



VOTERS GUIDE

Nonpartisan

JULY 14, 2020, PRIMARY RUNOFF ELECTION

REPUBLICAN PARTY

COLLIN COUNTY 401ST DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Early voting: June 29 – July 10

Election Day Polls: July 14 – 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.

If you voted in the Democratic or Republican primary in March, you can only vote in runoffs for the same party. If you did not vote in a primary in March, you can vote in runoffs for either party, but not both.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates in the runoff. 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. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

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.

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.

Questions

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?

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

Sarah Fox

Republican Party



Education: Southwestern University 2007 B.A. Philosophy and Political Science Southern Methodist Dedman School of Law 2010 J.D.

Experience: Misdemeanor and felony prosecutor under District Attorney Greg Willis 2011-2015
Criminal Defense Attorney 2015-Present Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

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Efficiency: Prioritizing jail population and utilizing court staff to keep attorneys accountable with scheduling orders. Additionally, the district judge themselves must be diligent in providing rulings in a timely manner rather than taking issues “under advisement” for extended periods. Without question we must have judges on the bench who have the right experience in order for the dockets to move efficiently.

Growth: Collin County has grown approximately 25% in the past 8 years so efficient courts are imperative. By maintaining efficient courtrooms and growing the number of courts to keep up with the population, we can maintain efficient and effective courts. The state has added additional courts over the past several years which has significantly helped this issue.

Trust: Judges must focus solely on the law and not on politics. Judges can often be the target of attacks based on rulings or political vendettas and so it is imperative that district judges have strength and integrity to rise above the political pressures and follow the law without exception.

Mental Health: Personally, I have made mental health education a priority over the last few years, attending numerous conferences and seminars. The biggest takeaway I have from that education is that recognition and identification of mental health issues when they are at play is the most important step in the judicial process. Simply being able to identify the signs and symptoms allows a trial court judge to bring in any additional resources necessary to properly evaluate the role of mental health in each individual case.

Other Issues: Honestly, this questionnaire already addressed the issue of mental health affecting cases and that is what I believe is the biggest neglected issue in the district courts right now, affecting criminal, civil, and family law cases alike.

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.