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## VOTERS GUIDE

**Nonpartisan**

MARCH 3, 2020, PRIMARY ELECTION  
TX REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 89

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Early voting: February 18-28

Election Day Polls: March 3 – 7 am to 7 pm

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### 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](http://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](http://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.

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**TX Representative District 89**

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.

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**Questions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Sugar Ray Ash**  
**Democratic Party**

**Education:** 1. B.S. - Business Admin.-Rider University 2. Juris Doctorate - Texas Southern Univ.

**Experience:** Co-Founder Murphy Chamber Commerce Co-Author Murphy Home Rule Charter Former Prosecutor Municipal Court State Delegate for Barack Obama-2008 Nat. Delegate for Barack Obama -2012 Precinct Chair, Poll Worker, Election Judge since 2004 Vietnam Veteran

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**Education:** HB3 compressed the tax rate (CTR) to 93%, however, I would take that a step further, something more in line with what they did in 2006 when they compressed the tax rate down to 67%. I would recommend a rate compression of at least 80% because property values in North Texas are rising so rapidly that even if the tax rate never goes up, the actual tax paid will increase because of the increase in taxable value. Also, I would include some legislation that would remove the property tax loopholes for business that allow them to appeal away millions of dollars of appraised property.

**Healthcare:** I would support legislation that will expand medicaid in Texas and opt in to the Affordable Care Act so Texas could receive the \$10 Billion in federal aid it passes up each year. I would also work with seniors to help them set up Qualifying Trusts so that more of them could qualify for Medicaid without worry of losing assets or showing too much income.

**Redistricting:** The greatest impact upon district maps is caused by the census; so I would work closely with the Census Bureau to assure that every person in Texas (and America) was counted. A district can not be properly represented if the total persons in that district are not counted. Further, I would work closely with voter registration so that the people in that district get to vote for the people who will represent them.

**Gun Violence:** Background check laws for sale of all guns; and a prohibition of sale of weapons of mass destruction, which do not belong in the hands of civilians, such as AK-47 & AR-15 Assault Rifles. Further, I believe that certain individuals should be prevented from purchasing any kind of firearm due to their mental instability and prior record of violence. And we should crack down on the number of Federal Firearms Licenses (FFL) that are issued because some of these guys operate out of a rented storage unit to sell guns to strangers for profit. I would demand they have "brick & mortar" store fronts.

**Elections:** NO bans on any voting sites whether temporary or full time; even if they are open part time that will give at least a few more people the opportunity to vote, and in a true democracy the more opportunity that people have to vote, the more you will know the true will of the people, which is a true democracy. Also, there are some people who will use this new ban to suppress the vote, and that is never a good thing. Further, I would make voting a state holiday in Texas, giving everyone the day off if they go vote. And finally, I would register voters when they renew their driving licenses.

**Other Issues:** Texas is great for finding a job; but not so great at finding a job that "pays the rent". Look at the Homeless population in the Capitol City of Austin to drive home this point. The minimum wage in Texas should be at least \$12.50 per hour, which is only 1% of the average rent for an apartment; also I support affordable housing. Also, I support decriminalization of marijuana and expunging criminal records for minor drug offenses. Finally, the State should not interfere with local governments and their respective revenues, regardless of the secretly recorded comments made by Speaker Bonnen.

**Jon Cocks**  
**Democratic Party**



**Education:** B.A. degree from Baldwin-Wallace College (now University), Berea, Ohio

**Experience:** Member, Texas Association of Business' Education, Transportation & Water policy committees LifePath Systems Foundation Board Member Board Member Collin Cty Community Advocacy, who organizes Collin Cty's Martin Luther King Day Celebration Rotary Int'l

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**Education:** Education funding has got to reduce its dependence on property taxes. Instead, our tax regime needs to place greater emphasis on taxing economic activity rather than taxing property and assets. Simultaneously, Texas needs to significantly increase its funding share to two-thirds of the cost of educating each child with the remaining one-third funded by local taxes. While economic activity is variable, we don't completely stop spending during an economic downturn. Rather, individuals and businesses reduce and redirect their spending. Another benefit, we'll fight less about education funding.

**Healthcare:** First, Texas must adopt expanded Medicare, which was provided for in the Affordable Healthcare Act. Texas is being shortsighted by not taking additional healthcare funding from the federal government to help our own. Next, instead of relying primary care physicians, Texas must increase the supply of primary care nurse practitioners and physician assistants by increasing the availability of the required training programs at state universities. We also need to improve access to tele-doc services as well as other alternative health care delivery services (mobile clinics, technology, etc.).

**Redistricting:** I believe establishing an independent commission whose role is to develop and recommend a proposed redistricting plan to the Legislature is a necessary first step. Redistricting is a political process, that's never going to change. But requiring elected officials to explain why he or she did not accept an independent commission's proposal will make a difference in how redistricting occurs along with redistricting outcomes.

**Gun Violence:** While I support the second amendment, its unfortunate many Texans no longer feel safe in their communities, schools or churches. Arming more Texans does not make us safe. Nor does the increasingly easy access to guns and ammunition. There must be a required "cooling off" period between the time a gun is purchased and when possession occurs so a

mandatory comprehensive background check can be completed. We know assault-style weapons are not hunting weapons, nor are they necessary for one's personal or family's security. Assault-style weapons must be banned, and their resale prohibited.

**Elections:** While Texas must continue its vigilance, we must also acknowledge election fraud is not a problem. Voting is a responsibility of citizenship, maintaining easy access to voting is a priority. Easily accessible election centers in all communities is a must as is access to voter registration opportunities. Keeping electronic ballots secure and having a paper back-up so all votes are counted and can be verified is a must. Increasing emphasis on election cybersecurity and supporting local election administrators are also priorities.

**Other Issues:** Texas is growing. Building and maintaining Texas highways and other public assets, including water resources, remains an absolute priority as does developing alternatives to roads to move people and goods, especially in urban areas. We need to think differently about these issues along with how technology can help. Texas needs to expand the availability of and access to behavioral health services. If not, we'll be just like California. Finally, hunger, especially child hunger, is a growing problem. A hungry child's access to food stops during the summer and school holidays. That must change!

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**Ed Kless**  
**Libertarian Party**



**Education:** BA, Pace University, Liberal Studies, Theatre

**Experience:** Radio talkshow host, business consultant, 2 time nominee for TX State Senate.

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**Education:** I propose a TX Constitutional Amendment to change the wording from providing an "efficient" system of education to an "effective" one. This would focus us not on spending (efficiency) but on the right outcomes (effectiveness). This could be accomplished by creating a single-payer system for education. The state would attach a dollar amount to each child and the money would go to the school of the parents choosing.

**Healthcare:** I would reduce the administrative burden on physicians who would want to create direct primary care (DPC) offices. DPC has been proved to reduce prices for consumers and

increase the quality of care. In addition, I would allow and encourage more privately run surgery centers like the Surgery Center of Oklahoma, which publishes prices for over 100 procedures most of which at 1/10th the price that is charged in private AND public hospitals.

**Redistricting:** The solution to this is to allow the Party with ballot access that gets the lowest number of total votes in Statewide races to draw the district maps.

**Gun Violence:** I object to the bias in this question. What evidence is there to support that gun violence needs "curbing" in Texas? However, regardless of the bias in the question, the answer is, I support full, open, and Constitutional carry.

**Elections:** Elections should be done electronically using blockchain technology which would ensure the veracity of each and every vote. Billions of dollars in business is transacted daily using secure transaction processing systems. There is NO reason, why one could not be developed and implemented for voting in the state of Texas.

**Other Issues:** If elected, I would seek a complete overhaul of the laws and regulations in Texas with a commitment to repeal two laws or regulations for every one new one proposed. Our problem is TOO much government, not TOO little government.

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**Candy Noble**  
**Republican Party**

No response received

<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.**