utilities and services to the city. Weston's eventual taking on of the additional responsibilities of sewer, water, police, and fire dept does not need to be a painful transition, but instead should be a smooth and natural shift of responsibilities. Trusting relationships between our city, Weston Water Supply Corporation, and our volunteer fire department are critical as our town grows. Thankfully, our new mayor has opened the lines of communication and working together has become the norm.

Other issues: Addressing and implementing a solid 20 year plan that our small community has ownership in is essential. Land Use, roads plans, deregulation and zoning need a serious overhaul because what we have today is not what a majority of Westonians desire. We must work closely together now and in the foreseeable future as we prepare a roadmap for our small town. We are all volunteers and more community activities together will assist us in embracing a vision for Weston that welcomes healthy changes while cherishing our history and small-town heritage.

You may bring this *Voters Guide* into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this *Voters Guide*, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (*Texas Election Code, Section 61.011*)

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.