



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF COLLIN COUNTY
www.lwvcollin.org

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

November 6, 2018

General Election

Wylie ISD

Early voting: October 22 – November 2

Election Day Polls: November 6–7 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.

Wylie 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.

Uncontested Question

Priorities: Even though your race is not contested this time, please share your priorities for the next term and how you will address them.

Contested Questions

Vision: What is your vision for the district in 5 years, and what steps are needed to get there?

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

Finance: Given the current school finance system, what actions are needed to ensure a high quality education for every student?

Accessibility: What methods should be used to provide clear communication channels to/from the school board?

Safety: What changes are needed, if any, to prevent violence in the schools and ensure the safety of the students, faculty and staff?

Other Issues: What are the most important issues you think will come before your school district in the next few years? What are your views on these issues?

Nick Klein
Wylie ISD, Place 1



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Phone: (972) 800-9434

Education: High School Degree -Marble Falls High School Bachelors of Business and Marketing - Howard Payne University

Experience: 13 years in the insurance industry with a majority in sales. About 5 years has been in a leadership role.

Vision: My vision for the school district is to continue this momentum that we currently have, but continue to strive to get better. We already have an incredible team in place with the board, superintendent, administration, teachers, and staff. I just want to continue that by continue to have people in place that care about children, and making sure we (everyone in the district) let the kids know that we love them. Continuing to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars is very important to provide the safest learning environment, with teachers that feel called, in the best facilities!

The whole child: Making sure the kids know that they are loved, and that everyone that works at WISD wants the best for them. When a kid knows that, and they see how the teachers and staff lead by example with their own hard work, they will put in the same effort. If that is what a kid sees out of the teachers and staff at a school, then the academic achievements will follow! Instilling the core values found in the Wylie way; hard work, caring, being kind to other are all things that will continue to help Wylie kids stand out and make a positive difference in society!

Finance: Having a plan is most important; which we already do! As we receive less and less dollars from the state, continuing to remain transparent and fiscally responsible is extremely important. As more homes are built in Wylie, with more kids attending the district, we want tax payers to know that the district is responsible with those dollars. Forecasting the budget out to know how much money we are projected to have, and then hopefully remaining true to the budget will help make sure we don't overspend. Also having functional equity between campuses will help with finances!

Accessibility: I personally think that email is a good method to communicate but since there are times that words can read different than they were typed, speaking in person is also important. I do feel that board meetings are another way to easily communicate with board members in a somewhat public setting.

Safety: I have attended the past few board meetings and additional money was used to increase the number and presence of school resource officers on the campuses to help with security. I also feel that reducing the amount of doors that you can access from the outside helps secure a campus without being a danger from a fire evacuation issue. Having the kids be a part of the suggestion process as well as making sure they know that they can talk with an administrator or teacher if they see something odd/dangerous without fear of getting in trouble as well is important.

Other Issues: Safety, money, and remaining true to what makes Wylie so great. Safety and money could possibly go hand in hand, but making sure our kids are safe is most important, regardless of the cost. So making sure we are smart with money is imperative so that we have the ability to secure the campuses in whatever way is needed. As tens of thousands move to Wylie, I want to make sure we don't lose the small town feel of the schools and city. Where teachers still know your name, know about your life, and want the best for you and show it by how they teach and lead.

Stacie Smith
Wylie ISD, Place 1



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Education: Attended Brigham Young University and studied Business & Marketing at the Marriott School of Business.

Experience: WISD Council of PTAs: President, Secretary, Legislative, Environmental; Local PTA: President, 1st VP, Secretary; Mentor; WISD Education Foundation; WISD Committees and Parent Advisory Groups; WISD CLAAS Graduate; TXPTA Emerging Leaders Graduate

Vision: WISD is on a path to being the best school district in the state. In 5 years, my hope is the district will be known for preparing students for life beyond high school and for achieving academic success for each student. We need to grow our CTE program by building partnerships within the community and expanding opportunities through a tradesman program. We work towards closing the achievement gap by attracting, hiring, and retaining the best teachers, offering

additional support to students in need of academic growth, and focusing on educating the whole child through the Wylie Way foundations.

The whole child: While academic growth plays a vital role in preparing students, WISD must focus on developing the whole student, as future success is dependent upon a holistic approach. We must continue to teach Wylie Way curriculum and promote building relationships, creating a plan and purpose, recognizing one's strengths and interests, and instilling core values. We must also promote and support a broad range of extracurricular activities, as students will learn skills such as leadership, collaboration, and perseverance. These behavioral skills will help students be better prepared for future endeavors.

Finance: School board trustees are entrusted with the stewardship of district resources and must ensure those resources are used effectively and efficiently for the good of all students. The school board needs to continue evaluating the needs of students and set and define clear, realistic, and attainable goals for student achievement. These goals and priorities will drive the budget process and the expenditure of funds. With state aid declining and the need for school finance reform, Wylie ISD must continue to budget conservatively, must operate transparently, and must prioritize effectively.

Accessibility: Wylie ISD school board trustees should seek to represent the needs and desires of the community and should engage parents, students, employees, and community members in important discussions regarding policy. Many methods should be used to facilitate communication to/from the school board – from in-person methods (developing relationships with parents and local organizations, focus groups and district committees, involvement in school and civic activities, open meetings) to technological methods (surveys, the district app, district/school websites, emails, videos, Superintendent's blog).

Safety: Student, faculty, and staff safety needs to be a top priority, and we need to continually examine, refine, and improve efforts to maintain safe schools. I am pleased WISD is working towards retrofitting all schools with buzz-in security systems, allowing schools a greater ability to monitor access. I am also pleased WISD is adding additional Student Resource Officers, as the presence of these officers greatly enhances security on our campuses. The importance of safety and security cannot be overstated, and WISD needs to continue to research additional safety measures.

Other Issues: One of the most important issues our district is facing and will continue to face is rapid growth. While growth presents a number of challenges, I believe our district should continue to focus on the needs of each individual student, should provide a safe environment for learning, and should promote inclusivity within an increasingly diverse community. We must be fiscally responsible with Wylie ISD tax dollars when evaluating building capacity and expansion. If elected, I will dedicate myself to helping our district navigate through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Mitch Herzog
Wylie ISD, Place 2
Uncontested

No photo provided

Email: Mitchdherzog1@gmail.com

Education: B.B.A Finance Texas A&M College Station

Experience: Worked in Property management and business analysis the last 17 years.

Priorities: 1. We need this transition to go as seamless as possible. I look forward to working with two new trustees and I'm excited about their ideas. 2. Keep the ball rolling as far as staying ahead of the curve on WISD growing student population. 3. Be there for the teachers. This is the strength WISD. 4. School Safety. My question that I would liked asked is as follows: All four candidates will no doubt be an asset to the board. What is one characteristic that you have that we may not be aware of and how will that benefit WISD. Thank You Mitch Herzog WISD President

Heather Leggett
Wylie ISD, Place 5
Uncontested



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Education: Baylor University, Bachelor of Science in Education

Experience: Wylie ISD School Board Trustee, Elected for Place 5 since 2010

Priorities: Wylie ISD continues to be a fast-growing community and a destination school district. Families want to raise their children here because of our district's academic success and our character education curriculum. I will make sure that we continue to meet the increased demand of classroom seats and do so in a fiscally responsible manner. I will do this by keeping in close contact with our demographers and making plans to add on to buildings or plan for new construction only when we are positive that the enrollment numbers justify the cost of construction. In addition, I want to continue working on our district's plans to serve

our students with mental health issues. For the past three years, we have been working on plans to serve these students by creating a facility that would provide abundant care (education, medical care & counseling). This facility would be a proactive step in tackling the mental health crisis in our communities and would provide hope to struggling families.

Jacob Day
Wylie ISD, Place 6



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Education: Doctorate of Philosophy in electrical engineering - Texas Tech University
Master of Science in electrical engineering - Texas Tech University
Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering - Texas Tech University

Experience: Texas Instruments - Analog IC Design - 7 years
Wylie ISD - Engineering and Robotics Teacher - 5 years
Collin College - Associate Faculty in Engineering - 5 years
Texas Instruments - Test Engineer - current

Vision: My vision for Wylie ISD in 5 years is a district that is enabling all students to be successful in the next stage of life, whether this includes career training, dual credit or advanced placement courses. A strong relationship with Collin College as they move into Wylie is vital for this vision. Parent education about these options will also be key. I also envision a district that is second to none in employee satisfaction. Morale among teachers is excellent now, but it can continue to improve by setting policies that enable teachers to play to their strengths within their own classroom.

The whole child: The Wylie Way is a great start. Character education for our students is key. Wylie ISD also generously supports the career and technical education departments in its high schools. This gives many students hands on experience with careers they might choose to pursue. In addition to these, a supported infrastructure of job shadowing and relationships with community businesses to expose students of all ages to real world working experiences would be invaluable.

Finance: With limited funds to work with, it is vital that the budget be examined closely. Making wise decisions about items purchased is important to ensure high return on investment for educational tools. The district must be always looking ahead and basing purchasing decisions based on objective information. Competitive

salaries for our faculty and staff should also be a priority. The strength of a district is the faculty, so it is vital that we attract and keep talented instructors.

Accessibility: The primary channel is the school board meetings themselves. Anyone interested is welcome to attend the meetings and address the board. Board member email contact information is also publicly available so that individuals can be reached if needed. Prompt response via email should be an expectation. The board should also publish meeting minutes to the public so that they can be reviewed.

Safety: I believe that creating an environment where students feel cared for and valued is the best measure for preventing violence. Restricting access to areas where students are located is also a good option. This can be achieved with badge access doors and/or single entry points to campuses. The current measures being taken to add video surveillance and buzzed entry to campuses is a great step in the right direction. To be clear, I feel that arming teachers is not a viable option.

Other Issues: Safety will be an issue that continues to be at the forefront of the nation over the next few years. Another issue we face will be facilities to house our growing population of students. This will require a great deal of forethought and planning to make sure that money is spent responsibly in areas that will see the most growth to provide a learning environment that is safe and comfortable for all students.

Raymond Perry Wylie ISD, Place 6



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Education: I received my Nursing License from Navarro College School of Nursing in 1988 and a Master of Biblical Studies from School of the Scripture in 2010.

Experience: I was a Resolution Committee Board Member for the Southern Baptist of Texas Convention and an Executive Finance Committee Member of the Dallas Baptist Association. Most recently, I have served as the Co-Chairman to the Board of Directors for DBTI.

Vision: My vision for our district is to be able to utilize Collin County College for our high school students. Upon their graduation, they should have an opportunity to receive, not only a diploma, but an associates degree. This is somewhat different

from our dual-credit program which currently allows them to receive college credit from courses. This will be integrated through a high school magnet program and will give them an advantage. Being able to pursue a post-secondary education earlier will surely set them up for success.

The whole child: I believe that when we discuss the whole child, we must consider the student and the students' family. We have a responsibility to our students and family to ensure that moral and ethical values are modeled before them. This will help them be successful in their academics. More importantly, this will help them be successful adults and leaders of tomorrow.

Finance: The current school finance system is in need of a overhaul. The tax-payers in Wylie carry a large burden while the state of Texas reapportions potentially useful assets. This issue of school finance is of great concern to our existing board and we must continue to lobby our state legislators, develop methods for reducing our current tax burden, and find ways to balance our approach to district finance.

Accessibility: The current channels that the school board uses are the most effective at this point. For those that have concerns that should be discussed with the board, I would encourage them to attend board meetings or give them a call. The information that is disseminated from the school board is successful in reaching parents across the district. They done a wonderful job!

Safety: The issue of school safety is a major concern across our nation. I don't believe that there is a single method that will totally eliminate the violence on our school campuses. We should consider three methods in our district. First, we must continue to limit the entry access points to our campuses. Second, we must increase the number of School Resource Officers (SROs) to ensure that the response time of the Wylie Police Department is as quick as possible. Finally, thoroughly trained and qualified school marshals across our campuses will be able to assist our SROs in times of danger.

Other Issues: I believe that, as our city and district continues to grow at a rapid pace, we must be proactive in management of the number of students on campuses. However, I know that our current school board is evaluating this situation. I also believe that, due to the diversity in our school district, we must look to expand the reach of our ESL program. We have many students that speak a primary language that is different from English. The concerns coming from our ESL advocates say that we must offer these students more assistance in developing their English Language skills.

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.