



VOTERS GUIDE

Nonpartisan

MARCH 3, 2020, PRIMARY ELECTION

TX REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 66

Early voting: February 18-28

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

ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

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

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

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

This Voters Guide is organized by office sought, with candidates listed in alphabetical order, regardless of their political party.

League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

The LWV never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

TX Representative District 66

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

Questions

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

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

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

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

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

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

Forrest John Hampton
Green Party

No response received

Sharon Hirsch
Democratic Party



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

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

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

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

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

Gun Violence: I support the implementation of “red flag” laws to keep weapons out of the hands of individuals who are determined by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others. I

also support universal background checks, including gun show, online, and private sales of firearms, to ensure that they are being sold in accordance with existing law. Fundamentally, gun violence is a public health issue. I will encourage the state to study the impact of gun violence on our communities, to promote education related to gun safety, and to strengthen gun storage regulations.

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

Other Issues: I have a wide breadth of position statements available to the public on my website and I invite all readers of this guide to find out more at Sharon4TX.com.

Shawn Jones
Libertarian Party

No response received

Aimee Garza Lopez
Democratic Party



Education: Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Science Long Medical School, Doctorate of Medicine UT Health Science Center, San Antonio, Residency UT Health Science Center, San Antonio, Neurophysiology Fellowship Diplomate, ABPN Board Certified

Experience: Physician Small business owner Adjunct faculty for the University of North Texas Health Science Center Project Access Volunteer physician Girl Scout Troop leader Legislative advocate for Health Insurance Transparency

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Education: We need a permanent funding solution for school financing. Children in Texas deserve well-funded schools. I have an immediate and long term investment plan for schools and teacher pay. My immediate plan reforms the 25% of the gas tax for education. My policy phases out the gas tax replacing it with a mileage use fee to capture \$24 million today, \$200 million by 2035 in lost revenue from alternative fuel vehicles and cutting the tax on gas \$.20. <https://qr.go.page.link/8sCRG> My long term housing plan unlocks up \$15.9 billion of untaxed property value in Collin County <https://qr.go.page.link/EfTUa>

Healthcare: Texas ranks 1st for the highest rate of uninsured citizens in the country. We need to pursue Medicaid expansion, federal waivers and other private coverage options to draw down available federal funds. We also have the highest postpartum maternal mortality. I support extending coverage from the current 2 months after delivery to 12 months to promote healthier mothers and babies. I will support a reduction in the frequency of reenrollment for the Children's Health Insurance Program as 50,000 children are dropped from CHIP at each reenrollment.

Redistricting: Redistricting should not be a partisan power grab. Partisan drawn maps do not represent all citizens equally. Competitive elections hold elected officials accountable. I support drawing fair and equitable district maps which equal in population, compact and contiguous, which incorporate geographic features like cities and counties. Redistricting reforms can include removing the state legislature from the process and allowing an independent commission to draw lines to ensure fairness in representation. The districts should be drawn in compliance with the U.S Constitution and Voting Rights Act.

Gun Violence: I am a sixth generation Texan and enjoy trap shooting. I grew up going dove and deer hunting with my father. That was his idea of daddy daughter bonding. I understand Texas culture and know how proud we are of our culture and independence. But, our hearts are broken over the recent mass shootings that included officers. It is past time to take action and treat gun violence as a public health issue. We need to close the loophole that allows the sale of a gun to a total stranger without a background check. We need to increase education on firearm safety and encourage safe storage of guns.

Elections: Practices that suppress, purge or dilute voter rolls of registered and eligible to vote citizens should not be applauded regardless of political leanings. We can improve our election process with an expansion of early voting sites and times. Permit the use of a college identification as a form of voter identification. Improve the implementation of the county-wide polling place program to include a full ballot instead of a limited ballot. We can secure our elections with offline equipment and a paper trail for auditing purposes. We should encourage voter registration not criminalize mistakes.

Other Issues: I am a physician, small business owner and mother with school age daughters. If elected my first legislative bill will address health insurance transparency. Insurance coverage with a PPO label should not restrict your choice of doctors. SB2 will force businesses to absorb the cost of services indirectly with unfunded mandates or directly with a fee for service. We need to overturn sections of SB2 that are shortsighted solutions for political gain and that overturn local funding choices. As a mother, I will oppose discriminatory legislation that is contrary to Texas values.

Matt Shaheen
Republican Party



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

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

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Education: Last session we made a significant impact on school finance reform in a bipartisan fashion. We increased education funding, including dedicated funds for teacher pay raises and we secured the retired teachers pension and provided them with an extra paycheck. I've been fighting against the flawed and punitive "Robin Hood" scheme since entering the Texas Legislature and I'm pleased to report that I successfully fought to reduce Plano ISD's Robin Hood payment by over \$70 million and will build on that success next session.

Healthcare: Healthcare is vital to every Texan's well-being and it is imperative that each citizen get access to quality healthcare at a fair price. Rising premiums and deductibles, resulting from failed government programs like Obamacare, are harming all Texans. That is why I have formed an advisory group of doctors that I am working with to introduce legislation that will increase access to healthcare, increase patient choice and reduce costs. Historically, I have supported measures to safeguard and improve access to health care services for vulnerable populations and will continue to do so.

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

Gun Violence: Gun violence is heartbreaking. I have 3 children of my own and my wife is a teacher. I can't imagine the devastation these victims' families have had to live with. To keep Texas families safe, I fought for a centralized registry of protective orders against domestic

abusers. In a bipartisan approach, I fought for legislation that drastically increased school safety by funding over \$300 million for efforts like police at our schools, security training for teachers and staff, safety technology, more effective mental illness treatments and much more. I will continue to build on these successes.

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

Other Issues: As a father of three, human trafficking, and specifically sex trafficking, is something that I feel particularly passionate about combating. It's a horrific practice, and our large border with Mexico is part of what makes us the #2 state in the nation for human sex trafficking activity. Last session, we dedicated millions in our general budget towards preventing, investigating, and prosecuting human trafficking activity. I'll continue to work in a bipartisan fashion on legislation that funds the fight against this horrific practice in any effective way possible.

<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.