



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

June 16, 2018
Local Runoff Election
Allen

Early voting: June 4 - 12

Election Day Polls: June 16 – 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.

Allen City Council

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

Questions

Growth: How should the City Council best balance the growth of the city with the concerns of residents regarding congestion?

Property taxes: What adjustments should be made, if any, to property taxes?

Demographics: How are the city's demographics changing, and what adjustments are needed to city planning? What, if any, plans are needed for affordable housing?

Vision: What is your vision for the city in 10 years, and what steps are needed to get there?

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

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.

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Education: Princeton University, BA in Astrophysics

Experience: Management Consulting, Financial Analysis, President of Beverly Elementary PTA, CASA for CASA of Collin County, President or Board Member of Multiple Volunteer and Nonprofit Organizations

Growth: A common concern among our residents is unchecked population growth. There are still many areas that are ripe for development and many of those already under development are being built up with higher density residences. City council should work with developers to create more gathering spaces for the community. The more we offer, the more united our city will become. When I am elected I vow to listen to the residents about how they want to see Allen in the future. Allen has the right of self determination and our first responsibility is to our current residents and their quality of life.

Property taxes: The city has been lowering their portion of the residential tax bill every year. We are able to do so because property values are rising. We can continue to lower them incrementally while also thinking creatively about the services we offer. We might think about ways to beautify neighborhoods without HOAs, plant more trees, or purchase more open land.

Demographics: The city of Allen has certainly become a more diverse community as the surrounding county has brought in more companies from other states and countries. These new residents have the same rights to feel comfortable and welcome as any of the existing residents. It is the duty of City Council to ensure it. Fortunately, I think our residents DO feel comfortable in Allen. There is no one definition of an Allen, Texas resident. My main goal would be to maintain the atmosphere of inclusion and welcome.

Vision: In ten years Allen will be a gem among its neighboring cities in Collin County. Allen will lead in environmental stewardship, infrastructure, and quality of life. We must focus on creating a clean environment by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. We should incentivize builders to use sustainable building practices. We should reduce our water usage, by using native landscaping. We should leave land undeveloped to create more green spaces. We should also increase our cultural offerings, from museums to more places of worship. We will have a welcoming atmosphere for new arrivals!

Other Issues: We still have the opportunity to create a unique downtown area that embodies the style and culture of Allen. Perhaps a walking district connected to our renowned Allen Station Park on the North and our Heritage Village on the South. The older homes in Allen's Central Business District will continue to be repurposed into offices and retail, with developers filling in the surrounding land with classic looking storefronts and restaurants. Like Watters Creek, this walking district would become a gathering center for the residents and the surrounding communities.

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Education: Leadership Allen Graduate, Graduate of REALTOR Institute, Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR)

Experience: Small Business Owner in Allen - Ebby Halliday Realtor, 2007 - 2017
Allen Planning and Zoning Commission, 2006 - Present, Allen Public Safety Recovery Fund, and 2008 - 2009 - Allen Rotary Club President

Growth: The City of Allen comprehensive plan provides an opportunity to balance and diversify the community's land uses for current and future residents, and create high quality, distinctive places. It is very important we continue to balance our growth as we continue to build out. We will need to manage the traffic congestion by prioritizing the impact of traffic delays within our transportation planning. For example, improve intersections with dedicated right turn lanes, implement better traffic signal alignment for traffic to flow and expand our sidewalks and hike/bike trails.

Property taxes: For 24 years, the City of Allen has lowered the tax rate. As a suburb, our tax base has historically been based on residential. With 70% of the vacant land in Allen designated for commercial purposes, we need to increase our commercial tax base over the next several years. The work of the Allen Economic Development Corporation in providing incentives for companies to invest in Allen is critical for tax base efforts. I will continue this tradition of keeping Allen's amenities high, while keeping our tax rate low.

Demographics: Demographics in Allen have certainly changed in the last twenty years. One of the challenging demographic changes Allen has been experiencing is the increased number of seniors moving into the area. We are seeing a trend of the grandparents moving to be closer to the grandchildren. We need to create opportunities for developers to meet the needs of active senior living, beyond traditional apartments. It is important that we continue to attract developers who can build affordable housing for all people who wish to live the quality of life in Allen.

Vision: As we look to complete our build out of our community over the next 10 years, my vision is to see quality commercial projects, especially on Sam Rayburn Tollway and at the 121/75 corridor, great parks and a city where people will want to continue to live and raise their families. To obtain this, it is imperative that the City Council continues to work with City staff, land owners and developers to create these projects as well as having vibrant working opportunities and entertainment options.

Other Issues: I believe the most important issues for the City of Allen in the coming years will be primarily growth. We will need to focus on bringing quality commercial development along Sam Rayburn Tollway. We must aggressively manage our Tollway corridor by working with land owners and developers to create a vibrant working and entertainment corridor. We will also need to focus on the development of our Central Business District and infill development in our established neighborhoods. By bringing quality commercial development to Allen, it will help us remain as one of the best cities to live and work.

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.