



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

November 6, 2018

General Election

TX Representative District 33

Early voting: October 22 – November 2

Election Day Polls: November 6–7 am to 7 pm

About this Voters Guide

This Voters Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Collin County to help citizens prepare to cast an informed vote. The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

This guide is available online at www.lwvcollin.org, along with guides for other offices that include all or part of Collin County. Candidate responses for all races are also available at www.VOTE411.org, where you can enter an address and view a personalized ballot with races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates for each office, whether or not the race is contested. Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response received" is printed. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This Voters Guide is organized by office sought, with candidates listed in alphabetical order, 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.

Texas Representative District 33

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

Taxes: Should school property taxes and/or franchise taxes be reduced? If so, what sources should be used to make up the resulting public school funding shortfall? Do you support transparency for school taxes that are sent to the state under Robin Hood?

Transportation: What are the main transportation needs in Texas, and how should they be funded?

Education: What changes, if any, should be made to public education in Texas?

Healthcare: What legislation would you support, if any, to ensure comprehensive, affordable healthcare for all Texans?

Emergency Preparedness: What does the state need to do to be prepared for and provide emergency services and funding after natural disasters?

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?

Laura Gunn, Democratic Party

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Education: Vocational Drafting- High school Bachelor of Arts - The Ohio State University

Experience: 13+ years Engineering graphics, 4 years Collin College Fine Arts Department

Taxes: Property Taxes should be reduced by closing the corporate loop hole. In addition, elimination of STAAR testing would free up \$90 million dollars a year. Decriminalization of Marijuana would free up an additional \$450 million dollars a year that is spent on law enforcement, courts and incarceration. Two out of three of these suggestions would give tax relief immediately. It is necessary to consider these options as property values are increasing every year.

Transportation: Collin county infrastructure has not met the growing needs of the population. County, state and city governments are far behind in their planning, and city streets are bumper to bumper at all hours of the day. Corporations need to do their part to help fund roads and transportation because they are drawing people into our cities.

Education: Tutoring companies like Reading Ranch, Kumon and Sylvan do a booming business because Texas curriculum is dominated by STAAR testing. Our children are getting half an education because there is an emphasis on test strategies. Smaller classroom sizes are key in the elementary grades to help educators accurately assess a child's needs, and elementary school teachers need to focus on teaching, not standardized test preparation.

Healthcare: I support taking the Medicaid expansion and opening it up to the working poor. In addition, I would like to include dental and optical because having good dental health and having eye exams makes for a more productive person.

Emergency Preparedness: Communication is key. Having cell tower coverage without calls dropping is important for 911 service. Making sure there is adequate shelter, emergency generators and medical services for surrounding communities. In addition, the Federal government's FirstNet program will provide a broadband voice and data network exclusive to first responders and city, state and local

governments for emergencies. FirstNet infrastructure buildouts need to be fast-tracked through local municipality approvals in order to give first responders the extra communications capabilities they need to operate efficiently in times of crisis.

Other Issues: Gerrymandering and voter suppression. I would like to see the State districts reviewed, assessed for impartiality, and redrawn to better reflect the populations of the area.

Justin Holland, Republican Party



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Education: Texas A&M Commerce- 2008, Texas Tech- 2005, Rockwall High School- 2002

Experience: Texas House of Representatives (2017- Present), Heath City Council (2011-2016)

Taxes: 1. I'm proud to say that the House passed HB 28, which put the franchise tax on a steady track towards complete repeal. The bill would allocate a portion of surplus state money, up to \$3.5 billion each two-year budget cycle, to reduce the state franchise tax. Under the bill, franchise tax rates would be lowered each cycle to account for the surplus, until the rates approached zero and the tax was eliminated. Under the provision of HB 28, we could have seen the franchise tax eliminated as soon as 2024. Unfortunately, HB 28 did not make it out of the Senate. Property Tax reform must be accompanied by school finance reforms. Changes in how money is allocated to districts directly impact a district's entitlement and recapture. It will reduce the amount that districts have to pay into Robin Hood. By forcing tax rates to shrink as property values rise, property owners are protected from large increases in future tax bills. I am an advocate for more property tax transparency for homeowners.

Transportation: Transportation is a challenge we face across the state as people continue to pour into Texas from around the country. The citizens of Texas overwhelmingly approved prop 1 and prop 7, which the comptroller's office estimates will dedicate an additional \$3.87 billion dollars to TxDOT in 2018-2019 for traditional transportation projects. While continuing to fund traditional methods of transportation, it is imperative to keep our eye on future methods of transportation to more efficiently move people and goods across the state.

Education: We need to pay our best teachers more, reward teachers and school districts for student growth, prioritize spending in the classroom, and reduce the burden of skyrocketing property taxes.

Healthcare: Taxpayer-funded support for the state's safety net for poor and low-income Texans is generous and extensive. Health and Human Services is the second largest government function after public and higher education, with all Funds Appropriations for 2018-2019 totaling \$79.5 Billion, or 36.6 percent of all state appropriations. Given the extensive and expensive system of taxpayer-supported healthcare in Texas, I would support legislature that builds on the network of healthcare services to enhance access to quality care that focuses on prevention, early detection, and immediate treatment to improve health outcomes and hold down long-term costs as much as possible.

Emergency Preparedness: As a member of the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee, I have been fortunate to hear testimony and to have first hand experience with our public safety officials. Hearing testimony after Hurricane Harvey, most FEMA officials raved about how prepared Texas was on a state level to tackle Harvey. The ability for the state to coordinate Federal, State, and local resources and position them in key areas before the storm hit, was a testament to the success of the State Operations Center in Austin. While overall deployment of resources was a success, during the 86th Legislature we will need to review the after action reports from DPS and other state agencies to determine what areas we can improve on and streamline aid to communities in need.

Other Issues: TRS Care- During the 85th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature, TRS-Care faced a \$1.1 billion budget shortfall. If nothing had been done by the Legislature to address this issue, retirees' premiums would have skyrocketed (even tripling), and the program could have closed within two years, leaving many without a quality health care option. The Texas Legislature made changes to TRS-Care funding for the program to remain solvent. However, with rising health care costs, TRS-Care expenses have outgrown its income. TRS-Care is primarily funded by retired teachers, but it also receives funding from active educators, school districts and the state. Health care costs are rising at a disproportionate rate as compared to teacher salaries. Thus, TRS-Care will continue to see budget shortfalls under its current system. The TRS-Care funding system must be re-worked to satisfy its modern needs.

<p>You may bring this <i>Voters Guide</i> into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this <i>Voters Guide</i>, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (<i>Texas Election Code, Section 61.011</i>)</p>
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Your vote is your voice. Be heard.