



VOTERS GUIDE

Nonpartisan

NOVEMBER 3, 2020, GENERAL ELECTION
TX REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 66

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, regardless of their political party.

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.

TX Representative District 66

2-year term. Must be 21 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Texas House of Representatives.

Questions

Education: What steps are needed to provide adequate, sustainable funding for public education in Texas?

Healthcare: What legislation would you support, if any, to offer comprehensive, affordable health insurance for the large number of Texans who are uninsured?

Redistricting: How will you support district maps that comply with the federal Voting Rights Act? What options, if any, do you support for redistricting reform?

Gun Violence: What legislation would you support, if any, to curb gun violence in Texas?

Elections: What measures do you support to improve and secure elections and voting in our state?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

Sharon Hirsch
Democratic Party



Education: BAAS, University of North Texas (Summa Cum Laude)

Experience: Administrative professional, Plano ISD (1999-2013); Plano Cultural Affairs Commission (2015-2018); board member, Leadership Plano (2017-2020); board member, Hendrick Scholarship Foundation (2018-present); Democratic nominee for Texas HD 66 (2020)

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Education: The first step is establishing a baseline cost to provide for the core components of our public education strategy. Next, we need to determine appropriate cost-sharing among state, federal, and local dollars. I believe the appropriate share of funding from the state should be 50%. Finally, we must secure a sustainable revenue stream that balances the investment among those parties. Reform of the tax code is one place to procure additional revenue from the state to finance their share. The comptroller has determined the cost of tax carve-outs and special exemptions to be \$60 billion per year.

Healthcare: First and foremost, I support expansion of Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act. The data clearly proves the personal and economic benefits this would provide for the uninsured, healthcare providers, and all Texans. Additionally, there are several reforms we can undertake to improve the quality of healthcare options and outcomes for citizens: Providing contraceptives for free or low cost; allowing buy-in to Medicaid; regulating “junk” policies; re-evaluating scope of practice laws for nurse practitioners and physician’s assistants; and expanding tele-medicine where it makes sense.

Redistricting: Partisan gerrymandering has led to untenable polarization and the suppression of minority participation in the political process. I support and will work toward the establishment of a nonpartisan redistricting commission that includes citizen participation and input, protects communities of interest, and removes political incentives from our duty to conduct free and fair elections. Voters must feel confident that their voices are heard and their votes matter. Additionally, I would support making the Legislative Redistricting Board a bi-partisan one to protect the integrity of the process.

Gun Violence: I support the implementation of “red flag” laws to keep weapons out of the hands of individuals who are determined by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others. I also support universal background checks, including gun show, online, and private sales of firearms, to ensure that they are being sold in accordance with existing law. Fundamentally, gun violence is a public health issue. I will encourage the state to study the impact of gun violence on our communities, to promote education related to gun safety, and to strengthen gun storage regulations.

Elections: The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, and we must halt and reverse the steady degradation of this right. I believe that eligible voters should be encouraged to vote, not the opposite. That means expanding voting locations and hours, extending early voting, instituting secure online, automatic, and same-day voter registration, and rolling back discriminatory voter ID requirements. We must work to harden our elections infrastructure and ensure that our voting machines have a verifiable paper trail in the event that results are called into question and to reinforce voter confidence.

Other Issues: Recent acts of police brutality and over-policing have brought about a renewed call for action and a national discussion on race. It is imperative that we heed the voices of

those most directly impacted by this injustice and work to rebuild a sense of trust and a culture of accountability in our law enforcement system. The Legislature will also be called upon to address issues around local control, the economic impact of COVID-19, and inevitable budget constraints. I have additional position statements available on my website and invite readers of this guide to find them at Sharon4TX.com.

Shawn Jones
Libertarian Party

No response received

Matt Shaheen
Republican Party



Education: BA in Business/Economics from Randolph-Macon College and a Masters Degree from SMU

Experience: 30 years of technology experience, 5 years serving as a Collin County Commissioner and 5 years serving as a Texas State Representative

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Education: Last session we made a huge impact on school finance in a bipartisan fashion. I have voted to increase education funding each year I've served in the legislature and last session we increased education funding by \$13 billion, including teacher pay raises. We secured the retired teachers pension and provided them an extra paycheck. I've also been fighting against the "Robin Hood" tax scheme and I am pleased to report I was able to reduce Plano ISD's Robin Hood payment by over \$70 million. We had a great session for education and will build on that success next session.

Healthcare: Healthcare is vital to every Texan's well-being and it is imperative that each citizen has access to quality healthcare at a fair price. Rising premiums and deductibles, resulting from failed government programs like Obamacare, are harming Texans. I formed an advisory group of doctors, working with them to introduce legislation that will increase access to healthcare,

increase patient choice and reduce costs. I have supported measures to safeguard and improve access to health care for our vulnerable populations and will continue to do so.

Redistricting: Redistricting in 2021 will be a pivotal issue in the upcoming session that will have a decade-long implication. This is why it is crucial that the Texas Legislature enact redistricting legislation that is agreed to by all interested parties on both sides of the aisle. I will support any measure that provides Texas voters with clarity in their elections and provides citizens across the state equal representation. The House Redistricting Committee traveled across Texas receiving citizen input.

Gun Violence: Gun violence is spiking in our large cities across American as Democrat politicians allow riots, defund and demonize the Police and release dangerous criminals onto our streets. To keep Texans safe, these dangerous policies must not be allowed. I fought for a centralized registry of protective orders against domestic abusers. In a bipartisan approach, I fought for legislation that drastically increased school safety by funding over \$300 million for efforts like police at our schools, security training for teachers and staff, safety technology and more effective mental illness treatments

Elections: Elections are the foundation of our Republic and I support practical measures to safeguard our election process in Texas. Election security is vital to the integrity of our voting process so that is why I have supported measures to protect our elections by establishing best practices for the use, storage and transmission of election data and the security of election systems.

Other Issues: As a father of three, human trafficking, and specifically sex trafficking, is something that I feel passionate about combating. It's a horrific practice, and our large border with Mexico is part of what makes Texas the #2 state in the nation for human sex trafficking. Last session, we dedicated millions towards preventing, investigating and prosecuting human trafficking. I'll continue to work in a bipartisan fashion fighting against this horrific practice in any effective way possible. We must stop efforts to ban ICE and defund the police, which are our most effective tools.

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.