



VOTERS GUIDE

Nonpartisan

NOVEMBER 3, 2020, GENERAL ELECTION
COLLIN COUNTY OFFICES

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.

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<p>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.</p>

State District Court Judge

4-year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for cases including felony criminal cases, civil cases with higher amounts of controversy, and family law matters.

Question (Uncontested Races)

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

Questions (Contested Races)

Efficiency: What methods do you support, if any, to increase the efficiency of the district courts?

Growth: What challenges will the continuing population growth of the county present to the district courts, and how would you address them?

Trust: How can the district courts ensure that judicial decisions are not influenced by political issues?

Mental Health: How can the district courts address mental health and substance abuse issues as a contributing factor to criminal, civil, and family law cases?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the district courts, and how would you address them?

199th District Court Judge (Uncontested)
Angela Tucker
Republican Party



Education: The University of Texas at Austin - B.A., Government/ Dedman School of Law at Southern Methodist University - J.D.

Experience: Assistant District Attorney - Collin County District Attorney's Office (1996 to 2000)/ Private Practice - 2001 to 2012/ 199th District Court Judge - June 2012 to present

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Priorities: My priorities for the next term will be: (1) Efficient docket management in all case types handled by my court - civil, criminal (felony), family, and Child Protective Services cases. (2) Continuation of the Family Preservation CPS Drug Court I started four years ago to help parents of children in the child welfare system obtain sobriety to help reunify families, and to help pregnant mothers deliver drug-free babies. Our program has been very successful and we plan to continue our work and increase the number of families and children we help.

366th District Court Judge
Sam Johnson
Democratic Party



Education: Bachelor of Arts in Government with minor in Philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin (2005); Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law - Houston (2008)

Experience: 2008 - Intern - Collin Co. DA's office; 2009 - Kastl Law (Civil & Family litigation); 2009-11 - Shamoun & Norman (complex commercial litigation); 2011-12 - ChambleeRyan - (general litigation); 2012-present - Johnson & Sparks (business litigation)

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Efficiency: I will (i) expand the submission docket (deciding motions without a hearing) and delegate appropriate administrative tasks to staff to maximize my time resolving issues before the, (ii) guide civil & family cases toward trial in keeping with the TX Rules of Judicial Administration by setting initial trial dates and requiring submission of a scheduling order, (iii) work with counsel to bring criminal cases to trial within one year, and (iv) expect lawyers to cooperate to avoid the need for Court intervention when possible, all for the benefit of the County, attorneys, and litigants alike.

Growth: We must manage & dispose of the increased number of cases filed in a manner that is fair to litigants and attorneys. I will be an advocate for alternative dispute resolution in civil & family cases to manage the number of pending cases. A growing population is often a changing population, so I will further work with my staff and the other courts to ensure that the Courthouse is uniformly welcoming & fair regardless of economic status, race, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation through training, discussion, and fostering honesty about facing our biases to overcome them.

Trust: The mandate of an apolitical judiciary is one of the most sacred tenets of our system of checks and balances. The TX Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges to not be influenced by political considerations. I will always review matters before me only on the facts and law of each case. I will be an advocate for impartial determination of issues and cases before me by ensuring that I take time to be thoughtful and deliberate in dealing with parties, counsel, and analysis. It is also essential to ensure that there is balance at the courthouse so that all Collin County citizens are represented.

Mental Health: In my Leadership Plano class, we most consistently heard about mental health and substance abuse in Collin County as the pressing issue facing our community. Education is the first and perhaps most important step; I will work to train court staff and support organizations to recognize when these issues arise and provide resources to parties & counsel to help resolve them. I'll also work to find creative outcomes within the bounds of the law for those before the court as an important aspect of recognizing the problems our community faces, while conserving county resources.

Other Issues: - no response -

366th District Court Judge
Tom Nowak
Republican Party



Education: History and Political Science Dual Degree from Texas A&M University (College Station, TX) 2002 Law Degree from Baylor Law School (Waco, TX) 2005 Air Force Judge Advocate School (Maxwell AFB, AL) 2012

Experience: Assistant District Attorney - 2005 to 2010 Criminal Defense Attorney 2010-2020 Attorney at Henley & Henley PC handling a number of civil matters 2013-2020 Board Certification in Criminal Law - 2011 USAF JAG Officer - 2012-Present

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Efficiency: Collin County judges are some of the most efficient jurists in the State compared to similarly-sized jurisdictions. However, there are ways to improve. For instance, I plan to allow some of our cases to be resolved by using an Online Dispute Resolution process. For the cases that involve individuals representing themselves, this can save the expense of hiring an attorney, time in court, and avoid the fear of not knowing the rules, while taking care of the case from home. It's one example of the strides our judges already make to increase efficiencies.

Growth: The simple fact is that more people equals more cases. More cases equals less time a judge can spend on a case. We must ensure each case has the same amount of attention so that mistakes don't occur. Collin County judges already enforce time limits to prevent attorneys from rambling, we require strict timelines on cases, and we require regular appearances to ensure cases move through the process quickly. The already mentioned Online Dispute Resolution process and the increase in the number of judges should prevent any increased delays as we grow.

Trust: I would argue that the Collin County Courts are the most transparent in the state. We take great pride in being diligent with our disclosures, donations, rules, and directives. We are always cautious to remove ourselves from politically charged issues if there is a possibility of the appearance of impropriety. When political issues occur, I have no doubt that our judges can set aside any personal feelings to judge the cases on the law and the facts. Also, our judges are willing to help voters understand completed decisions so that voters can determine whether there was any influence.

Mental Health: This is something I have much experience with. Dealing with mentally ill defendants and substance abusers was a regular part of my practice. Courts address these issues by helping to identify the individuals who need the extra coordinated help from start to finish. Collin County judges already perform these tasks and ensure we are not wasting money needlessly by incarcerating people who can be helped in a more clinical setting. There are a number of programs in place to help individuals (if they are willing) and some for those that cannot help themselves.

Other Issues: The most pressing issue for us is the unprecedented growth of the population resulting in an increase in cases. We are addressing this issue with the above mentioned items in addition to changing policies to be more streamlined among courts. We are transparent in our expectations of attorneys and parties to cases so that we avoid confusion and delay. Lastly, we require diligence and professionalism from everyone who steps into the courtroom, including staff and judges, while being respectful of all parties and attorneys.

**380th District Court Judge
Penny Robe
Democratic Party**



Education: JD from Texas Tech School of Law, 1992; BA History, summa cum laude (with highest honors) Lubbock Christian University, 1989; Licensed in Texas (1992) and Florida (2001)

*Inactive in Florida

Experience: Law Practice (probate, guardianships, and will drafting, family law, and business) 2009-present; In-House Lawyer 9/2000-12/2009; US Air Force JAG Attorney Active Duty 1/1995–9/2000; Assistant District Attorney 1/1993-1/1995; More: www.robeflawfirm.com

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Efficiency: The pandemic has resulted in new ways of doing things, including holding hearings by video conference. After courts return to in person hearings, some of these methods could remain, as they have resulted in increased efficiency for the district courts. Continuing video hearings for uncontested matters, for example, would help parties avoid transit time, and allow for less time lost while waiting for their hearing to begin. Another efficiency from the pandemic

that could continue is allowing agreed matters to be handled without a hearing, and instead by submission of the orders to the court.

Growth: Collin County does not have enough district courts for our population. The workload for these courts has grown drastically due to the population surge in Collin County, and that growth is on track to continue. The best idea is outside the control of the judges, which is to further increase the number of district courts to handle that growth. Absent that solution, the courts will have to continue to focus on creating efficiencies where possible, but people will be waiting longer for the judges to hear their cases.

Trust: The job of a judge is to follow the law, and apply it to the case being handled. This is to be done without political bias. Judges do not decide what the law should be, but instead have the role of applying the law, without bias, to the case before them. Judges must apply the law as it exists, not as they want it to be. If elected, my rulings would be based on the law, as it exists, and as applied to the facts in each individual case. Politics would play no role in any ruling I would make.

Mental Health: Collin County has some specialty criminal courts that take this into account in criminal cases. Collin County has both drug courts and veteran court where these issues are given consideration. Both of these specialty criminal courts allow the accused to participate in rehabilitation services, addressing mental health and substance abuse issues, and these should be continued. Expanding these approaches could make sense. In other cases, judges can take into account mental health and substance abuse issues as they affect the facts of the case.

Other Issues: Dealing with the high volume of cases with self-represented parties will continue to be the most pressing issue. Cases with self-represented parties take more of the judge's time than those with attorneys. When lawyers are involved, the lawyers understand how things work, and what is possible under the law. The lawyers draft all the documents, including orders that judges sign. Self-represented parties do not understand the process, what the law allows, or what documents they are required to provide. A solution is to look at providing more resources and guidance for self-represented parties.

380th District Court Judge

Ben Smith

Republican Party



Education: Juris Doctor, Boston University School of Law. Bachelor of Science, Boston University College of Communication

Experience: Presiding Judge, 380th Judicial District Court (2012-Present); Solo General Law Practice (2011-12); Collin County D.A.'s Office (2004-11) (Second Asst. D.A., Felony Chief, Chief of Special Crimes Unit); Kaufman County D.A.'s Office (2003-4)

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Efficiency: In short, we must have the right people on the bench and a sufficient number of courts. We must elect qualified, competent, and hard-working judges, and retain experienced judges who have demonstrated the ability to decide cases correctly, fairly, and expeditiously. We must also ensure that the number of district courts is sufficient to adequately meet the needs of our county's growing population. Technology plays an important role as well. Our courts must have the tools necessary to administer justice efficiently and fairly.

Growth: Population growth produces more business disputes, more divorces, more crimes, more cases. As a result, growth has strained the existing courts' dockets and the courts' ability to administer justice in a timely manner. The state established two new district courts in 2015 and again in 2019, which has helped immensely. New courts must continue to be added as the population continues to grow.

Trust: Judges must simply do their jobs, i.e., decide cases based on the evidence and the applicable law, without regard to politics. If a judge is ousted by voters for not ruling in accordance with political interests, there is a danger that other judges will succumb to political pressure in subsequent cases. In 2019, new legislation established the Commission on Judicial Selection, which will study each method of selection, and then make recommendations to Governor Abbott. Hopefully, the Commission will address the efforts to bully our courts into making political rulings instead of legal rulings.

Mental Health: Mental health and substance abuse issues are pervasive in our courts. For criminal cases, the Mental Health Managed Assigned Counsel program, our specialty drug court programs, and our Community Supervision and Corrections Department provide specific and successful strategies for addressing many of these issues. For family cases, Judge Tucker has established a specialty CPS/drug court program. The courts cannot resolve every mental health and substance abuse problem, but the courts can use the many tools at their disposal to supervise individuals and order appropriate treatment.

Other Issues: Self-represented litigants' ("SRLs") access to justice is an important and pressing issue. In most family and civil proceedings, there is no right to appointed counsel. The law is substantively and procedurally complex and it is difficult for SRLs to navigate the court system and obtain equal access to justice, especially in adversarial proceedings where the other side is represented by counsel. Judges can't provide legal advice and must hold self-represented litigants to the same standards as attorneys. Courts need to be more proactive in seeking tools and services to address this problem.

**401st District Court Judge
George Flint
Republican Party**



Education: B.S. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1972) M.B.A. from Wake Forest University (1974) J.D. from Southern Methodist University (1980)

Experience: 39 years of extensive courtroom trial experience (both judge and jury trials) in state and federal court; partner in litigation section with Scheef & Stone, LLP; arbitrator, Better Business Bureau; Associate Judge, Collin County Probate Court

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Efficiency: (1) Heavier use of afternoon dockets, (2) standing discovery, protective and scheduling orders, (3) early scheduling conferences with counsel, (4) reasonable time limits on presentation of evidence and argument, (5) encouragement of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and (6) more extensive use of videoconferencing (during the COVID crisis, videoconferencing has become a powerful tool for many hearings, at a cost savings to clients and a time savings to attorneys).

Growth: Population growth will require more room (courthouse space), manpower (judges, staff) and more intensive and common use of technology (videoconferencing) and alternative dispute resolution (summary trials, etc.). Efficiencies can be achieved through selective use of technology, such as videoconferencing, special masters in discovery disputes, alternative dispute resolution, etc., but the number of cases caused by increased population, together with the complexity of cases generated by a strong business community, can only be effectively handled by physical, technological and human resources.

Trust: Judges should be committed to decision-making based upon the facts developed in the courtroom and based upon the law as it exists, free of bias to the extent humanly possible. The way we can ensure that judges are committed to good decision-making is by electing persons of character and integrity who have demonstrated good decision-making ability, who are conservative, and who are committed to the rule of law.

Mental Health: I am an Associate Judge of the Probate Court with respect to mental health issues, and have a high level of sensitivity to this issue. This is a complex problem which demonstrates itself throughout society and, as a result, the court process. We first have to

recognize its existence and then attempt to craft a solution, if any there is, adapted to the person and the availability of resources, including available community support.

Other Issues: There is a perception that, throughout government, which includes the judiciary, there is a lack of transparency. Within the bounds of the law and ethics, it is my intent to be as transparent as possible. This includes providing reasoned decisions, so that all parties know why I ruled the way I did. It also includes being open and approachable.

401st District Court Judge

Tonya Holt

Democratic Party



Education: Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, 1995; Texas A & M University, 1990

Experience: 24 years of legal experience as a trial attorney and corporate attorney including state and federal government employment

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Efficiency: I support open dialog and collaboration among the judges in Collin County and with the local bar associations. I also propose that rulings be issued for pending motions that do not require hearings, telephonic hearings should be used where appropriate, and that associate or visiting judges may be able to help clear any back logs.

Growth: As Collin County continues to grow, change will be necessary. I propose that we check into the mechanisms utilized by some of the larger counties around the state. There may be simple fixes for problems that we just have not explored. Growth and increased inefficiency will have to be addressed to make the courts more useful to everyone. I think that innovation and openness to change can lead to great cost-efficient solutions.

Trust: I believe that most issues faced by the courts are not political in nature. For judges, the law should not be political. The role of a judge is to follow, enforce and interpret the law. I believe that most judges are focused on getting it right.

Mental Health: Mental health and substance abuse issues in the justice system are community issues, too. Everyone has to be participants in helping to eradicate the growing problems. While courts can implement programs, the police and other local and statewide governmental agencies also have to have programs. Nevertheless, county support is paramount. Resources have to be available for directing those cases with mental health components.

Other Issues: I think the county is facing an affordable housing issue. With the influx of businesses to the area, some residents are being displaced because of the increase in housing and taxes. An increase in crime in the area is also of concern. We need to make sure that our police department has the proper training including sensitivity training to deal with the growing and changing population. Collin County is becoming more diverse, which is a great thing, but we have to be able to think and act accordingly.

**416th District Court Judge
Theresa Bui Creevy
Democratic Party**



Education: * University of Southern California (Bachelor of Arts in Political Science 1989) * Texas Wesleyan University School of Law (now known as Texas A&M University School of Law - Juris Doctor 1996)

Experience: Over 22 years of legal experience: * Insurance Defense Attorney for State Farm * Private law practice in the areas of Civil, Family, and Criminal Law * Judicial Clerk for The Honorable Eric Moyé - 14th District Court-Dallas (3 months in 2011)

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Efficiency: I support the following methods to increase efficiency: 1) stagger docket times when cases are set for hearings; 2) have dismissal hearing settings with the court administrator via email; 3) empower the court administrator handle resets of hearings via email if all parties agree; 4) for some matters, allow the parties' agreed motion for continuance of a trial setting if made pursuant the rules via email to the court administrator; and 5) have more detailed court local rules established online so that all parties and attorneys understand the procedures and policies of the court.

Growth: On any given day in Collin County, a district court judge can preside over criminal, family, and civil cases as a general jurisdictional court judge. These cases range from divorces, to car accidents, to capital murder. Recently, two new specialty courts were created to promote efficiency and streamline what cases are heard by district judges; one primarily dedicated to civil cases and the other to family law cases. The Legislature may need to consider converting

all Collin County district courts to specialty courts so that a judge can concentrate on either civil, family, or criminal cases.

Trust: A judge's decision should only be based upon admissible facts and evidence, any applicable laws, any controlling case law or authority, and/or the U.S. Constitution. As part of their sworn judicial oath, a district judge should preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Texas. And at all times, a judge should remain fair and impartial, regardless of political views or influences.

Mental Health: Judges can: 1) refer a person with to the proper organization to assist with these issues; 2) appoint a Guardian Ad Litem for a party or lawyer, if necessary; 3) have a hearing or brief conversation with that person or lawyer, ask questions, focus and listen intently to their answers to determine if there are any issues; 4) refer a person to a specialty court such as the Veterans Court Program, if applicable; and/or 5) refer a lawyer having issues to the Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program (TLAP) to assist a lawyer in incorporating a healthier lifestyle.

Other Issues: Overloaded courts and long dockets could mean delayed justice and a financial burden for many, including the county. Many litigants complain about attorney's fees and the cost of a lawsuit. Delays affect litigants, attorneys, the court, and the county. My suggestions and responses above could help decrease overloaded dockets and courts, and eventually reduce the costs of a lawsuit and the costs to Collin County.

**416th District Court Judge
Andrea Thompson
Republican Party**



Education: JD, South Texas College of Law BS, Texas A&M University

Experience: Judge, 416th District Court 2017 - Present *Collin County District Clerk 2011 - 2016

*Currently on State Bar Jury Services Committee and Access to Justice Committee, Texas Office of Court Administration Weighted Caseload Study Oversight Committee

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Efficiency: Managing technological improvements helps us keep pace with the growth in the county and case loads. I was the District Clerk for Collin County who implemented electronic

filing so I understand more than most the importance of constantly reviewing and modernizing business processes in an effort to ensure we are completing tasks in the most efficient manner. Using electronic filing, electronic signatures and automated task queues, we allow litigants, attorneys, courts and clerks the ability to access our justice system 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, and hearings to continue during the pandemic.

Growth: I work to identify processes that can utilize electronic methods and work on legislative change so our rules keep pace with electronic advances. Our population is growing faster than the court system's capacity: in 5 years, our county population grew by over 60% while the number of courts grew by less than 20%. My experience in disposing of more than 6,000 cases in my first 3 years on the bench brings what our county needs: A hard-working judge who values the use of technology, docket control measures, reasonable time limits, and alternative dispute resolution to successfully manage growth.

Trust: A strict adherence to the rule of law is the only way to ensure judicial decisions aren't influenced by political issues. I understand the difference between the role of the judiciary and the role of the legislature. I keep politics out of my courtroom by ensuring I do not cross that line as a judge and legislate from the bench.

Mental Health: Mental health and substance abuse issues are a significant factor in all areas of my judicial docket. To address these issues after I took the bench I implemented a Drug Court that intervenes to help take people living with substance abuse and mental health disorders out of our justice system and into lives of stability and recovery. We utilize supervision, structure and treatment to break the cycle of relapse and recidivism.

Other Issues: The 416th District Court is a general jurisdiction bench. This means we need an experienced judge who understands felony criminal cases and due process, complex multi-million dollar civil litigation, complicated family law cases often involving family violence, child support obligations, divorce, adoption and CPS. I have dedicated my career to these complex problems and finding solutions that preserve families and their finances. My experience on this bench is invaluable to our citizens, I have been humbled and honored to serve the people of this county and hope to continue.

468th District Court Judge

Christy Albano

Democratic Party



Education: Southern Methodist University, 1993 Bachelor of Arts, Sociology and Piano Performance; University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law, 1996 Juris Doctor

Experience: Christy Albano is a Board Certified Family Law Specialist who has practiced Family Law in Collin County for 22 years. She is in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is listed in Best Lawyers in America and TX Super Lawyers for Family Law.

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Efficiency: We need to fully fund staff to help keep the courts efficient. It's also important for the court to maintain a specific and predictable schedule to keep the cases moving. I agree with staggering hearing settings throughout the day and limiting the number of cases set at each time. I also agree with reasonable time limits, submission of requested rulings, specific docket days (such as cps days), advanced scheduling orders and post-trial deadlines for entry of final orders.

Growth: The continuing population growth has and will continue to be a major challenge for the courts. The recently created specialty courts have helped greatly with efficiency. By law, criminal cases must take priority and by moving many of the family and civil cases out of the general jurisdiction courts, efficiency improved for family and civil cases. It also allowed the criminal cases to proceed with priority. As the county grows, we should consider the value of adding Associate Judges to hear interim issues. Assistance for self-represented persons would also improve efficiency.

Trust: Judges are held to the highest standard and must self regulate. It's important to remember that it's not about what I believe. What I must do is follow the law. Political issues should not influence judicial decisions. The judiciary are required to uphold the independence, integrity and impartiality of the office and avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety. Decisions should be made after careful consideration of the law applied to the facts and evidence. Political issues are inevitable, but the Court must maintain neutrality despite outside influences, pressures and politics.

Mental Health: The creation of specialty drug courts and veteran courts to address drug and alcohol addiction issues has been very helpful to people involved with the courts with mental health and addiction issues. Not everyone is admitted to these programs, but for those who are, it can be life changing. Not only for the criminal justice system but also for families and children whose lives have been affected by addiction. In addition to the specialty courts for these issues, the courts will hear evidence of these issues as contributing factors and evaluate the relevance on a case to case basis.

Other Issues: The slow addition of specialty courts is creating an interesting mix with how new cases are getting assigned to courts and how pending cases are getting transferred out of the general jurisdiction to the specialty courts. The assignment of new cases to the specialty courts creates a backlog for the specialty courts as the criminal cases take higher priority in the general jurisdiction courts. Also the mass transfer of pending cases to new courts creates a consistency problem, causing the new judge to learn the facts of the pending case. Creation of separate criminal and civil courts may help.

**468th District Court Judge
Lindsey Wynne
Republican Party**



Education: University of Texas School of Law, J.D. '08 (Domestic Violence Clinic); University College of London-Cert of Int Legal Studies '07; University of Texas at Austin, B.B.A. '05 (Texas Excellence Scholar)

Experience: 468th District Court Judge (10/1/19-now); Family Law Attorney (6/1/18-9/20/19); Assistant District Attorney- Collin County (Family Justice, CAC, Mental, Civil, Felony, and Misd) (2008-2018)

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Efficiency: Clear and concise policies and procedures and consistent application of those procedures is essential to an efficient courtroom. This requires an organized docket with designated settings and time limits. A signed scheduling order early in the judicial process eliminates unnecessary hearings and lets the parties know what to expect, while reducing litigation expenses. Lastly, being available and willing to hear trial settings and other matters is imperative to maintaining an efficient courtroom and moving the docket, as I have strived to accomplish since taking the bench.

Growth: As the county continues to grow, so does the number of cases in the court system. As a family court judge, my job is to maintain an efficient courtroom, ensuring matters are heard and rulings made in an expeditious manner. Being punctual and available to hear cases is imperative to staying on top of the mass number of case filings each month. Having a reliable, well-trained staff (which I'm fortunate to have) allows me to handle the necessary workload and maintain the docket, giving the citizens an opportunity to have their day in court.

Trust: I follow the law as written to ensure the judicial process is fair for all citizens. It is not the Judge's job to legislate from the bench. Maintaining consistent application of the law and following the U.S. and Texas Constitution, fosters faith in the judicial system. As a former prosecutor, who tried over 120 cases to Collin County jurors, I asked jurors to set aside their personal beliefs, listen to the facts, and apply them to the law. I do not expect any less of myself. I consider the admissible evidence, ensure the applicable legal burden is met, and rule fairly in every case.

Mental Health: One of the biggest challenges facing courts and society today, is the increasing number of individuals who are experiencing mental health or substance abuse problems. For

several years, I handled mental health commitment cases and worked with our drug courts. This experience allowed me to see firsthand the major impact that drugs and unaddressed mental health issues have on the families in our community. This is an area that we, as a court system, must strive to improve upon through training and education, and ensuring necessary resources are available to our families and children.

Other Issues: - no response -

469th District Court Judge

Dana Huffman

Democratic Party



Education: J.D. Texas Wesleyan 1995; BBA Stephen F. Austin State University, 1989, Mediation Training Baylor University 2015, LV Berkner High School, Richardson

Experience: Licensed Attorney for almost 25 years; Associate Judge/Presiding Judge/Prosecutor for multiple municipalities for over 18 years; Mediation and Arbitration as well as a Private law practice

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Efficiency: 1) promptly rule on motions/trials; 2) create active deadlines associated with each case which will help the court and the parties stay focused on moving the cases forward; 3) implement policies regarding multiple continuances; 4) being present and visible in the courtroom for off docket matters; and 5) adding an open docket for parties that need to see the judge but their employment/schedule does not fit with the schedule traditionally set by the court. In light COVID-19, the continued use of virtual dockets will be a must while ensuring fairness and access to the courts for everyone.

Growth: With continued growth of the county, the court dockets will continue to grow. The increased caseload will affect the court staff as they try to do more work in the same hours of the workday as well as parties trying to set quick hearings. I would address this by being open to and developing procedures that are more efficient and accessible where reasonable, lengthen traditional court hours and the continued used of virtual appearances when possible while ensuring fairness and access to the court.

Trust: Canon 3 of the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct mandates that “A judge shall not be swayed by partisan interests, public clamor or fear of criticism.” Judicial decisions should start with no concern for political party when making judicial decisions. The Texas Constitution oath to faithfully execute the duties of the office of municipal judge that I have taken is a solemn vow. Judges must follow this oath, respect this oath and its intent while performing their duties.

Mental Health: 1) acknowledge that the existence of mental health and substance abuse issues are real and prevalent ones in our community; 2) acknowledge that these issues have a direct impact on the cases filed; 3) use and or develop specialty courts/dockets; 4) compile a list of readily accessible resources and agencies that are available for assistance both to the parties and their family(ies).

Other Issues: A pressing issue that I have experienced in my many years on the bench is the continually growing dockets stress the court’s resources. Another is the increase in self-represented parties. I will address these issues through increased accessibility to the court and information about resources that are available in our community to assist self-represented parties such as law school legal clinics, the local bar associations and organizations. The continued used of virtual appearances can also help relieve the time required for parties, their counsel and the court.

**469th District Court Judge
Piper McCraw
Republican Party**



Education: Texas Wesleyan School of Law: Juris Doctor, 2006; Southern Methodist University: Bachelor of Business Administration

Experience: Judge of the 469th District Court (2015 - Present); Board Certified in Family Law and Child Welfare Law; Collin County Assistant District Attorney (2006 - 2009); Private Practice (2009 - 2015); Tried over 100 jury trials as an attorney

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Efficiency: As judge of the 469th District Court since 2015, I have continuously worked to maximize the efficiency of the Court. It is important to issue scheduling orders and set prompt

trial dates in cases so cases move in an expeditious manner. By utilizing technology, I can streamline hearings by allowing witnesses to appear via Skype, FaceTime, or other electronic means under certain circumstances. This can greatly reduce the amount of time parties spend waiting at the courthouse for witnesses to arrive and hearings to proceed. In some situations, I allow parties to litigate matters by submission.

Growth: Collin County has a higher number, if not the highest number, of cases filed and disposed of by each district court compared to the other district courts across Texas. As more people move into the county, the number of divorces, custody disputes, and incidents of family and domestic violence continue to rise. The current district courts are working extremely hard to continue handling and resolving the large number of cases assigned to each court. I will continue to utilize technology and other available resources to maximize the efficiency of the Court.

Trust: The judge must follow the law. The process must be fair and transparent for all, regardless of income, background, or social status. The judge must be knowledgeable on the law and relevant case law. The 469th District Court is a specialized court that hears only family matters and cases involving child protective services. I am board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in both of these areas, specifically Family Law and Child Welfare Law. I will continue applying the law in all cases based on the statutes, the Texas Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.

Mental Health: The 469th District Court hears only family law and CPS cases. These cases are frequently impacted by mental health and substance abuse issues. I am the Vice Chair of the Texas Children's Commission and the Chairman of the statewide Training Committee of the Commission. I work with a number of mental health experts and providers throughout the state to better understand and address mental health and substance abuse concerns. I continue to research and locate providers that can assist with mental health and substance abuse services at a reduced rate or on a sliding scale based on income.

Other Issues: - no response -

470th District Court Judge (Uncontested)

Emily Miskel
Republican Party



Education: Undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University (top 15% of class), Law degree from Harvard Law School

Experience: Judge Emily Miskel has served as the judge of the 470th District Court since it was created in 2015. Before that, she was a family law attorney in Plano.

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Priorities: I strive to provide high-quality judicial service while managing the court's ever-increasing caseload in our growing county. I continually refine my policies and procedures to ensure that everyone receives the fundamental protections of the law, while still providing prompt trial dates and serving as many litigants as possible each day. I think technology is a wonderful way to reach the public, and I have designed and published on my website a wealth of helpful materials to enhance access to justice.

**471st District Court Judge
Andrea Bouressa
Republican Party**



Education: Texas A&M University, B.S. Sociology University of North Texas, M.S. Sociology SMU Dedman School of Law, J.D.

Experience: I have served as District Judge since September 1, 2019, presiding in the county's first priority-civil district court. Before taking the bench, I handled a wide range of civil litigation and appellate matters, primarily in Texas state courts.

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Efficiency: As the Judge of the county's first dedicated civil district court, I am developing new docketing strategies to reduce wait time for parties and their attorneys, which in turn will lessen the time and cost associated with court appearances. Making justice more affordable also makes it more accessible.

Growth: Collin County's growing population and the related growth of our business community mean more civil disputes. Factoring in the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a significant backlog of in-person jury trials for quite some time. I plan to address that backlog by

implementing additional dedicated jury trial dockets for groups of similar cases after the Supreme Court of Texas gives the green light for all jury trials to proceed.

Trust: It is vital to our system of justice that judges, especially trial judges, apply the law evenly and fairly. Regardless of personal leanings, the outcome of a case must be based on the law and not the whims of a particular judge. That is why I have always made clear to voters across the political spectrum that I oppose judicial activism and will not engage in it, as doing so threatens the stability of our three-branch system of government.

Mental Health: Mental health and substance abuse issues can impact all aspects of a person's life, including cases making their way through the judicial system. These issues largely arise within the context of criminal proceedings or in family law cases, and rarely play a part in business disputes or other civil matters like those that come before me. But whether a person is involved in a legal proceeding or not, Collin County is fortunate to have a substance abuse program and other resources to connect our citizens to the help they need.

Other Issues: The population explosion in County is expected to continue for years to come, leading to more and more civil disputes. As the 471st District Court Judge, I intend to run the Court's docket efficiently, rule timely, and set cases for prompt trials so we can avoid backlogs to the greatest extent possible. Making constructive use of the Court's time will be a priority as I work to resolve matters timely and correctly according to the law.

471st District Court Judge

Michael D. Payma

Democratic Party



Education: B.S. University of Texas at Dallas 1985 M.A University of Texas at Dallas 1989 J.D. Texas Wesleyan University 1994

Experience: 25+ years as a Trial Attorney. I have tried cases representing Plaintiffs and Defendants. Extensive experience in business litigation, real estate litigation and personal injury. Appointed as guardian as litem, attorney at litem, receiver & mediators

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Efficiency: Each case is unique and as a judge I would make sure each side has enough time to properly prepare for trial. I would require the parties to attend mediation by a mediator of their choice. I would ask attorneys to be ready for trial in 12-14 months. If additional time is needed, I would require a status conference and require valid reasons for the additional time. I would set one day a week for motions and will set hearings every day at 8:00 to provide additional court time to litigants. Finally, judges should better manage their time to prevent lawyer from spending hours in court waiting.

Growth: There will be more cases that will get filed. But if judges do their job and start court on time and work full days, I believe we are capable of handling the case load.

Trust: Judges need to remember that the bench is simply entrusted to them for 4 years. Being fair, unbiased and impartial will make a judge's job easier and the attorneys will know what to expect from the judge. If judges are accountable to the people who elect them rather than their political parties and/or big law firm donors, we can keep those influences out of the courtrooms. My campaign has been supported mostly by non-lawyer individuals and I am proud of that fact.

Mental Health: This is really not a big issue in civil cases, since most of the time, parties are represented by an attorney and the disputes involve monetary issues. However, I believe, judges need to have the patience to listen to each side and decide based on the facts and the law and apply the law equally regardless of litigants sex, race, sexual orientation or national origin.

Other Issues: District Courts handle a large variety of issues and disputes. With the fast growing population in Collin County the district courts will face a challenge that can only be solved by judges working harder. One change that I believe will help immediately is to dedicate one full day for Motions as well as an 8:00 am docket every day so that attorneys can get hearings faster. This way, attorney will not have to wait hours to be heard.

Sheriff

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the county.

Question (Uncontested Race)

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

Sheriff
Jim Skinner
Republican Party



Education: Extensive LE training, certified Master Peace Officer, and law degree from U/Houston. Self-study: leadership, project management, organizational culture, LE and gov't topics (active shooter, technology, separation of powers, purchasing, and budget)

Experience: 30 years LE; prosecutor; Sheriff (2017) (cut Patrol response times; NTXCIU: seized tons drugs; CEU: arrested child predators, seized terabytes child porn); as Legis. Chair, Sheriffs' Assn, helped pass laws for task forces & retirement of LE animals

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Priorities: My primary objectives are to keep the peace, protect our citizens and operate an efficient and safe jail. I will also: Advise Commrs on the upcoming and necessary jail expansion • work w/ Commrs to recruit and better pay detention officers to address ongoing personnel shortfall • ask Commrs to approve a STEP-salary program (employee benefits are great, but steps help retention) • expand the Fusion Center to meet DHS's and Governor's expectations (24/7 operations & monitoring social media for potential threats) • increase capacity to answer 9-1-1 calls and dispatch for First Responders

Tax Assessor and Collector

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the county.

Questions

Tax Collection: What changes, if any, are needed in tax collection processes in the county?

Property Appraisals: What changes are needed, if any, to ensure fairness and accuracy for all property appraisals?

Growth: What challenges will the continuing population growth of the county present, and how will you address them?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the county Tax Assessor and Collector, and how would you address them?

Tax Assessor and Collector

Kenneth L. Maun

Republican Party

No photo provided

Education: Graduated from Boys Town High School, and earned a BBA at Southern Methodist University. I have taken all of the courses for Tax Assessor Collector and have attended two or three conferences each year while in office. I am a reader.

Experience: After high school, I enlisted in the U. S. Air Force for four years, then spent four years at SMU, then five years in public accounting having earned a CPA. Time was spent as a Corporate Accountant and Controller. I have 35 years experience at TAC.

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Tax Collection: We need to keep the equipment that we use current, and maintain and replace as necessary. We moved to an automated system about 8 years ago, and it works fine for today and the next five to ten years. We have processed our mail payments daily, except for freezing weather when we have problems with the staff being in the office. We have two sets of equipment, use them both in busy season, and get the monies received to the cities and schools within two days. We have a good relationship with the Central Appraisal District, and they provide updates on a reasonable basis. We work at our collec

Property Appraisals: Property appraisals in Collin County are consistently within 2% of the Texas State Comptroller Study of appraisal districts. The legislature makes changes to the process every two years when they meet. They constantly make changes to the review and appeal process in order to give taxpayers opportunities to express their opinions pm values. The values in Collin County are going to continue to increase in desirable neighborhoods because of the continuing new residents looking for housing. We are blessed in where we are and the business climate, but it is costing us through increased housing

Growth: Growth is a part of Collin County. We have grown from 2 to 9% over the recent years, and will continue to do so as our business climate is the best in the country. We will need to increase our motor vehicle staffing as the population grows, and the equipment is supplied by the state Division of Motor Vehicles. Our current property tax staffing and equipment will allow us to keep collections and transfers to the cities and schools for the next five to fifteen years with reasonable maintenance and replacement.

Other Issues: We are blessed with our business climate and our open land. The legislature meets every two years and we cannot predict what they will do. We will be flexible, as we have been, and find a way to do what the law requires. The tax office does not make laws, or significantly influence them. We can only provide information and guidance when the legislator is open to our knowledge and expertise.

**Tax Assessor and Collector
John Turner-McClelland
Democratic Party**



Education: Master of Business Administration, The University of Texas at Dallas. Bachelor of Arts in Geography & Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Experience: Previously elected to two terms as the President of the Board of Directors of the Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 11-A in Paloma Creek, in the Little Elm ETJ. Oversaw a government budget & maintained a positive bond rating.

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Tax Collection: Tax collection is a straight forward process: either your bank is paying it from your escrow account, or you will pay it yourself via mail, online, or in person. The Tax Assessor-Collector does need to ensure that the department has the most up to date computing system and software that can handle Collin County's growing population, smoothly connect with the state, and prevent potential cyber attacks from malevolent outside parties.

Property Appraisals: While valuations are not under direct control of the tax office, the Tax Assessor-Collector does serve on the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Central Appraisal District (CAD) and can influence its policies. The BOD should ensure the fair appointments of members of the Appraisal Review Board. The BOD shall also ensure the CAD has the most efficient budget that can handle the needs of taxpayers without wasteful spending. As property values continue to increase annually, the Chief Appraiser does need to review the CAD's current system that allows for contesting proposed valuations.

Growth: The county population estimate has already hit the 1 million resident mark. A conservative estimate has us reaching 2.4 million by 2050, and some estimates are as high as 3.5 million. We must be ready for the increased demand on the staff at the tax offices. This will require additional staff to handle the work load. Continuing to push online services will be a benefit, however we know there is always a need for in person services, not only in property tax but in the motor vehicle services department. This may also require a 4th office location in the future.

Other Issues: The TAC needs to ensure the managers and staff of the department are all working to their best abilities to serve our customers (the taxpayers). We also need to ensure the employees are satisfied with their careers and working environment. Human capital is one of the best things to invest in, keeping turnover to a minimum and benefiting from experienced staff. Local tax entities in the county need to make sure we're collecting enough taxes to support local services. Everyone in Collin County should invest their fair share of taxes to ensure our continued economic success.

County Commissioner

4-year term. Must be 18 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 Collin County Commissioners Court, which conducts the general business of the county and oversees financial matters.

Questions

Growth: What challenges will the population growth of the county present, and how would you address them?

Poverty/Homelessness: What, if anything, should be done to meet low income residents' basic needs, such as mental health care and housing, and reduce homelessness in the county?

Transportation: What are the main transportation issues in the county and how should they be addressed?

Public Safety: What, if anything, should be done to improve public safety in the county?

Criminal Justice: What measures would you support to improve the criminal justice system in the county?

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

County Commissioner, Precinct 1
Courtney Brooks
Democratic Party



Education: Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice-Collin College Bachelor's Degree in Criminology-UT Dallas

Experience: I worked for HomeAid/Home Builder's Care, the nonprofit arm of the Dallas Builders Association, as a PTA President, as a juvenile detention officer in Dallas county and as a juvenile probation officer in Fannin County

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Growth: According to the World Health Organization, the population of people 65 years or older will grow to 1.5 billion in 2050, a massive increase from 2010, when there were 524 million. The American Hospital Association reports that by 2030, 6 out of every 10 baby boomers will be managing more than one chronic condition. With these rapidly growing numbers, Collin County has a obligation to the elderly citizens to stay ahead of this populace spike. Patient centered medical homes is another wonderful option, to include care that is patient-centered, concentrated and coordinated with accessible services

Poverty/Homelessness: There are four basic things we have to do to end homelessness. The first is to provide affordable housing units. Second, we need to make services available, with special attention to physical health, mental health, employment, education and childcare, and provide case workers so this effort is successful. Third, make sure that there is a strategy for social inclusion and social connectedness. Fourth, study trends in healthcare, homelessness, education, criminal justice, employment, etc., we can understand who is most at risk for becoming homeless and offer support services before they fall.

Transportation: Demographers say Collin County will have over 3 million people by 2050, yet we don't have enough road to handle our current capacity, the county's current plans for the future don't have enough capacity in either roads or rails to handle that amount of population, and the current Commissioners Court has been playing chicken with the cities of McKinney and Prosper over the 380 bypass instead of working with the cities and state to decide on route that will smooth growth and protect jobs. Another route, one that goes through the least homes and businesses is the right way.

Public Safety: Safety and stability are critical components of a healthy community. There are ways to make Collin County a resilient place where children are not growing up with threats of

family or community violence, those who witness or survive violent crimes are given services and support they need, and the criminal justice continuum is viewed as a legitimate and positive force. Incarceration is used sparingly, and community-based responses to crime and mental and behavioral health issues are presumptive. Tackling mental illness is an important issue that needs to be addressed in Collin County.

Criminal Justice: We need to bring community policing to Collin County as it would be beneficial to the officers and the residents. Community policing is a philosophy of full service personalized policing, where the same officer patrols and works in the same area on a permanent basis, from a decentralized place, working in a proactive partnership with citizens to identify and solve problems. It helps reduce fear of police officers, brings the community together, is a good crime deterrent, and it shows a strong commitment to the community.

Other Issues: Jail reform is something that the county will need to address quickly. In many jails around the country, over 40% of the prisoners were diagnosed as mentally ill. There has to be mental health professionals there to assess cases when they come in, to care for the prisoner appropriately. When the prisoner is released, we cannot walk away from our responsibility to assist in his or her successful return. The county should invest in helping the released prisoner to find a place to live, to find a job, and to remain sober; helping them network with case managers who can help them.

County Commissioner, Precinct 1

Susan Fletcher

Republican Party



Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts. University of North Texas, 1989. Interior Design / Industrial Technology, Graduate of 2 elite County Leadership Academies through the Texas A&M VG Young Institute & Texas Association of Counties, Government Law & Liability Ed.

Experience: Elected 2014. Professional background in Commercial Interior Construction, Project Management & Planning, Appointed to State Boards by 2 Texas Governors. Previous Chairman of Collin County Healthcare Foundation Adv. Board. Various policy committees.

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Growth: Transportation Infrastructure (see Q3 answer), expansion of our jail, and eventually the courthouse. We are addressing these with strategic forecasting and long-range planning, so that we are not overcome by the continued growth. The main focus of county government is judicial services and operation of the jail. Being one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, we have significantly increased court filings as well as numbers of detainees in the jail. As a Commissioner, I am focused on providing the necessary facilities, staff and support to keep up with our continuing rapid growth.

Poverty/Homelessness: Collin County has many programs in place to help give citizens a hand up, rather than a handout, and provides excellent care and dignity for our recipients. Our Local Mental Health Authority is administered by LifePath, and we've made vast improvements in recent years. Project Access, our innovative program to provide state-mandated indigent health care is consistently recognized as a great model. Homelessness is addressed through our Housing Finance Corporation grants, and we also donate significantly to organizations such as Samaritan Inn, Hope's Door, City House and Habitat for Humanity.

Transportation: In 2018, the court proposed and voters passed a \$750M bond which is beginning to address our current highway expansion needs, including Hwy. 380, the Outer Loop and Hwy. 78. With county build-out population projected near 3.5M, we simply can't build enough roads to address our future needs. Therefore, we must work with our cities, state and feds to identify affordable public transit solutions. One option is further study of a "Bus Rapid Transit" system, which is a cost-effective way to deliver fast, comfortable service, at metro-level capacities for "first mile - last mile" type commutes.

Public Safety: As a strong advocate for public safety and protection of our citizens. I am passionate about providing our Sheriff and Constables, as well as our Judiciary, Fire Marshal and Homeland Security Department with the necessary staff, training and equipment to keep Collin County citizens safe, including at our facilities, such as the Courthouse, as well as throughout Collin County. I'm thankful for the cooperation and mutual aid between agencies, and the focus on properly trained personnel. I will continue to focus on being a good community partner and facilitate communication between all entities.

Criminal Justice: We have added five additional courts in recent years (requested from the Legislature) in order to handle the increased case loads in Collin Co: 1 new County Court at Law & 4 new District Courts. We also added a new full-time Magistrate Judge to comply with legal timelines, which has relieved the burden on current staff. I anticipate continued updates to the laws including the use of bond risk-assessment tools. Non-violent offenders who are not a flight risk or physical risk to themselves or others should be evaluated for PR & PTR bonds while awaiting trial, allowing many to keep their jobs.

Other Issues: I have voted to lower our County Property Tax Rate over 26% since being elected. The County's portion is roughly 9% of your tax bill, and I believe our rising property values coupled with our overall tax burden have become too onerous on our citizens. I also believe we must address our indigent defense costs, which are far outpacing inflation and population growth. Collin County has been extremely responsive, and is a leader in the state for using our federal CARES Act funding out to directly help our citizens, as well as our small businesses recover from the economic effects of Covid-19.

County Commissioner, Precinct 3
Darrell Hale
Republican Party



Education: United States Military Academy at West Point

Experience: Currently Serving out a Two Year Term as Collin County Commissioner. I have almost fifteen years experience in Telecom. I started, ran for five years and sold my small business. I was a US Army Officer and now Veteran.

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Growth: The largest challenge is infrastructure in general. As we grow and proportionally grow our services we will eventually reach a point with various facilities that we will have to expand them. We have obligations to our citizens to house detainees awaiting trial and our jail is near capacity even with a variety of diversion programs implemented. We are already in the process of planning ahead for jail expansion, we have already started a new Justice of the Peace Building at the junction of 205 and HWY 78.

Poverty/Homelessness: We are already meeting and exceeding our statutory responsibilities in the state. We provide for indigent healthcare and indigent defense. We run a county clinic, partner with Project Access, and recently contributed 485k towards the new McKinney FQHC. Housing is not a core function of county government. Personally, I participate on the McKinney Mayor's committee on homelessness to facilitate getting county services to those that need them most.

Transportation: The County's only true obligation towards transportation in the county is for county roads. All but 6.88 percent are paved of the 727 miles of Collin County CR's. We are the envy of the state in our dedication towards county roads. Although not required we have secured bond votes in 2003, 2007 and 2018 totaling 1.1 Billion towards partnership with cities and the state to grow new arterials and limited access highways capacity.

Public Safety: We have some of the finest peace officers in the county working for Collin County government. I continue to support them in their roles and have provided resources to allow them to excel at their job. We have recently approved a license plate reader test for one of our Constables to scan areas that normally the city police or sheriff's deputies wouldn't regularly travel. We also continue to fund a drug interdiction component of the Sheriff's drug interdiction task force.

Criminal Justice: Typically the Commissioners Court does not interact on the judicial system but in the last year legislation was passed that allowed a dedicated magistrate to be appointed by the Court. We funded the implementation of our first full time magistrate and are now three months into the transition. This allows for us to be fully compliant and arraign those charged ASAP. This also helps expedite bonding and potential diversion or even pleas that minimize jail population and expediting justice.

Other Issues: Election security and reliability is a major issue and we have invested already over 10M in new machines. We will need to lease/purchase additional machines for the Nov 2020 election to comply with new laws that are now in place. I believe that it is a major issue that isn't spoken about much because our election staff does such a great job. We now have a system that provides for paper ballot backup.

County Commissioner, Precinct 3

Dianne C. Mayo

Democratic Party



Education: Spring High School, Spring, TX Trinity University, San Antonio, TX - Business and theatre University of Houston, Houston, TX - Business and theatre

Experience: Federal Government - 13 years, including Appeals Division of IRS, Small Business Administration, and 11 years with USDA Farm Service Agency, administering a \$60+ Million budget for loans to farmers. Banking, and Telecom sector Escalation Manager

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Growth: Collin County is booming; Frisco is leading the entire nation. Projections are Collin will go from 1 M to between 2.4 - 3.5 M people by 2050. That is as big as Dallas County is now, bigger than Tarrant. Businesses and employees are relocating here. Our schools are highly desirable, and homes are still affordable. The challenges the Commissioners Court will face will be keeping growth and tax expenditures in balance; as new homes or businesses are built, we use the additional properties to keep the effective tax rate low. Focus on healthcare, infrastructure, roads, and law enforcement.

Poverty/Homelessness: As a Democrat, and as someone who has needed safety net services and who has personal friends who have experienced homelessness, I want to ensure that the

County does all it can to provide for the basic needs of all its citizens. Anyone can fall through the cracks of society. But people aren't crumbs to be swept away. We need to fully fund programs providing mental healthcare, a huge factor in homelessness, and treatment programs for drug addiction and abuse. Housing for individuals experiencing homelessness should be a priority, as well as a more sensitive approach to law enforcement.

Transportation: Studies regarding new roads and more in the future as the population surges have been completed. We will also need to ensure we have adequate mass transit solutions to move more people to and from efficiently and inexpensively. I want to see a more robust mass transit system, bring the DART north and allow people the freedom from their cars to go downtown. Additional County Road solutions and more paved roads are already being planned, which I believe are wise choices, but we must be mindful of people's homes and businesses in their paths. Add small buses to transport those with special needs.

Public Safety: The County Commissions Court has multiple points of impact on public safety issues. We need to insure that mental health providers like Lifepath are fully funded, that drug programs are adequate to the county's needs and fully funded, and that law enforcement receives all that it needs to ensure public safety issues are adequately addressed. We need thorough and responsive tracking of felons and other offenders, while being mindful of costs associated with tracking updates; transparency of law enforcement budget items, in short and understandable formats, so the public knows what we pay for.

Criminal Justice: Collin County has a good handle on transparency in the areas of Criminal Justice. I'd like to build on that and ensure that every step of the process is easily searchable online. Child Protective Services is underfunded and in need of expansion; the CASA program utilizes volunteers to help children in potentially dangerous situations and we'll need more outreach to fill our volunteer positions there. We have a good start on Fair Defense programs for indigent persons, but will need to increase that budget for the future. Also, I agree w/ plans to provide more courtrooms/judges per caseload.

Other Issues: I'd love to see more diversity in county government, so that individuals with varying perspectives can share their opinions. There are no Democratic voices on the 5-member Commissioners Court, yet Collin County is growing increasingly more "blue". I think we need to broaden our horizons and listen and learn from those with different experiences to further deepen the sense that everyone in Collin County has a voice in their government. I think, while we are moving full steam ahead, we also need to pause with empathy for those who have less chance to speak up, and hear what they need to say.

Constable

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented.

Questions

Preparation: Which of your qualities and experiences would serve you well in this role, and why?

Vision: What would you like to accomplish as a Constable?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the county Constables, and how would you address them?

Constable, Precinct 1 (Uncontested in General Election)

Mike Vance
Republican Party



Education: High School Diploma from Allen Military Academy, Bryan TX. Associate Degree in Management and Technology from Richland College, Dallas TX. Graduate of the Leadership Command College, Sam Houston State University 3,684 Law Enforcement Continuing Edu

Experience: Patrol Deputy, Criminal Investigator, Child Sex Crime Investigator, Narcotics Officer, Intelligence Officer, Patrol Supervisor, Narcotics Supervisor, served warrants, served civil papers, 17 year S.W.A.T. Team veteran, The Last 7 years of which, I wa

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Twitter: twitter.com/CareerLEO

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/NImxROpsAMk>

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Campaign Phone: (214) 686-5488

Preparation: 1. My Law Enforcement and leadership experience 2. My impeccable work ethic
The Constables office is a Law Enforcement office and should be lead by a well experience law

enforcement officer with a good foundation and experience in leadership. I have that experience and leadership foundation. The Constables Office needs a leader who will go to work every day. In my tenure with the Collin County Sheriff's Office I have maintained an impeccable attendance record. If an elected official rarely goes to work then he or she most likely has no idea what's going on in his or her office.

Vision: I plan to make the Constables office the most productive, fiscally conservative office possible. I will operate the office with honesty, integrity and hard work. My office and it's employees will appear and conduct themselves as the professionals at all times. We will always treat the public with the utmost dignity and respect.

Other Issues: Constables are required to make 3 attempts at service before returning the paper back to the courts. Often times the deputy will go to an address where either the person to be served is never home during the day or the location may be vacant. I plan to rearrange the deputies schedule so that they are on the street when most people have arrived home from work. I plan to institute a civilian intelligence position whose sole objective will be to get a good location on the people we need to get served which will conceivably reduce the number of service attempts and will save time and fuel.

Constable, Precinct 2 (Uncontested)

**Gary Edwards
Republican Party**

No response received

Constable, Precinct 3 (Uncontested)

**Sammy Knapp
Republican Party**

No response received

Constable, Precinct 4 (Uncontested)

**Joe Wright
Republican Party**

No response received

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.