



VOTERS GUIDE

Published by the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi Area

November 6, 2018 General Election



Early Voting Locations: October 22-November 2, 2018
Monday-Friday, October 22-26: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, October 27: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday, October 28: 12 noon-5 p.m.
Monday-Friday, October 29-November 2: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

- THE VALENCIA**
6110 Ayers St. Corpus Christi, TX
- VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL**
3750 Cimarron, Corpus Christi, TX
(Closed 10/27 and 10/28)
- WEST OSO ISD (Administration Building)**
5050 Rockford Dr., Corpus Christi, TX
(Closed 10/27 and 10/28)

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

- BISHOP COMMUNITY CENTER**
102 West Joyce St., Bishop, TX
- CALALLEN ISD (Admin. Building)**
4205 Wildcat Dr., Corpus Christi, TX
(Closed 10/27 and 10/28)
- CORPUS CHRISTI CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**
6602 S. Staples St., Corpus Christi, TX
(Closed 10/27 and 10/28)
- CORPUS CHRISTI CITY HALL**
1201 Leopard Street, Corpus Christi
(Closed 10/27 and 10/28)
- CORPUS CHRISTI ISD (Admin. Building)**
801 Leopard St., Corpus Christi, TX
(Closed 10/27 and 10/28)
- DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CENTER**
5151 McArdle Rd., Corpus Christi, TX
- DEL MAR COLLEGE (Admin. Building)**
101 Baldwin Blvd. Corpus Christi, TX
(Closed 10/27 and 10/28)

- ETHEL EYERLY SENIOR CENTER**
654 Graham Rd., Corpus Christi, TX
- GREENWOOD SENIOR CENTER**
4040 Greenwood Dr., Corpus Christi, TX
- HILLTOP COMMUNITY CENTER**
11425 Leopard St., Corpus Christi, TX
- JOHNNY CALDERON COUNTY BUILDING**
710 E. Main St., Robstown, TX
- LONDON ISD (High School)**
1306 FM 43, Corpus Christi, TX
(Closed 10/27 and 10/28)
- NUECES COUNTY COURTHOUSE**
901 Leopard St., Corpus Christi, TX
- PORT ARANSAS COMMUNITY CENTER**
408 North Alister St., Port Aransas, TX
- SCHLITTERBAHN**
14353 Commodores Dr., Corpus Christi
- TULOSO-MIDWAY ISD (Admin. Building)**
9760 La Branch, Corpus Christi TX
(Closed 10/27 and 10/28)

TEMPORARY EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

- BANQUETE ISD**
4339 Fourth St., Banquete, TX
(Open 10/22-10/26)
- CORPUS CHRISTI ARMY DEPOT (Bldg. 8)**
308 Crecy Street, Corpus Christi
(Open 10/22-10/26; NAS-no public access)
- DAVID BERLANGA COMMUNITY CENTER**
1513 Second St., Agua Dulce, TX
(Open 10/29-11/2)
- TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI (University Center)**
6300 Ocean Dr., Corpus Christi, TX
(Open 10/29-11/2)

All About VOTE411.org, online Voters Guide

Readers, you may have noticed that this printed Voters Guide only contains information about candidates in local and Nueces County races.

You can find information about all the other Texas candidates seeking election in Texas by accessing www.VOTE411.org.

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) more than 10 years ago, VOTE411.org is a “one-stop-shop” for election-related information.

The League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi has populated the VOTE411.org site for Nueces County with candidates’ responses to the League’s questions, candidate photos, and other information that will be valuable to voters seeking additional information.

The text and printed responses from candidates found in this Voters Guide, in fact, come directly from the VOTE411.org file.

Additional questions posed to candidates and their responses can be found in VOTE411.org.

In addition, both general and state-specific information on various aspects of the election process can be accessed in VOTE411.com., including

- Early voting and mail-in ballot information
- Important dates to remember during the election cycle
- General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- ID requirements
- Polling place locations and voter registration deadlines, plus voter qualifications, voter registration forms, and voting machine details.

All voters are encouraged to utilize this great resource to become more informed about the voting process and candidates’ opinions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1: Early Voting and Temporary Voting locations.
Page 2: Information about VOTE411.org
Pages 3-4: Congressional District 27
Page 5: State Representative-District 34
Page 6: 105th District Court Judge
Page 7: 148th District Court Judge
Page 8: Nueces County Judge
Page 9: Nueces Count Commissioner, Precinct 1
Page 10: Nueces County Court-at-Law #1
Page 11: Nueces County Clerk
Page 12: Nueces County District Clerk
Page 13: Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1/PI 2
Pages 14-16: Corpus Christi Mayor
Pages 17-20: Corpus Christi City Council At-Large
Page 19: Names of Opposed Candidates Seeking Election to Local/Area School Boards
Pages 21-30: Corpus Christi City Council Districts 1-5
Page 27: List of Candidates on the Ballot Who Are Unopposed
Page 31: Summary of City of Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi ISD Bond Programs
Pages 32-33: Del Mar College Regent, At-Large
Pages 34-35: Listing of Nueces County VOTE CENTERS

**** General voter information is placed throughout this publication.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS TO ALL VOTERS

IT'S THE LAW! Employers must grant their employees paid leave to vote on Election Day, unless polls are open two hours before or two hours after the employees’ regular working shift.

VOTE CENTERS OPEN TO ALL--Nueces County now uses VOTE CENTERS (see pages 35-36 for the listing) rather than precinct voting locations. Voters may stop at any Vote Center to cast their ballot, regardless of where they live. Review the list to see which VOTE CENTER is closest to where you live or work. Be sure to VOTE in the upcoming election of November 6.



The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes political parties OR candidates for office. Did you know that you may bring this Voters Guide into the voting booth? YOU CAN!

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

US Representative District 27

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

During your campaign, what is the number one concern expressed to you by the constituents of District 27? What is your response to this concern?

How will you work across the aisle to address vital issues such as healthcare, immigration, and gun safety, for the betterment of District 27 and all Americans?

What are your three top priorities for rural development initiatives in District 27, and what will you do to support them?



**Michael
Cloud (R)**

This past June, I was elected to serve our district in Congress. Over the past few months, I have delivered hurricane recovery funding to families and communities across our district. I have defended our Texas values in Washington, including cosponsoring bills to require term limits for Congress and protect constitutional liberties. I have supported legislation to rebuild our Armed Forces and repeal costly Obamacare taxes. And I have assisted residents in getting help from the VA, FEMA, and other agencies. I promised to put the priorities of our district first, and I have followed through.

The top concern is that Washington is broken. We need leaders who will stand firm against the D.C. culture of corruption. Since my election, I have met with countless residents and local officials to develop real solutions to our district's challenges. I led a successful effort to remove harmful tariffs on Barite, a vital component of oil/gas production, which is critical to job creation here. And I cosponsored a congressional term limits bill, an important safeguard against corruption. I did not go to Congress just to vote the right way but to be the proactive leader our district deserves.

I will work across the aisle with anyone willing to pursue beneficial, constitutional solutions. I have already done that on funding for the Channel Improvement Project at the Port of Corpus Christi, meeting the healthcare needs of veterans and restoring our military. Unfortunately, too many on the left have abandoned constitutional concerns and have adopted unworkable approaches that would make these challenges worse, not better. But I will work for common sense, constitutional solutions to our nation's challenges along with anyone who shares these priorities.

Completing the Farm Bill and creating trade policies that open up greater access for U.S. agriculture overseas will ensure that our farmers and ranchers can continue meeting our food supply needs. Rural broadband initiatives aimed at speeding access are important for opening opportunities for small business and education. And we must reduce the regulatory burden on community financial institutions, the lifeblood of our rural communities. Finally, we should free our schools from federal mandates, as parents, teachers, and local school boards, not Washington, know what is best for local schools.



**Eric
Holguin (D)**

I'm the product of the South Texas working-class. My father is a public-school teacher & coach, and my mother is a veterans' nurse. My brothers are veterans who now serve as Texas State Troopers, and my late grandfather was a judge for 35 years. Public service literally runs in my DNA. After graduating from TAMU-CC, I had the opportunity to work for a US Congresswoman, and the NYC Comptroller - tackling a range of issues from education, transportation, senior citizens, LGBTQ, immigration, and more. Our communities want new energy & someone to fight to move us forward - that's who I am.

Throughout my campaign, the biggest concern that I hear is that they want a Congressman who is willing to fight for our working-class communities. People in the 27th Congressional District want someone who has their best interest at heart - not corporations or super PACs. They want someone who will fight for healthcare for all, protect social security benefits, reform the VA to better serve our veterans, reverse the attacks on our public education system, and bring much needed federal dollars to the district so that we can reinvigorate our infrastructure to diversify our economy.

Bipartisanship begins with having open and honest conversations with our fellow Americans, no matter their background. If we continue to allow false rhetoric clog the way we believe, the way we see facts, the way we know right from wrong - then we will never have the conversations needed to move forward on these vital issues. If we can agree that we should look out for the best interest of the people - and not outside interests that influence decision making on these issues - that is when we can begin to have honesty in the dialogue that is needed to move forward on these issues.

Broadband internet - Whether you're a small business owner seeking to expand, a high school senior applying for college, or an elderly needing access to benefits - having access to high quality broadband internet is vital to your day to day activities. Community health centers - We must expand physical access to our rural communities to combat the rise in mortality rates among our expecting & new mothers, and those needing immediate attention in our rural communities. Private property - The right to private property is being impeded on through eminent domain by those seeking to build a wall.

US Representative District 27

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During your campaign, what is the number one concern expressed to you by the constituents of District 27? What is your response to this concern?

How will you work across the aisle to address vital issues such as healthcare, immigration, and gun safety, for the betterment of District 27 and all Americans?

What are your three top priorities for rural development initiatives in District 27, and what will you do to support them?



**Daniel
Tinus
(Libertarian)**

I have a 38 year record of public service outside of party politics. I am the only veteran in the race, my wife is as well, served 10 years as a child advocate, work feeding homeless and refugees, am an elder in my church mostly with children's programs. I work in the engineering/architecture field and designed, estimated and built bridges, roads and other infrastructure as well as buildings of all types and sizes. I quit this high paying field to teach engineering classes in high school for 18 years. However my greatest qualification is I know you can run your life better than anyone else.

The greatest concern I hear is the lack of accountability by our government. People see or nation as divided for political gain while our elected and non elected officials serve only self or the party that they work for. Congress no longer reads much less writes laws and have abdicated all constitutional authority to free themselves up to campaign and fund raise while Bureaucrats and lobbyist write the laws our representatives rubber stamp. 66% don't even bother voting and have given up as they are neither red or blue and feel it is pointless to vote for those who are of by and for the party.

I will work with anyone who will move the ball of liberty and self determination for individuals and states. I do not owe a thing to any party nor do I have any loyalty beyond what I swore as a soldier. To defend the Constitution against all enemies. I am pro legal immigration that fill the needs of our nation. I am for the incremental privatization of Social Security to make it solvent for future generations and for a voucher system for Medicare. We can not have freedom and freedom from consequence so am for strict adherence to the law when others seek to infringe on our rights.

I am a Libertarian so I am for strong states rights and local solutions to local problems. We are forced to pay taxes in many forms to the federal government then beg for a small portion back and if we do as they demand we just might get some depending on which party holds the purse strings and how it will benefit their reelection and donors. Why not keep our money here and care for self and others as we prove we can do everyday. We are 180 out of what we should be doing and need to reevaluate the role the central government plays.



**James
Duerr
(Independent)**

Native Texan - Born, Raised & Live in Corpus Christi, Ocean Engineering B.S. - Texas A&M University (experience with Ports/Marine), Board Member Nueces County Appraisal District (Solely responsible for the largest property tax refund in history of Nueces County), Board of Regent Del Mar College, Committee Member - Citizens for Persons with Disabilities, President Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni Assoc., Citizen Police Academy, Texas Medical Association Alliance Member, Board Member Volunteer Center of the Coastal Bend, Rotarian, Eagle Scout, Married 33 years father of two children.

Term Limits. Washington is controlled by lifelong politicians out of touch with the needs of District 27 Citizens. Term limits will stop the Washington establishment practice of doing business as usual. Term Limits will bring in new ideas and leadership. The President has term limits, we need term limits for the House and Senate.

As the only Independent Candidate, I will work across the aisle, Country Before Party. I will promote policies based on merit, not on which Party is promoting the idea. If the Democrats have a policy that will benefit the Citizens I will support that idea and if the Republicans have an idea that will benefit the Citizens I will support that idea. I am the candidate who has proven experience as a nonpartisan elected Board of Regent for Del Mar College. On that Board, I advocated what was best for the students and college, and party affiliation was never a consideration.

1. Tariffs has hurt Texas agriculture. I will work to find new markets for our farmers and bring textile manufacturing back to Texas. 2. I will work to ensure that family owned farms have the same advantages as are given to corporate farming enterprises. I am not controlled by a Super PAC or any special interests and will work for the best interest of District 27 farmers and ranchers. 3. Provide access to rural health care. There have been multiple closures of rural hospitals and clinics in recent years. We need to ensure available, affordable healthcare for rural areas.

State Representative, District 34

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

How will you work across the aisle to address vital issues such as healthcare, immigration, and gun safety for the betterment of District 34 and all Texans?

Using a scale of strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree, please explain your answer to the statement, "The federal budget should plan, in advance, for funding disaster relief for catastrophic events, such as hurricanes and flooding."

What specific changes should be made to public school financing, and why?



**Chris
Hale (R)**

Adult citizen living within my district who cares about people and customer service, being married 30-years and having successfully raised 5- wonderful children, in the admonition of the Lord. Served in the US ARMY. A licensed professional Civil Engineer in the state of Texas managing and designing better roadways and infrastructure benefiting the traveling public in getting to their destination, safely. Major Project Engineer with City of Corpus Christi over 3-years (Prior). Civil Section Manager with Govind Development (Current). Good ethics and understanding of fiscal, pro-growth economics

Immigration is essential for our state and country, and legal immigration should be applauded. Texas gun owners, like me, should always practice to handle firearms in a safe manner, and within the law. It is our second amendment right to keep and to bear arms, as the citizens have done so since the formation of our Government.

No position. \$306-Billion was spent on natural disasters last year, the costliest year on record. Federally, and only as a last resort, I would advocate for partial emergency advocacy for natural disasters, but should not make it a requirement in the number-one state for doing business, the great state of Texas, where we are more self-sufficient and lead by example

Regarding public school financing, education is a priority...but the child should always come first... and the failing schools cannot continue in the direction they are headed where the students are taking heavy casualties, representing the future here in Texas. I would advocate for relief stemming from other resources and options, such as partnering with high-performing charter schools which have been shown to turn around the children's lives, including one of my own...who is now pursuing a post-secondary education at Del Mar. Taking care of teachers with incentives for higher pay is also very rea



**Abel
Herrero (D)**

Having been raised by a single parent, and now helping raise our five children, I understand the sacrifices families make every day. With my legislative experience, seniority, and as Chairman of the House Committee on Land and Resource Management, I am in a strong position to continue to help working families and businesses in the Coastal Bend.

For the past three sessions, in a Republican majority legislature, I was appointed by a Republican speaker to chair a House committee. By utilizing the relationships and experiences I have built, I will continue to work with others to support sound public policy. Most issues are not Democrat or Republican issues, they are Texas issues. Only by working together, can we ensure that our communities continue to move forward.

Support. All levels of government should plan and have resources available to respond and recover from any catastrophic event. After Hurricane Harvey, the House Committee on Land and Resource Management held hearings focused on developing and improving best practices to prepare, respond, and recover from a storm. I will continue to work with fellow lawmakers to carefully consider budget initiatives that will help ensure communities affected by Hurricane Harvey—and future storms—receive the necessary funding to recover.

Texas needs to contribute its fair share of money to help our public schools—more state funding in the classroom will help provide our students with safer schools, better student teacher ratios, and increase teacher pay and benefits. By increasing state funding and opposing any diversion of public funds from our neighborhood schools, we can truly give local property taxpayers the tax relief they so desperately need. We must invest in a future that empowers our children to exceed expectations.

District Judge, 105th Judicial District

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your legal experience for the the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you've tried as lead counsel.

Using a scale of strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree, please explain your answer to the statement, "This court's past efforts to reduce repeat incarcerations (recidivism) have been successful."

Using a scale of strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree, please explain your answer to the statement, "The Nueces County Pre-Trial Assessment Initiative has been a success."

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?



Jack W. Pulcher (R)

I am the presiding Judge of the 105th District Court. I have presided over 60 criminal jury trials ranging from state jail felony possession of controlled substances to capital murder. I am currently in a capital murder jury trial involving the death of a 13 year old boy. I have picked over 25 grand juries as a District Judge. Through the years I have presided over 100 hearings involving divorces, child custody, and possession hearings. I was the presiding judge over the first jury trial involving modification of child visitation in Nueces County.

Strongly agree. Since I have been on the bench, I was appointed as Judge of the Nueces County Veterans Court by the Nueces County Board of Judges. When our local heroes are involved with a criminal act, instead for placing them on regular probation or in the prison system, the other judges will refer the veterans to me. I require them to complete various programs that will help them deal with military involved issues. I have had 25% of the participants graduate and no longer commit any crimes. I have worked hard to have the budget increased so that more veterans can enter the program.

Neither agree nor disagree. We, as a board of judges, implemented this program to help assess people who were charged with a crime but could not afford a small amount of money to post bail. This program is based on first time offenses and non violent crimes. The program was just implemented recently and there has not been enough time to evaluate the success of the program.

Everyone involved in a matter in my court have been provided adequate time to have their case heard. I believe in being fair and respectful to every single person that comes before me, no matter what the charges or presented evidence. I have never had a complaint placed against me for not allowing citizens to argue in front of me or a jury. I place this kind of respect as a high regard in the courtroom and will continue to do so.



Craig D. Henderson (D)

I have been a practicing trial attorney for the past 26 years, representing both individuals and large companies in a variety of complex matters in State and Federal Courts. As a Board Certified Trial Attorney, by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, I have extensive trial experience.. I was also a City of Corpus Christi Municipal Court Magistrate Judge for 7 years. As judge, I determined if sufficient probable cause existed to hold prisoners, issued various warrants and set bail. My diverse experience in civil and criminal matters will be an asset to the 105th District Court.

Agree. The Specialized Caseload Community Supervision Programs are valuable tools in decreasing the recidivism rates. These programs give the Court alternatives to incarceration for eligible offenders, providing supervision and in appropriate cases treatment services. Studies show that these programs can be very successful in reducing recidivism, and incarceration costs, while avoiding a "one size fits all" punishment when education and treatment are more effective tools. I plan to fully utilize these programs in appropriate cases.

Agree. The Nueces County Pre-Trial Assessment Program is an important program addressing jail overcrowding and due process concerns associated with the cash bond system. The pre-trial risk assessment tool has been effective in lowering bail amounts in cases involving offenders who are low risk for flight and to the community. Nueces County was recently awarded grants to expand the program and I will continue to utilize this Program in order to limit the unnecessary and costly incarceration of low risk offenders.

Every party who comes to court deserves a fair hearing and to be treated with respect, regardless of who they are. It is imperative that a Judge acts impartially and applies the law equally to everyone who appears in Court. In addition to acting in a fair and impartial manner, the Judge must ensure that cases are heard in a timely fashion. Justice delayed is justice denied. Accordingly, I will ensure that the 105th District Court is a fair, open and efficient Court, which gives parties their day in Court in timely fashion and issues rulings expeditiously.

District Judge, 148th Judicial District

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your legal experience for the the type of judicial position you seek, including how many jury trials you've tried as lead counsel.

Using a scale of strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree, please explain your answer to the statement, "This court's past efforts to reduce repeat incarcerations (recidivism) have been successful."

Using a scale of strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, or strongly agree, please explain your answer to the statement, "The Nueces County Pre-Trial Assessment Initiative has been a success."

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?



Bill Kelly (R)

The 148th District Court is a court of general jurisdiction. It hears family law, civil law and felony criminal law cases. In my career I have been a civil defense/ family lawyer, I have tried jury and bench trials where custody of children and millions of dollars have been in dispute. I am board certified in family law which required me to earn the recommendation of the judges and lawyers I worked with and the pass a day long test. Recently I have been a mediator and an arbitrator which allowed me to resolve disputes which is better preparation for being a judge then advocating as a lawyer.

Agree. The 148th Court was the Veteran's Court. When a veteran was arrested the case could be diverted to the 148th where instead of going through the normal criminal proceedings the veteran would be put through an intense process which took into consideration the unique issues and challenges a veteran faces. The veterans that completed this difficult program have a much lower recidivism rate then those defendants who go through the regular criminal justice system.

Agree. Nueces County has been a leader in this initiative. Before this initiative many non violent defendants who were not a flight risk were being held in jail awaiting trial because they could not make bail. In America an individual is presumed innocent until proven guilty yet these individuals lives were disrupted, jobs were lost families damaged, all at great cost to the tax payers who paid to keep them in jail. Now we are looking at criminal histories, if it is a violent offense and other factors instead of standard bond amounts that often kept defendants in jail for small unpaid bail amounts

This question focuses on work ethic and personality. I have spent my career developing a strong understanding of the legal principles and statutes that would be applied in this court. I have already attended the Advanced Criminal Law seminar to address an area where I have less experience. As a mediator I have to resolve disputes by getting people to agree, which does not happen if they feel they haven't been heard. I have developed the patience and listening skills necessary to make sure parties are heard. I believe these skills will translate well to the bench.



Carlos Valdez (D)

I have served as County Attorney, District Attorney, and City Attorney. I've been appointed as special master in mental commitment cases on several occasions. I have extensive and well documented trial experience. I have personally tried some of the most important and highly publicized cases (both civil and criminal) in the history of this county. The 148th District Court is a trial court and there is no other candidate for judicial office that has the breadth of trial experience that I have. I have experience in all facets of the law and have dealt with most of the issues in this court.

Neither agree nor disagree. Rate of recidivism can best be addressed by the social science programs and corrective measures administered by and through a community supervision (probation) department. A properly functioning community supervision department working in conjunction with, and overseen by, a trial court is the most effective way to reduce the rate of recidivism in this county. I will work very closely with our community supervision department, in appropriate cases, to track these cases and to do everything possible to reduce the rate of recidivism in this county.

Neither agree nor disagree. The initiative has not been in use for a long enough period of time to be able to make a proper assessment of its effectiveness. Programs like this should be assessed over a long period of time and compared to historical numbers in order to determine true effectiveness. I have always believed in being innovative and trying new methods to address some of the pressing problems that our courts must deal with on a daily basis. But we should also assure that the methods we employ are allowed the time necessary to determine their effectiveness.

I will be patient, dignified and courteous to litigants, jurors, witnesses, lawyers and others with whom I deal with in an official capacity as a judge. I will require similar conduct of my staff or other court officials subject to my direction and control. I will accord every person who has a legal interest in a proceeding, or the person's lawyer, the right and opportunity to be heard according to the law. I will be faithful to the law and shall always strive to maintain professional competence in it. I will always strive to resolve matters with decorum and in a orderly manner.

Nueces County Judge

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

What are the most important duties of a county judge?

What are your three top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Nueces County, and what will you do to support them?

Aside from building additional roads, what steps can the county take to advance improved mobility in both the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county?



**Mike
Pusley (R)**

I am a life long resident of Nueces County. I have over 25 years of elected and appointed experience including serving the past nine years as the Nueces County Commissioner. I also served nine years as an elected member of the Tulo-so-Midway Board of Trustees and for six years as an appointed member of the Corpus Christi Planning Commission. I have a BS Degree in Geology from Texas A&M Corpus Christi and worked in the Oil & Gas exploration business for 40 years. My elected experience as well as my business experience provide me with the skills and knowledge to carry this community forward.

In Nueces County the County Judge is responsible for the day to day operations of County Government. One of the most important of those responsibilities is developing and presenting the County budget to the Commissioners Court during the County's yearly budget process.

Working with the City and Port of CC to develop a long range solution to our water needs. I will form a task force to come up with a solution.

Drainage - we must come together as a community to begin to address the many storm water drainage issues that exist in Nueces County. I worked to bring many new drainage solutions to Precinct One and will do the same with Commissioners and City officials to bring about additional needed changes

While roads are not a big an issue for the County we still need to make sure we continue an aggressive maintenance program for our roads and bridges

We have to work with TxDot and the various City's in Nueces County to understand and address where we need to increase funding for handling the increase in traffic congestion, like the Northwest Blvd area. As populations grows in a specific area we all need to work together to understand how best to address the demands that will be made on our infrastructure. Much of this can be addressed working closely with the MPO, TxDot and the RTA to make sure our strategic planning is closely following our community expansion.



**Barbara
Canales (D)**

I personally know Corpus Christi, our rural and coastal areas, and all places in between. I'm a petroleum engineer, an attorney, a small business owner, a Commissioner for the Port, and I serve on many boards (United Chamber, Bays & Estuaries, South Texas Military Task Force, and more). My years in Port leadership have taught me the importance of better governance for the public good. I understand Nueces County's needs, strengths, weaknesses, and potential. As your advocate-in-chief, I'll pursue higher paying jobs, smart economic growth, and better county services.

To bring leadership, efficiency, and new economic growth to Nueces County (by management of its budget, and oversight / governance of its unfunded mandates (e.g., homelessness, indigent care (including behavioral health care)), veterans services, coastal and inland parks, the courthouse, the jail, and more). Nueces County's budget – through good leadership – must be managed to maximize benefits from and use of our taxpayers' dollars.

My top three public infrastructure priorities are: (1) a county-wide GIS (Geographic Information System) to allow Nueces County to be a "smart" county; (2) better drainage for so many parts of Nueces County; and (3) support new infrastructure for the Padre Island community that is ready for a booming economy. To achieve these goals, I will pursue state and federal grants, and advocate for public-private partnerships. If the county can more strategically utilize its resources while simultaneously reaching out to its entrepreneurs, then we can accomplish projects otherwise beyond our reach.

Aside from building additional roads, better drainage is the most important issue for our county so that we may promote greater mobility. Better drainage of our rural areas will allow farmers better access, allow our residents better access to emergency services, and give access to properties not otherwise suitable for development. Residents' increased mobility and access to all parts of the county make our properties more developable, and thus more valuable.

Nueces County Commissioner, Precinct 1

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

What ideas do you have to support small, women, and minority business development in Nueces County?

How would you balance spending between rural areas and urban areas in Nueces County?

If elected, what are your three top priorities for Precinct 1?



Carolyn Vaughn (R)

I help run VES Survey Intl. and have done so for many years. I believe my management skills bring me a business perspective that government entities can benefit from. I also served on the City Council for District 1 for 3.5 years. I believe that experience helps me understand how government runs and operates. I also served as Mayor Pro Tem and that in itself gave me the opportunity to see government in another perspective.

I think we need to support economic development within the county.

I believe the City of Corpus Christi basically takes care of the urban areas. The county focuses mostly on the rural areas that don't have the benefits the urban community has. The urban communities are mostly concerned about their roads and drainage problems. I would spend the majority of spending on the rural areas and try and work with the City of Corpus Christi to address any concerns that affect the county in the urban areas that we can find a solution together on.

Regional Drainage Solutions
Homeless
Look at the possibility of combining county and city law enforcement to save money.



Robert G. Hernandez (D)

I am a life long resident of Nueces County. I raised my children in Precinct 1 and now my grandchildren live and attend school in Precinct 1. I retired from Nueces County after 22 years and have been a small business owner almost my whole life. Through my experience with Nueces County I learned a lot about the way business operates. There is too much wasteful spending and unnecessary programs. I intend to bring a common sense, practice approach to county government. Nothing prepares a person more for being part of county government than living through it on a daily basis for 22 years.

I feel that we should provide opportunities by making the process more equalized when bidding for contracts with Nueces County. I believe the county should partner with organizations like the Small Business Administration to help sponsor training for small businesses, and women or minority owned businesses to help them acquire certifications which make them more competitive in the market. I also believe the County should have a goal, perhaps 20%, of all contracts to be awarded to those businesses. It is important to have these businesses thrive in our community.

I would ensure a balance by reviewing current need with past spending and future use. I believe you also have to look at the economic abilities of the areas. Prioritizing what is important to the community is also key. For example, spending millions of dollars on an airport in Precinct 1 which did not produce any revenue for the taxpayers, but only drained resources was irresponsible spending. I would spend money on youth facilities and other programs which build family and community involvement. The key is responsible spending and the balance will come naturally.

1. Law enforcement - More and more people are moving into rural Nueces County away from the city areas. I do not believe the County has kept up with providing adequate resources for law enforcement. Resources come in the form of additional officers, equipment, training, and vehicles.
2. Roads- We have to repair the roads and some of the more dangerous intersections in the county need to be addressed.
3 Flooding / drainage- We have to stop all the flooding which occurs



VOTE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT... BECAUSE IT DOES!

Our elected officials (local, state, and national) are addressing and will continue to address issues that matter to all of us, regardless of how young or old we are. Those issues are diverse and they impact our lives—health care, immigration, Medicare, civil rights, women's rights, gun safety, the cost of education, redistricting, city services, infrastructure, safety and national security, and more!

Your vote counts. Your vote is your voice! Be engaged, be informed.....VOTE.

Nueces County Court at Law #1

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your legal experience for this position, including previous bench experience as well as legal counsel for bench and/or jury trials.

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, and excellent, please explain your answer to this question, "How would you rate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Nueces County Pre-Trial Assessment Initiative?"

What will you do to ensure that all parties involved in cases before the court will have an opportunity to have their interests adequately represented and considered?

Compared to 2017, what is your assessment of the current caseload backlog in Nueces County courts, and what changes would you seek, if any.



Russell Manning (R)

- Successful trial attorney in Corpus Christi since 1986, with emphasis on complex litigation and contested probate litigation.
- Board Certified in Civil Trial Law since 1992
- Graduated with High Honors from the University of Texas School of Law (top 5%)
- Member of the Texas Law Review, Chancellors, Order of the Coif
- As founding partner of my law firm in 1995, I created and implemented policies and procedures to increase efficiency, decrease costs, and maintain quality of legal services.
- Familiar with newest technology for electronic legal research and document storage.

Above average. The success of the initiative was predictable based upon the early results of the pilot program. Thanks to this program, indigent defendants who face criminal charges are not confined to jail while awaiting trial if they do not present risks of flight or violence. This initiative has reduced the jail population, which saves county taxpayer money and reduces the negative effects on the family relationships and employment of defendants who have not been convicted. The initiative is an excellent example of how a forward-thinking and innovative judiciary can bring about needed change.

In addition to building upon the success of the Pre-Trial Assessment Initiative in criminal cases, I would explore innovations in docket management, which I have published on my website, fairandimpartial.net. Among those ideas are complete transparency in scheduling and the status of the court's docket, which I would make available online to the public. In addition, I have voluntarily decided not to accept campaign contributions from attorneys who appear in court as a further assurance of fairness and impartiality.

The backlog is more manageable, but can be further reduced by making full use of available technology, including potential upgrades to allow judges to e-sign orders and automatically schedule settings for trial, hearings and submission dates for certain matters. Other changes could include publishing FAQ guidelines and internal operating procedures beyond the local rules; on-line scheduling of some hearings and submission dates; shorter docket intervals; advance confirmation of sequence and time allotted for court settings; standard online forms for some matters to speed up the review process.



Robert Vargas (D)

I have been licensed as an attorney since 1977. I was elected and sworn in as judge of County Court at Law #1 in 1987. For over 30 years my judicial experience has been administering the court, presiding and managing through my rulings cases involving misdemeanor criminal cases, civil cases, probate matters, mental health cases, and condemnation cases. I have handled over 100,000 cases, including hundreds of civil and criminal jury trials and innumerable bench hearing and trials.

Above average. The initiative uses a validated risk assessment tool that allows judges to accurately use risk factors to fairly determine bail for a defendant. The anticipated outcome should be fewer high-risk defendants released, and fewer low-risk defendants being detained which should improve public safety and reduce taxpayers costs.

In a criminal case, every person is apprised of their right to representation by counsel. If they cannot afford one they are informed that they may request court-appointed counsel. If they qualify counsel is appointed. In a civil case, I give a pro se litigant an opportunity to reschedule the hearing so as to allow them to contact and possibly employ counsel. I direct them to the Corpus Christi Bar Association pro bono assistance program or the Texas Rural Legal Aid office locally for representation if they say they cannot afford an attorney.

For the most part, civil cases are usually disposed of swiftly because there are mandatory timelines based on the alleged damages sought. Most criminal cases are resolved at the first appearance by a plea agreement between the district attorney's office and the defendant. If not resolved at first appearance, a case is set for trial 90 days from that date. Compared to 2017 any backlog in all courts is substantially smaller. One consideration that would help avoid any backlogs would be the implementation of a pre-trial release office.

County Clerk

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

What steps can the County Clerk take to ensure the security of votes and identities in the processing and maintenance of Nuece County records?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, and excellent, please explain your answer to this questions, "How would you rate the effectiveness and the efficiency of the Nueces County Clerk functions?"

If elected, what would be your top three priorities to maintain and/or improve the services provided by the County Clerk office?



**Kara
Sands (R)**

I have been honored to serve as your County Clerk. Upon taking office, I requested an audit of prior elections and returned almost half a million dollars of over-billing by my predecessor to the City and School Districts, and brought down the cost of future elections. In 2016, we implemented Vote Centers allowing eligible voters to cast their ballot in any convenient, accessible polling location; which the Secretary of State deemed Successful. I instituted the "Thank a Vet" program honoring our veterans with discounts at local businesses. I have served all customers with dignity and respect.

In addition to auditing finances, we audited operations in the elections department and instituted changes to bring the office into compliance with the Election Code.

I will continue to follow State and Federal mandated process for handling of Absentee Ballots, operation of polling centers, and handling and storage of all related documents. We will use State of Art polling stations which do not transmit votes over the web.

Further, I will continue to ensure the security and integrity of elections by fighting voter fraud and seeking prosecution of those who prey on our most vulnerable voters.

Above average. We made changes to the expenses and operations of my predecessor to increase effectiveness and efficiency in elections and other County Clerk functions. We operate under a format of continuous improvement and training to be aware of and comply with changes to State and Federal laws. We provide services treating all with dignity and conduct the business of the County in a transparent manner.

Implement our newly acquired safe and secure records management system with multiple-level data replication which includes a user-friendly search portal as well as a Fraud Alert to notify residents if something is recorded in their name/property. Continue to protect the integrity our elections by fighting voter fraud; and provide fair, cost effective elections which ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast their ballot at any convenient and accessible polling location. Increase outreach with our Thank a Vet program to honor more Veterans and increase business participation.



**Diana
Barrera (D)**

I was born and raised in Corpus Christi, graduated from Miller High School, Del Mar College in Court Reporting, and TAMU-CC in Political Science. I'm married to Roy Barrera of 38 years, two children, Bobby and Stacey, both teachers.

It is vital that strong written internal controls of ballot procedures be implemented for the protection of voters as well as staff. This includes maintaining written chain of custody procedures of all processes in order to assure the public that the electoral process is being conducted at the highest level of integrity. It is also important to acquire the best quality document recording software for the use of maintaining official public records, i.e. Deeds, etc. The software must include the highest level of firewalls in order to avoid any potential intrusion of external sources.

Poor. I'd rate the functions of the office as poor due to the inexperienced current clerk for the following reasons: the office has experienced over a 100% employee turnover rate; clerk misinterprets the law, denying marriage licenses to applicants without proof of SSN, sending couples to adjacent county to obtain license as we lose potential revenue; clerk collected fees from customers illegally during 3-year period totaling estimated \$850,000; acquired two software products from two different vendors that perform same functions because one wasn't performing to her standards totaling over \$500,000.

I would improve opportunities for employee professional development, promote voter ed, and improve overall quality of service. A well-trained staff is vital to the efficiency and effectiveness of any organization. With an over 100% employee turnover rate in the current clerk's office, training is my first priority. Voter ed is essential when rolling out any voting system new to the public. It's critical to the positive experience voters should have at the polls. Improving the overall quality of service begins with trained personal and stable leadership, both of which I'm able to provide.

District Clerk

Candidate responses to the LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

How would you rate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Nueces County Pre-Trial Assessment Initiative? Explain your answer.

The online jury impaneling process has been in place for over one year. What is working well with the online process and/or what would you change?

If elected, what would be your top three priorities to maintain and/or improve the services provided by the District Clerk office?



Ann Lorentzen (R)

Bachelor of Business Administration from University of Texas at El Paso. Legal secretary for two civil and family law firms. Executive Secretary to Hon. William S. Sessions, United States District Court Judge for the Western District of Texas. Left the legal field to work for Lanier Business Products in Harlingen, Texas, selling word processors across the Rio Grande Valley. Promoted to Corpus Christi office. Became Office Manager for the Division Office of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco for 10 years. Nueces County Court Administrator for 20 years. District Clerk since January 1, 2015.

Excellent. Very effective, efficient and has saved taxpayers money. Defendants arrested on felony charges are interviewed by the pre-trial assessment team who in turn generate a report for District Courts. Report tells District Judge if the defendant is a low or high risk offender depending on their criminal history. The type of charge is strongly taken into consideration. This report allows the judge to set bail (bond) consistent with a defendant's criminal history. The misdemeanor arrests are what has the jail at a high occupancy, not the felony arrests.

What was noticed right away with the online jury impaneling was saving the County over \$350,000.00 in costs, i.e. postage, reduced number of jury summonses sent, and jury pay. Jurors that are assigned to a panel through the online feature are sent a text as to date, time and what court to report to bypassing the Central Jury Room. When a panel is cancelled, jurors receive a text not to show, saving them a trip to the courthouse. Has saved employers and their employees time away from work.

Finish the project of making court documents filed into the Odyssey Case Management System available online to judges and attorneys of record through the District Clerk Case Search Portal. Allows access to documents 24/7; Revise all job descriptions to fit the actual job duties of each clerk, including needed technological skills. Work with Human Resources to reclassify positions to increase base pay. Implement a plan for digitizing and properly storing the District Clerk's 150 year old archives.



Gerald G. Garza (D)

I have an accounting degree from the University of Texas at Austin, I am certified as a public manager in public administration and I have 10 years experience as the chief administrator for this office. I also have experience working with a CPA firm and a private investment company.

Average. Looking from the outside, it is hard to adequately rate the effectiveness of this initiative in our county, especially as it relates to the district clerk's office. The program itself, supported by legal organizations across the country, was built on research that indicated it would be a win, win program. It would expedite the release of defendants, thereby reducing the jail population, and in turn, save the county money.

Again, looking from the outside, I believe the new system is working, and in turn, saving the county money. As far as change, I would want to avoid the same problems they are now encountering with the court's case management system; which is, a failure to continue training and to expand on any available apps that would add improvements or additional savings to our tax dollars.

(1) Improve staff training on basics; relying on technology loses the reason why something should be done, as a result, mistakes are made that cost time and money. (2) Improve the case management system by increasing attorney access to information on-line. Too much time is lost retrieving information the attorneys should be able to retrieve themselves. (3) Re-install a chain of command in the office that will provide alternatives to handling public complaints and improve communication between the community, the courts and even the staff.



Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 2

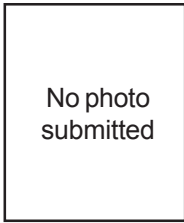
Candidate responses to the LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

What are the three (3) most pressing issues in your precinct?

The JP courts are frequently described as “The People’s Court.” As Justice of the Peace, how would you ensure that this role is fulfilled in your court?

What changes, if any, are needed in JP court processes and procedures to make the court more efficient and effective?



No response received

**Manuel (Manny)
Rangel (R)**



**Henry
Santana (D)**

I completed my Doctoral degree, master’s degree and bachelor’s degree and currently serve as the Justice of the Peace for Precinct 1, Place 2. This precinct is the largest in Nueces County where 3 of the nine Justice of the Peace serve as Judges. I have served as a Justice of the Peace for the past twenty years and presided over 60,000 criminal cases and 25,000 civil cases.

I attend yearly training of 20 hour sessions, webinars, and other seminars that would keep current in all the legal changes that affect our courts.

Evictions, Truancy and Inability to Pay are some issues that are needed to be addressed in a different format. Nueces County has a high percentage of poverty and these three areas can be addressed with unified community participation

Many of the people that come to the JP courts come with high levels of anxiety, nervousness and some degree of fear, since they are representing themselves without an attorney. It becomes apparent that a Judge should provide avenues to reduce all of these areas during court proceedings.

JP courts have embraced technology in their courts at many levels. Since technology is constantly changing, the courts need to maintain a level of excellence. Some changes to consider would be to evolve into a paperless court but still maintain an avenue to those litigants who have no access to computer technology. Continuous training of staff is also important due to constantly changing laws.



EVERY VOTE COUNTS. YOUR VOTE COUNTS.

Be an informed voter and learn about the candidates who are seeking elected office and the issues important to them. If you need more information, visit candidates’ websites or Facebook pages. Check out VOTE411.org to see candidate responses to questions posed by the League of Women Voters. (Because of space constraints, some questions and responses appear only in [VOTE 411.org](http://VOTE411.org).)

Encourage every registered voter you know to vote in this election. YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Mayor, City of Corpus Christi

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

In your opinion, what are the most important duties of a Mayor?

What are the three (3) most important challenges facing our city and how would you address them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



Michael Hall

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering - both from Purdue University. I am a licensed Professional Engineer in Texas (#129312) and a Project Management Professional. I spent the last few years as the Chief Technology Officer of a company with roughly fifty employees. I'm currently an engineering consultant and perform project management for petrochemical plants. I bring an unbiased and objective outlook to our city's problems and am the only candidate with the technical competence to solve the issues the city faces

The most important duty of our Mayor is to make sure the city is spending the appropriate amount of time, money and energy on city issues. Our mayor should be able to talk to the city manager and understand the issues the city is facing so that he or she can ensure we are taking appropriate action towards an issue. The mayor and city council need to be able to hold the city manager accountable for their actions. If the mayor has no technical background, it could be very challenging to determine if the city manager is doing his or her job correctly.

1. Infrastructure, as defined by our roads, water and emergency services All of these projects are heavily underfunded due to previous city council cuts. This has led to drastic times for our roads, water and emergency services. I want to make sure we are spending our money appropriately by adding: 2. Accountability Our city government needs to be accountable for their actions. I want to perform an audit to ensure our money is being spent in the most appropriate way possible and communicate that to the public. Once these issues are solved we can finally focus on: 3. Growth My main focus as mayor will be to improve our infrastructure. Our fire and police haven't received general fund increases that allow them to hire more firefighters or police officers while at the same time the city has grown. This has caused an effective decrease in our emergency services ability to perform their job duty.//

Below average. The rate of commercial expansion of the city has been tremendous. We have a plethora of refineries located here and they consume a massive amount of water. We need to make sure that we are providing alternative sources of water for our city and businesses that are capable of expanding in capacity to meet our future growth needs. Desalination is one of the options available that would allow us to scale and build for future growth and is worth looking into. These are very technical problems that will require a city council with a strong technical acumen so that we can make the proper choice.



Ray Madrigal De Pancho Villa

Credentials:

- Veteran of the US Army
- Former Judge of Seadrift, Texas
- Graduate of Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, Del Mar College and Leadership Corpus Christi
- Businessman in Corpus Christi for over 50 years
- Served on many boards and commissions for city of Corpus Christi

The most important duty of the Mayor is to have harmony with the council and guide them in a positive manner for improvements for all citizens plus solving the utilities billing problem with this new system.

Challenges:

- The 3 most important challenges facing our city are a. utility system billing system, repairing our streets, and cleaning our beaches.
- go back to old billing system while corrections are made new system
 - repair all streets in Corpus Christi

The future of Corpus Christi looks bright and we will double in size in the next 20 years, we need to have a good working relation with industry to build a desalination plant in Corpus Christi where we would never run out of water supplied.

Mayor, City of Corpus Christi

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Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

In your opinion, what are the most important duties of a Mayor?

What are the three (3) most important challenges facing our city and how would you address them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



**Dan
McQueen**

Master Degree, Boston University, CIS/PM Bachelor Degree, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, PM Degree Programs: Florida State College, ECPI & CIE Military, Advanced Aircraft Electronics System, NAVY Special Ops SAR, Avionics Systems, Flight Training, Leadership Training. CEO, McQueen Innovative Transport – Personal VTOL and UAV system. The advanced transportation, navigation system and businesses can accelerate the entire city. McQueenmotorcycle.com Flying MotorCycle. CTO of AeroTDE' Aircraft Engineering Consulting. Sr Electrical Engineer CCAD. RAS Black Belt, UTC ACE, other Y, SA, B&G

The major focus for the Mayor of any city is to create a vision and direction that supports the growth of the residents and businesses of a city. This growth is the foundation for revenue that provides the safety, quality of life, developmental services and governmental processes that enhance city and community. Current Corpus Christi government is managed by City Managers and should transition to Mayor leadership.

Security – Economics – Decay. The current business model for the city is dividing into many sections, however it is not diversified. Single points of business keep the city repressed and doesn't provide for a balanced revenue generation process. Targets on cyclical business, tourist, have overshadowed the real opportunity in the city. Stop the Fake News Smears and Slander of the City. This Crime issue is a direct reflection from the poverty, gang, drug and illegal immigration problem related to the fight for the Texas boarder and political direction. It is unfortunate that crime is an actual economic model in Corpus Christi, simply because of the lack of opportunity //

Below average. The diversification of businesses is required that could mitigate the continued increase requirement of water and expansion of alternative water programs. In addition, water management processes need to be implemented to impact the waste of our current water reserves. This requires a comprehensive look at the VISION and Direction of Corpus Christi and currently there are too many people that are steering the ship for their own return on investment.



**Joe
McComb**

My education, business experience, public service and dedication to make our city a better place to live and work. As a husband, father of five and grandfather of twelve, I know it's important to have a vibrant city to raise and educate a family and provide opportunity for good employment and multiple recreational venues. That is why I have committed so many years of my life to advancing these opportunities for my family and others. We have a great city, but there is always room for improvement. I am proud to call Corpus Christi, HOME and want to "Leave the campground better than I found it!"

Serving as the leader of the city council, the policy making body of our municipality; encouraging cooperation between members of the council and with other governmental entities; being accessible to citizens of our city; being willing to make tough and sometimes unpopular decisions that are in the city's best interest; representing the city at the regional, state and national level and maintaining personal integrity.

This council has focused on: 1) streets, 2) water and 3) wastewater and have made substantial progress on each. The most visible is all the street construction. Implemented bond projects, and water system improvements that have stabilized our system. We are addressing wastewater needs. We will remain focused on these. Infrastructure needs are a challenge, considering our financial capacity, but will continue to seek funds to meet these challenges and other priorities such as: police, fire, parks, libraries, pools, and senior centers to mention a few. However, there is no magic money. I believe our law enforcement organizations are doing a good job. //

Excellent. Currently we have plenty of water. Working with industrial, large water users we have adopted an ordinance to ensure a water supply that won't be curtailed in drought conditions, maintaining critical jobs. We've embarked on siting and permitting one or more seawater desal plants, seeking proposals for other sources. It provides funds for a new supply without impacting the rates of other customers. It's a regional approach with Port Industries, San Patricio Water District, CCREDC and the Port. It's our future! Desalination is no longer "being studied", it's something we are DOING!

Mayor, City of Corpus Christi

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Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

In your opinion, what are the most important duties of a Mayor?

What are the three (3) most important challenges facing our city and how would you address them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



Aislynn
Campbell

Born, raised and educated here, I created GROW Local South Texas, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, to address our systemic community health issues and incubate small agricultural businesses. Working with all levels of city government we've created a top 4 Texas farmers' market and I now travel across Texas, teaching how we've accomplished so much, so quickly, in an area resistant to forward-thinking innovation.

We require a mayor that will change 'the way we've always done it' since it's not working. We will not solve our issues until we finally address and solve our foundational, systemic issues. To follow the ethical and legal boundaries of our chartered "Council Manager Government" holding the City Manager accountable for city management. Policy leadership with a long term, sustainable vision while solving today's many burning fires of neglect. A vital voice and proud ambassador for all citizens that is willing to take responsibility for mistakes, show all citizens respect and produce quick wins and creative solutions with low or no-cost quality of life improvements. Our city deserves some wins while we carry the heavy weight that 40 years of neglect and malaise has left us with.

1) No real, sustainable options to pay for our basic city services (including public safety) aside from tax increases and massive debt
2) The added burden of managing and paying for 40 years of infrastructure neglect
3) A community influenced by 40 years of stagnant apathy leading to lack of city pride, community responsibility and a general loss of respect and trust across the board. The only solution to these challenges is managing our strained budget to the penny while purposefully, aggressively growing our tax base so that we receive our share of the success that is roaring across Texas. CCPD (and CCFD) are understaffed, underfunded and overworked. Every study and state rank comparison confirms this.//

Above average. Corpus Christi has been the envy of the state for water planning for a long time. The Coastal Bend Regional Water Planning Area Water Plan reports that we can provide water for the above criteria for approximately 32 years. Nevertheless, we should always proactively secure future water supply especially if, under my leadership, we become more aggressive about tax base growth. I would follow our traditional policy of working on multiple options picking the least expensive that provides the water we need. We have to have abundant AND affordable water for our citizens and industry.



Ballot-by-Mail Application Available; Deadline To Apply Is October 26, 2018

Eligible voters may request to have an application for Ballot-by-Mail mailed to them by emailing VoteByMail@nuecesco.com or by calling (361) 888-0865. Ballot-by-Mail is available in English and Spanish, and the caller may specify which is needed.

DEADLINES:

- Applications for Ballot by Mail must be received no later than the close of business on the 11th day before Election Day on November 6, 2018. This year's deadline is October 26.
- Domestic Ballots by Mail must be received by Election Day at 7 p.m., or by 5 p.m. the next business day if postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day.
- Overseas Ballots by Mail must be received no later than the 5th business day after Election Day. Ballot must be postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day.
- Military (domestic or overseas) Ballots by Mail using FPCA must be received no later than the 6th business day after Election Day.

If questions, please call the Nueces County Clerk's Office at (361) 888-0865.

Corpus Christi City Council At-Large

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

Both property and violent crime rates have decreased since 2016. However, Corpus Christi's crime rates are still significantly higher in both categories than the Texas and National crime rates. If elected, how will you address this issue?

What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



John Garcia

I have distinguished myself as a longtime community volunteer I have taken the time to learn about issues across the city. I have a passion for economic development and job creation as well as strong public safety and infrastructure improvements across our city. I would be honored to take a more global approach to many of the issues we face, and I believe I could best do that in an at-large capacity.

I have no doubt that with the increase of population in our city, crime will increase. It's a huge concern to me, as your next city councilman at large. I would make it a high priority to address, a lack of growth through our emergency services.

Transportation services such as our streets, bridge, cycle highways, rail, airport and the port expansion project are critical for growth. Water that provides a supply of clean water and management of water resources is also important. Replacing aging and inadequate storm sewers, and corrected drainage problems needs attention and should be carefully tested for the future.

Below average. Identify ways in which federal, state, tribal and local governments, and utilities can work together to ensure that drinking water infrastructure challenges of low-income environmental justice communities and small systems are being appropriately prioritized and addressed. This could include increased information sharing, replicating best practices and building community capacity. Change. My candidacy is one of changing the focus of city government to the people rather than focusing on giving out incentives to special interests. The greatness of our city doesn't come from policies and programs that emanate from//



Brandey Batey

For the past 10 years I have been actively involved in both civic and political issues effecting our community, I have owned my own business and understand the issues facing small businesses with the burden of government overreach. I am a homeowner that has watched my taxes continue to increase while my neighborhood has continued to deteriorate. I have young children that I want to have the opportunity of a great education and a city that offers amenities where they can play learn and grow. I have worked in various areas of the community, including the medical and non-profit sector.

We are currently short officers when compared to the average for a US city our size. The only way to fix that is to increase the number of police officers. We need to evaluate the results of current methods of policing, investigation, arrests and case clearance and look for innovative ways to better involve and educate citizens of crimes happening in their specific neighborhoods. We must increase community outreach to the youth committing the majority of the crimes. We must demand that our justice system close the revolving door on these cases, prosecuting to the fullest extent every time.

We need to focus the majority of our dollars on our existing infrastructure, such as streets and water lines. We cannot continue to expand city services into new areas, increasing the burden on an already stretched budget, while neglecting our current neighborhoods. I want to make smart decisions with the limited funds at our disposal to see that existing neighborhoods are made a priority. When we neglect one area to expand to another we are not fixing the underlying problem. We are left with decaying neighborhoods and the increased future debt of maintenance and replacement of the expansion.

Poor. I believe our drinking water is at risk, like many other cities across America, because we have failed to innovate. We must constantly analyze our procurement specifications to be sure we are not eliminating a range of products and technologies from the competitive bidding process. We cannot continue to throw money at our dilapidated network of underground pipes, and refuse to adopt reforms that would allow for a cost-effective modernization of our entire water system. I m p r o v e d Infrastructure. Improved Public Safety, including Police Officers and Firefighters. Fiscal Responsibility and Improved Transparency of taxpayers money. Improved quality of life for all citizens of this community. Dedicated focus on fixing our current issues before we add more burden with non-necessity expenditures.

Corpus Christi City Council At-Large

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Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

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What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

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**Rudy
Garza Jr.**

Corpus Christi City Council District 5 for 6 years
Planning and Zoning Commission - 8 years (4 years as Chairman)
Building Standards Board 2 years
Appraisal District board - 4 years
Served on Economic Development Corporation Board for 5 years
Successful Business experience 20 years; Successful corporate career
College educated at Del Mar and CCSU (BBA degree in Finance)
Family man with strong Christian values

We need to move the police resources from Animal Control and Code Enforcement back to the Police Department. We need to use data and intelligence gathering to focus on problem areas proactively to reduce the issues or individuals that are contributing to the increases. Drug use and gang activity are areas we can identify and intervene on to turn this around. We have to continue to invest in the best technology available to support our Police department to be safe and get the bad element out of our community. I believe they do a great job, but we have to do better.

We have made great progress on streets and we need to continue to look for ways to fund residential street reconstruction. We have work to do on our water distribution and wastewater collection systems. I support doing what we need to do improve and make our water and wastewater systems more robust and reliable. We also have to look at offering options to developers that will encourage growth that is sustain-able and will create logical densities that will give us the best efficiencies are far as providing city services. I support growth and redevelopment of older areas.

Excellent. We have Lake Corpus Christi, Choke Canyon, and the pipelines from Lake Texana and the Lower Colorado River that currently supply our needs. All are surface water and the cheapest water available. We are now looking at diversifying our water supply. We have opportunities in conservation, water reclamation (re use), groundwater, ASR and desalination. Desalination, though expensive, offers the best long term solution for a drought proof supply. We have to do a better job of matching our supply with our demand so we can keep the rates for all customers at most competitive levels



**Kaylynn
Paxson**

My degrees are in political science and Public Administration; because I wanted to equip myself for service of our city. One of my best strengths is in strategic analysis, management and progression. In my career, I have almost always been called in, or hired to 'fix' a problem and find a solution. I have worked on multiple projects where I had to conduct research and work with teams on learning where the organization's strengths and weaknesses are, and how to prepare them for success through strategic planning and management. This is the expertise and skill that I would bring to city council!

I plan on addressing this issue through two strategies. We must work with all departments on equipping them for success in order to eliminate unnecessary cost. Identifying these returns allows us more freedom for increasing support where we need it. I also plan on implementing layers of assistance to our Police and Fire departments. This can be done by adding protocols that classify and share work loads and allow the higher impact crimes to receive more dedicated attention. We must also work with community areas, and partner on providing and increasing and reassigning security measures.

My first priority for infrastructure is to work with the city management and conduct audits and studies on finding more efficiency and transparency so that we can use city resources more wisely. Next I want our softwares and collection tools to be updated and given workable systems for operation. Finally I would like to see streets that have long been forgotten receive the attention they deserve. We need responsibility and transparency in our city. It's time to focus on our community!

Above average. I definitely believe the capability for the city to have great water services and systems is a potential! We have so many great scientific minds located here who devote their careers to research and engineering. I plan on working with these professionals, and other professionals in order to find the best solutions for water systems that will not only provide great services to our community, but also preserve our coastal environment. We must actively seek ways to stop the tremendous outpour of pollution into our coast, while meeting the needs of the community!

Corpus Christi City Council At-Large

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David Boatright

I have been a CPA for over 22 Years I worked as a Senior Utilities Accountant for the City of Corpus Christi in 1993 for 5 years, As a City Employee I helped the City recover over \$1,000,000 in undercharge fees from the Gas Department. I have helped numerous businesses and individual solve their problems with common sense solutions. I have a large family and understand what it takes to raise children in Corpus Christ, I have lived here most my life and am very frustrated with all the money the City has wasted on Consultants, Change Orders, and rash decisions. I plan to make Government open

I do not have all the answers. I think a lot of the crime has to do with mental health problems along with drugs. I will sit down with police officers county officials and other Government leaders' to analyzed the problem and not just make rash decisions. Once the problem is thoroughly understood I will work with city officials to propose solutions which make common and economic sense.

1. Water- The highest priority going forward will be to have enough water in order to allow the growth of all the industries being opened because of the Oil & Gas business. I will work to find affordable solutions in solving the Cities Water Crisis.
2. Street repairs- Something is wrong with the way we repairs streets they do not last nearly as long as they used to. I will talk to the Universities about analyzing our current way we do street repairs and use their resources to find solutions
3. I will push for legislation to tax all buildings vacant over a year taxed at best use.

Above average. Corpus has the resources with the option of Desalinization and the 2 lakes along with the Mary Rhodes Pipeline. I will have to look at the research which has already been done to help formulate a plan. Common sense says we might use desalinization for Industry use and the lakes for public consumption. I know a plan must be formulated and soon.

School Districts in Nueces County Have Board of Trustees' Elections

Voters residing in the Banquete, Corpus Christi, Flour Bluff, and Robstown Independent School Districts will cast their ballots for candidates seeking election to their Boards of Trustees.

The candidates listed here are opposed in their respective races. Other candidates who are unopposed will also be listed on the November 6 ballot.

Questions were posed to these school board candidates, and if they responded, their responses will appear in the online VOTE411.org voters guide.

Banquete ISD (3 open seats ; vote for 3)

Lillian Nash
Lillian Neely
Omar Ramirez
Aaron Ramon
Gabriel Serna
Mike Wessels

Corpus Christi ISD – District 1 (vote for 1)

Paul David Escamilla
John Longoria
Lamont C. Taylor

Corpus Christi ISD: District 3 (vote for 1)

Curtis T. Clark
Donald E. Clark
Dr. Tony C. Diaz

Flour Bluff ISD –Place 2 (vote for 1)

Lance Edward Howard
James Arthur Needham

Flour Bluff ISD--Place 5 (vote for 1)

David Jay Klein
Nicole Rainier Peters

Robstown ISD-Place 5 (vote for 1)

Julian Lopez, Jr.
Bertha Roldan
Osvaldo Romero

Robstown ISD-Place 6 (vote for 1)

Lori Ann Garza
Joe Ocanas
Victor Orona, Jr.

Place 7 (vote for 1)

Bobby Marroquin
Baldemar Torres, III

Corpus Christi City Council At-Large

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**Michael
Hunter**

Currently, I have served 2 1/2 years as your city councilman at large. I have also sat on many boards, commissions and committees throughout the city. Some of these groups include: Young business professionals, the art museum of south Texas, Corpus Christi town club, Corpus Christi museum of science and history, The USS Lexington, The Rising Tide Society – the Texas State Aquarium. I have served as a young liaison to the area for around eight years. I have had the opportunity to travel out of the country to represent us as a young professional several times. I was born and raised in Corpus.

I will continue to be a strong supporter of improving public safety efforts. I have received back to back endorsements from the Corpus Christi Police Officers Association and Firefighters Association I believe due to these efforts. We have brought on eight additional officers and we are currently modifying the officer training academy. We are improving communication systems for our city and our region. We have recently constructed fire station 18 during this past term. We will need a multi-annual plan to increase our numbers for both police and fire.

#1. I believe the bridge is the most important infrastructure project at the moment. We need to make sure this continues to move along smoothly. I will do whatever it takes to make sure this process gets completed.

#2. I believe that water is the second most important infrastructure need at the city. Over the last several years we have gone through multiple water boils. I helped shine light on the need for more water pressure through new water towers to prevent stagnant water.

#3. Streets are the third priority. Currently, we have a lot of street under construction, but we have a long way to go.

Above average. We are very far along in diversifying our water sources since I came onto the city Council. We are almost completely finished with the permitting process for desalination, which the next step should be construction. This new water source will not only provide us clean water but diversify and protect us against water needs of the future. We have installed and reconstructed many different water lines, water towers, and stations throughout the city. We also have a lot more work to do here, but we have regained our Texas Superior Water Rating from the state.



**Paulette
Guajardo**

For 15 years I owned and operated my insurance agency and learned the joys and issues that small business owners face. I also learned that human equity is another way to make our community stronger and have proudly given my time to many non-profits and organizations. Throughout my life's journey, I have learned leadership skills and have utilized these skills to bring responsible leadership to our City. I have learned that communication is paramount and that listening to my constituents is as important as giving my own opinion. I am cognizant that the decisions I help make impact the future.

This has been a priority of mine, since I was first elected in 2016 and it remains a top priority today. People come FIRST, therefore, we must work collaboratively with other agencies and partners to ensure the safety of all citizens throughout the City. I initiated the only Public Safety Workshop that has ever taken place. And as part of my continuing efforts, I have asked the City Manager to bring forth a RESPONSIBLE long term strategic plan to staff our first responders adequately. Our police force as not grown in 20 years. I believe having a plan is key to responsible leadership.

The safety and protection of our citizens, providing safe drinking water as well as a long term supply of water, and lastly, bring leadership and direction to the infrastructure issues, including streets. I believe these priorities must be met in a fiscally responsible manner that will in turn lead to economic development opportunities. I have asked the City Manager to bring forth a long term strategic plan that will coincide with our growing City so that we can discuss as to not neglect it and/or pass it on to future councils to deal with. I believe in having a plan for a vision.

Above average. We are currently taking steps to secure a long term supply of water for our citizens and industry. The conversation continues and we are working towards this today. With more knowledge about new technology advances, I feel confident that we will find a long term strategy to meet the future water demands.

Corpus Christi City Council, District 1

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Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

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What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

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**Julian
Firo**

I have a bachelor's degree in Political Science where I specifically learned how formulate policy, plan and develop ideas that will work for entire communities, and how to work with groups of people with different ideas. I also worked with US Representative Vicente Gonzalez where I was in direct communication with elected officials of over 15 different counties, organized community events, and handled constituent's issues. I am also heavily involved within the community, I hold events giving back to the children and the less fortunate and coach a little league baseball team.

One of my priorities after being elected is prioritizing our public safety. This means that with my ideas on how to creativity boost our local economy, we will be able to properly fund our first responders and make sure they have the appropriate man power to serve our citizens most efficiently.

1. Accelerate the process of the roads already being worked on and address the roads that have been neglected for too long. 2. Modernize our public transportation system as they do in other big name cities. 3. Replace poor existing street lighting throughout the district, especially in our inner central/west side area. In order to accomplish this, we must boost our local economy by bringing in top name businesses that will increase tourism and create local jobs.

Average. Corpus Christi is definitely able to provide water for the next 20 years but we must be prepared for any and everything. If we can accomplish the growth I keep referring to then we are going to need more modernized options such as a desalination plant. This would allow us to be well suited in case of emergencies and would free up some of the water we provide to other districts.



**Everett
Roy**

I have been and/or lived all over the world. I have spent some 14 years in active military duty and in the reserves, defending our country. I have worked in operations, sales, training, management and leadership. For more than 20 years now, I have been in the lending and financial industries—currently working as a senior vice president at Kleberg Bank. Throughout my professional and personal life one constant has been my commitment to service and community. I received my undergraduate degree from Chaminade University in Business and a graduate degree in Management from Webster University.

As the current Council Member of District 1, I hear from citizens often about crime in their neighborhoods. The best way to address crime is make sure we have the police staff in place to handle the high call volume. Corpus Christi is understaffed based on our current population and call volume. We must focus on our human infrastructure just like we focus on physical infrastructure. I will continue to work with Council and Staff to be fiscally responsible. Every dollar we waste takes away from a dollar we could use to prevent crime.

Streets are probably the number one concern. As a Council Member currently for District 1, we have probably done more for streets on this Council than any other Council in past years. You can't drive anywhere without seeing streets being worked on. This is a long term, it will take years to get streets back up to an acceptable level. Currently, the city of Corpus Christi depends on surface water. We must diversify our water sources in order to meet residential and industrial demands as we grow. We need to look at other sources such as desalination. Third priority is Public Safety.

Average. As I mentioned earlier, we must continue to look at other water resources such as desalination. We are in a prime location to pull water from the ocean to meet future needs. The City is currently working with the Port and others to look at feasibility studies to find a desalination plant location site and work with environmentalist, Corps of Engineers and others to ensure we protect our environment. Multiple water sources will enable Corpus Christi to meet future needs and reduces future risk.

Corpus Christi City Council, District 1

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What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

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Joy
Miller

As a small business owner who has been involved in City issues I feel that I m quite knowledgeable of the city and its issues. I worked with We The People News, newspaper and we discovered quite a lot going on with the city. I have managed a law office for 16 years and have learned quite a bit is those years.

I believe we need to use our neighborhood watch programs more than we do. We could try more get to know your neighbor events. Most crimes are done in the daylight hours by someone acting like they are supposed to be there. We can also promote more Police officers moving into high crime areas and offering an incentive to relocate there. I believe that we need to invest some funds in a mental health assessor at our local jail. I would say 70% of drug related crimes need some sort of mental counseling.

I believe that our neighborhood streets are very high priority due to our cars are taking a beating with all the holes. I also think we need to explore cement paving. Our neighborhood Sidewalks need both repairs and handicap accessibility. More smart growth instead of urban sprawl and building in flood plains. Last but not least our water and sewer pipes need updating. Also we have a lead problem that will need dealt with.

Below average. We put in the Mary Rhodes pipeline for water so one would think that we would have enough water, but San Antonio and other areas are needing water since about 5,000 folks are moving there weekly. I really think we need to look at the upcoming water shortage. Also, the local corporations want to put in desalination plants at our expense and use it for their industry. The truth is desal plants cost a huge amount for energy to use. I would currently advise against that.



ENGLISH, SPANISH VOTERS GUIDES FOR STATEWIDE RACES

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) will publish Voters Guides in English and in Spanish for the November 6 General Election. The guides will feature candidates in the following statewide races:

US Senate, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Land Commissioner, Railroad Commissioner, Supreme Court of Texas, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, US House, State Board of Education, Texas Senate, and Texas House.

Visit the LWVTX website at www.lwvtexas.org to access or download a copy to read and share with others.

LWV-CC has ordered a limited amount of printed English and Spanish Voters Guides from the state league and will place copies in all the public libraries.



"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting." — Franklin D. Roosevelt

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men." — Lyndon B. Johnson

"If American women would increase their voting turnout by 10 percent, I think we would see an end to all of the budget cuts in programs benefiting women and children." — Coretta Scott King

"Voting is the most precious right of every citizen, and we have a moral obligation to ensure the integrity of our voting process." — Hillary Clinton

Corpus Christi City Council, District 2

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Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

Both property and violent crime rates have decreased since 2016. However, Corpus Christi's crime rates are still significantly higher in both categories than the Texas and National crime rates. If elected, how will you address this issue?

What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



James T. C.
Chadden

No response received



Sylvia
Campos

My credentials and life experience to hold this office is simply. I am a passionate, concerned U.S. Citizen. We are all qualified to run for office. I have a profound interest in making our City more transparent and effective. I have lived here all my life. I have seen and been affected most of my life by the decisions our previous City Council have made all these years. We have asked for street repairs, decent sidewalks most of my adult life. We have asked for better parks, shade, affordable housing and numerous other things.

I will address reducing Crime and Violent Crimes by utilizing our Neighborhood Crime Watch Program. We can reduce crime by getting to know our neighbors. Most crimes are done by someone close. We can also promote more Police officers moving into high crime areas and offering an incentive to relocate there. Also purchasing Shot-Spotter Technology <https://www.shotspotter.com/technology/>. Also start a community and police bridge forum. Get police officers more directly involved in the community.

The 3 top priorities for public infrastructure would be:
Neighborhood Street repairs
Neighborhood Sidewalk Repairs
Replace Greenwood Wastewater Treatment plant. This would be paid by either ending Our Industrial Agreement Contract or at least asking they pay their full 100% of the water bill. They are given a 40% discount and do not taxes instead pay a fee. We can end contract that should only have lasted 7 years re-negotiate in public view or input from the public.

Average. We are capable of providing enough water if we plan well. The Industrial District on the other hand does not. It is not enough that they use about 50% of our water and at a discount! They want more and want us to pay for it. I say if they want more water than they should pay for it.

A Message from the League of Women Voters...

The State of Texas has a million things to be proud of...but voter turnout is not one of them. Did you know that Texas ranks really low (like 46th on the list of 50 states) in voter turnout? Texas voters have a chance to change how we are ranked in voter turnout. Being a US citizen means we take voting in all elections seriously and we accept voting as our sacred duty.

Corpus Christi City Council, District 2

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**Ben
Molina**

I'm Ben Molina, Your Friendly Neighborhood Councilman! I proudly serve as Council Member for District 2. My wife and I have been married for almost 14 years and have 2 children. I'm also a small-business owner, having served the Coastal Bend since 2000. I have been actively involved in our community for many years. My leadership experience includes serving as President of Habitat for Humanity, President of the Westside Business Association, the Board of the Young Business Professionals, among many boards and committees. I'm also graduate of Leadership Corpus Christi, Class 42.

I have been endorsed by the Police Officers Association, as well as the Fire Fighters Association because Public Safety is important to me. I voted in favor of maintaining the 63 Officers funded by the Crime Control District which funded the additional 8 Officers. It is important to attract and retain top talent and continue to provide excellent training, which is why we worked to ensure that the Police Academy remained in operation. I'm currently working towards additional funding sources for more Officers, tools, and equipment that would increase operational efficiency.

Streets - We've increased the design life from 20 years to 30 years so that streets are built sturdier and last longer. We've implemented the Preventative Maintenance Program and programmed money for residential street rehabilitation and reconstruction. With much of that work occurring in District 2.
Water- We have a Superior rated system now, due to continuous improvements made to our treatment plants and will continue to improve with new water towers.
Waste Water-We've implemented a program to systematically replace wastewater lines and manholes to reduce water intrusion.

Excellent. This Council has placed the City of Corpus Christi in an excellent position for the future. For the first time ever, we have an agreement in place that charges Industry more for their water use. Revenue collected will be utilized to fund additional future water sources, including desalination, groundwater, and surface water. We are also in the middle of permitting and making preparations to have a desalination plant "shovel ready". We are looking towards future needs and taking steps to secure water for Economic Development opportunities and create sustainable sources for our residents.



**R. J.
Torres**

I was born in Corpus Christi and grew up in Kingsville, Texas. I played baseball and graduated from Robstown, Texas. I continued to play baseball at the collegiate level and graduated with a Bachelors in Business Management from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. I then went on to Texas Southern Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas and graduated early from law school. I live and work in District 2. I'm qualified because I have the passion to advocate for District 2. I have always heard "Corpus Christi has so much potential", and it's time we see it.

I will address this issue by increasing the number of police officers we have on our police force. I would also encourage more neighborhood togetherness. I believe if we raised the quality of life for everyone in Corpus Christi, we could help prevent crime through creative measures such as education. I would also look to increase jobs in Corpus Christi by contracting with companies who do business with the city to make jobs available for local residents.

My top 3 priorities are more efficient and effective decision making, a short term plan and a long term plan for roads, and a safer city. I would look to implement creative problem-solving and provide innovative ideas to City Council. We need to stop looking to "Bonds" to be the solution and we need to rework some of our contracts.

Below average. Desalination is a start to providing water to local residents, but this will take more time before residents begin to see benefits from desalination. The residents of Corpus Christi deserve clean water that is safe for consumption and this city deserves more transparency when the water is not safe for drinking. I believe the City needs to be more prepared for natural disasters, especially those in disadvantageous positions.

Corpus Christi City Council, District 3

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Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

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What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



**Eric
Cantu**

I'm honest, I live in district 3. I'm a hard working small business owner. I have no criminal record and have never been arrested. I'm a father that not only wants the best for his family but every family in the community should have opportunity for a good job, good home that is safe. I will stop at nothing to ensure that public safety is supported. I will make sure workforce housing is built & jobs are created. I'm not doing this to fill my pocketbook or of my friends. I am doing this because I truly care about my community. I want to make sure that my kids grow up in the best community.

There is no doubt that the police department is understaffed. I believe this causes issues across the board. If I am elected I want to work with other council members so they understand how important this issue is. And the potential the safety hazard for everyone in our city. It's not just about numbers, it's also about the safety of citizens and officers. I think we all need to work together to address this issue and find a way to make this happen. Bringing in more officers can help with the call load and can help reduce our state wide and nationwide crime rate.

1) Police Officers & Firefighters are "Human Infrastructure" as Public Safety is #1. I will focus on families across our community being safe by supporting Public Safety. 2) Focus on everything that is needed to help build housing that we can afford, throughout District 3. We need Workforce Housing in our city and we, District 3, have plenty of land to develop! 3) Make sure everyone knows District 3 is Open for Business! We need to adapt utility plans to meet the needs of businesses that want to open up in District 3 and CREATE JOBS in District 3 for everyone!

Average. Good steps that began in the summer of 2016 got us back to a water system that is again at a TCEQ Superior Rating. However, i score this Average because the city is entirely dependent on surface water supplies. Until we diversify with either desalination or ground water, we are dependent on rain upstream in our watershed.



**Roland
Barrera**

Born and raised in the district, I have served the community actively for over 20 years. I served on the RTA board 8 years and chairman for 2. I serve or have served on numerous boards; local, state and national. They include public, non-profit and trade associations and I've chaired several. I understand budgets, finance, pensions and health plans. I've testified on numerous occasions at the Texas Legislature regarding our community, small business needs and issues related to access to healthcare. I am active in politics locally, statewide and federally.

We must address the issue of police department staffing requirements. Compromising the safety of our citizens, its visitors and those that enforce our laws is just not acceptable. From a financial perspective, we can not "cut" our way into prosperity. We must thoroughly review public safety needs and put forth an action plan to get there and stay there. We must then take a holistic approach towards the budget and every department to maximize efficiency. There is no one magic formula. The first order of business is to hire a city manager that will implement systems to execute the city's needs.

Safe clean water. We've come a long way from a year ago. However, we must be proactive in maintaining the infrastructure. We have a new water tower on the south side. However, we are not confident current infrastructure can support it. A more effective action plan must be put in place. Residential streets. Again, years of neglect have resulted in greater cost to infrastructure then a proper maintenance program. Technology. The current challenge with water bills is inexcusable. Inadequate preparation, research and troubleshooting are expensive and frustrating to citizens. Accountability is key.

Above average. The new council must first hire an effective city manager that is creative, forward thinking and accountable. We must hold that individual accountable to implementing a 20 year vision to achieve that standard.

Corpus Christi City Council, District 3

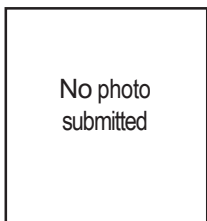
Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

Both property and violent crime rates have decreased since 2016. However, Corpus Christi's crime rates are still significantly higher in both categories than the Texas and National crime rates. If elected, how will you address this issue?

What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



Roland A.
Gaona

No response was received.



Eric Lee
Tunchez

I am a life long resident of Corpus Christi from the Molina neighborhood. I am the eldest of 3 children and was raised in rough circumstances. Through the grace of God and help from my mother I was able to obtain an Associates art degree at Del Mar College, an bachelor of science degree from the University of Houston-Downtown majoring in Criminal Justice. I am the founder and executive director to a non-profit organization called Stop Bullying. I have now been able to craft policies within Stop Bullying that raises awareness of bullying in our local school systems to protect children.

There are 5 factors in which crimes are committed. Environment, socioeconomic status, education, parenting, and dieting. If elected I would advocate to strengthen our job force by supporting less taxes to enable more businesses to employ high skilled and valuable jobs that will enable residents to feed their families. I will also be a leader for educational programs set forth by non-profit organizations that help the public raise the reading levels in children at home and schools. With the help of other city leaders I will advocate for rehabilitation for violent criminals in our city.

There is not just one priority, they're all top priorities in regards to public infrastructure.. Of course the potholes on our streets need to be paved in the correct conditions for asphalt to hold. Working with the streets department supervisors, city manager, and the public, to work on efficiency, Sidewalks and drainage concerns will go hand and hand with the streets department and engineering to help alleviate complaints. As for expansion, I will work with state representatives to expand our runways at the International Airport to allow larger jets to land and bring more tourism.

Average. With the works of permits already in action for 2 separate desalination plants in Ingelside and Port Aransas we are well on our way to providing an adequate water supply for industry in the Corpus Christi area. We need to continue to support the implementation of a desalination plant for our city. This will help with the current conservation initiatives for irrigation and drinking water. If desalination is implemented this will be great for farmers and petrochemical companies, thus creating more jobs that our area desperately needs.



Early Voting Locations: October 22-November 2, 2018
(See listing of Early Voting and Temporary Early Voting locations on Page 1 of this Voters Guide!)

Monday-Friday, October 22-26: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, October 27: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Sunday, October 28: 12 noon-5 p.m.

Monday-Friday, October 29-November 2: 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Corpus Christi City Council, District 3

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Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

Both property and violent crime rates have decreased since 2016. However, Corpus Christi's crime rates are still significantly higher in both categories than the Texas and National crime rates. If elected, how will you address this issue?

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Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



**Margareta
Fratila**

I have a Master Degree in Horticulture from Bucharest, Romania. Because I grew up in a Communist country, I have had an abiding interest in politics and political theory, and have been involved in politics all the years I have been here, as a member of the Republican party.

Corpus Christi has a much higher level of poverty than most cities. So you have to expect higher crime levels. While one owes to do the best one can with the local resources available, it is realistic to understand that Corpus Christi will probably NEVER have less crime than say Austin does. The most successful way of fighting crime is to get people into good jobs that pay enough money to support them. Refinery jobs do a lot for our community. People who want to help the city the most will be looking for ways to encourage new jobs to be found here. Improve the job outlook, fight crime.

The new harbor bridge, the rework of the SPID freeway, and the major road improvements are the three most important infrastructure projects going on now. These people know what they are doing, and on the City Council, we help them best by staying out of their way. If the highway department asks for the city to help, I would be glad to help. Improvements to Staples Street are already in progress. But we don't really need to second-guess these people all the time. They are professionals.

Average. The Mary Rhodes pipeline solved long-running problems with Corpus Christi's water supplies. In the future we will have adequate water for most purposes because of that. But at some point we may need to acquire more East Texas water to ship here on that pipeline. One just has to stay alert because even though adequate water is always needed, sometimes the definition changes as to how much is an "adequate" supply of water. A city seldom finds that "use less water" is a long term solution to anything.

Nueces County Candidates on the Ballot Who Are Unopposed:

The following **REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES** are listed on the November 6 ballot as unopposed:

State Representative, District 32: Todd Hunter (R)
319th Court District Judge: David Stith (R)
Judge, County Court at Law/4: Mark H. Woerner (R)
Judge, County Court at Law/5: Timothy McCoy (R)
County Commissioner, Precinct 4: Brent Chesney (R)
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Place 2: Thelma Rodriguez (R)
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3: Larry Lawrence (R)
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4: Duncan Neblett, Jr.

The following **DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES** are listed on the November 6 ballot as unopposed:

94th Court District Judge: Bobby Galvan (D)
117th Court District Judge: Sandra Watts (D)
Judge, County Court at Law/2: Lisa Gonzales (D)
Judge, County Court at Law/3: Deeanne Svoboda Galvan (D)
Nueces County Commissioner, Pct. 2: Joe A. Gonzalez (D)
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Place 3: Lucy Rubio (D)
Justice of the Peace, Pct. 5, Place 2: Armando B. Gonzalez, Jr. (D)

Corpus Christi City Council, District 4

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

Both property and violent crime rates have decreased since 2016. However, Corpus Christi's crime rates are still significantly higher in both categories than the Texas and National crime rates. If elected, how will you address this issue?

What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



Greg Smith

As a board member of many public organizations I have learned the best practices to use in a public body. As a RV resort partner for 22 years that owns its own streets & utility systems gives knowledge of infrastructure and dealing with a community. Working for HEB shows the importance and need for leadership & a positive culture within a large organization. Being part of a firm that provided structural bridge products to TXDOT brings knowledge of streets and bidding products. Being part of the Windstorm Task Force gave knowledge of the importance and inner working of the Tex Legislature.

We need to continue the policies such as community policing that has led to the crime decline since 2016. Sources of crime as drugs & gangs need to be addressed. The City must enforce current laws on the books for petty crimes that bring blight to our City. I do and will continue to support CCPD's work in this area.

Additional water supply. I have supported and will continue to support the most cost effective sources on new water and the necessary permitting required to achieve adding to our supply. Residential Street rebuild program. Support the citizen approved residential street tax funding. Wastewater efficiency upgrades. Support the waste-water CIP improvements.

Above average. The City is currently working to expand our water supply. RFI's have been issued to interested parties for additional water. The City has awarded a contract to secure two desalination permits. Practical and available sources are desalination, groundwater, reuse and aquifer storage and recovery. This gives the City the ability to secure the lowest cost supply to satisfy future water needs. We can add 33% more demand and still be within our safe yield calculations as prescribed by our regional water plan. Our current work plan is to insure that we have water available when demand dictates.



Richard Diaz

I began getting involved in local politics in 2017 with the election campaign of Nelda Martinez for Mayor. Afterwards do to the encouragement of Mrs. Martinez I applied to be on the city Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC), and served on the commission for one year before deciding to run for city council.

I would look to have future budget fund go to increasing the number of police officers in the city, as well as increase the quality of training to better prepare officers for different situation they may find themselves in. I would also work to increase infrastructure investment in more crime heavy areas, as a city simply showing interest in a neglected area can have a profound impact in crime and poverty.

I would work to have residential roads rebuilt with permeable pavement instead of asphalt or concrete. This would allow for our roads to act as storm water reservoirs and allow more rain water to permeate back into our ground water, as well as lower the lifetime cost of our stormwater and wastewater treatment plants. I would prioritize concrete roads over asphalt when rebuilding commercial and large residential roads. I would emphasize the need to have a more walkable and bike friendly environment for citizens and tourists, which would helping to cut down traffic congestion and accidents.

Average. I believe the city has made effective strides in improving our water safety and quality since the last water boil. But more steps can always be made to improve our water quality, such as building permeable pavement roads which would cut down on trash flowing into our stormwater system and as well as replenish our ground water reserves. I would also look into finding the funding to build a wastewater treatment plant to allow for another clean source of water, as long as that water goes to the citizens first and not to the

Corpus Christi City Council, District 5

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Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

Both property and violent crime rates have decreased since 2016. However, Corpus Christi's crime rates are still significantly higher in both categories than the Texas and National crime rates. If elected, how will you address this issue?

What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



**Eric
Rodriguez**

I hold ten years of working experience for the Department Of Defense. My certifications focus in the areas of environmental management , storm water pollution prevention, contract management, process improvements and cost analysis. I have also been actively involved in non profit organizations serving as Coastal Bend Young Democrats-Vice President, former Citizen's Climate Lobby Chapter President and current Citizen's Climate Lobby Environmental Congressional Liaison.

I would work very closely with the Chief of Police to focus on the hotspots. Analyzing those areas and identifying what is the root cause of the high crime rate. Focusing on how we can increase the patrol manpower in the those high risk areas.

1) Water line infrastructure
2) Roads already paid for that are not complete.
3) Proactive environmental programs to protect our waters and marine life.
We can achieve all three goals by adopting a five year Infrastructure Management Program. The Infrastructure Management Program (IMP) is a five-year rolling program which focuses on the maintenance of Corpus Christi's Infrastructure. Service needs are identified city wide and are scheduled for street maintenance, drainage maintenance, sidewalks, traffic signals and storm water pollution prevention.

Poor.
Corpus Christi is ranked 5th in the state of Texas for the most containments in water at 11 containments and ranked 17th nationally. The Industrial District consumes 20,000 gallons of water a day. A Desalination plant would be able to supply the demand of water the industries need.
I have a new water line project ready to be implemented, this would replace all old water lines with new pvc lines. This project also brings a potable water system, which is 100% clean renewable drinking water. Together the desalination and potable water system can co-exist with the citizens and industry.



**Carlos
Torres**

I recently retired from the Corpus Christi Fire Department (CCFD) after 32 years of service as a "public servant" to the citizens of Corpus Christi. I was also Association President for the last 16 years of my career. I have attended many City Council meetings over the last 30 years as a firefighter, leader and citizen. I am very well versed on the General Agenda of a City Council meeting and have participated in almost all Agenda items during my CCFD career. Once I retired, I decided what better way to continue to serve the citizens of this city than to run for City Council.

Corpus Christi Police Department has not kept up with the national police staffing averages. Currently, the CCPD has 1.39 officers per 1000 residents, yet other peer cities in Texas and across the nation avg. 1.66 or higher per 1000 residents. It is obvious the CCPD is understaffed and that is a contributing factor to the higher crime rates in Corpus Christi in both categories than the Texas and National crime rates. If elected to City Council, I would make this item a top priority issue with the city manager and other council members by advocating for increasing staffing levels.

Public Safety: I would address the staffing levels of public safety in efforts to maintain them at a safe level for the citizens they serve.
Streets and related infrastructure: I would continue the ongoing infrastructure programs that have been approved and voted on but would look at more innovative and modern ways to address future street paving projects and related infrastructure.
Water Supply: I would continue with the present program the city and other entities are looking at regarding "desalination" and continue water conservation measures that do not adversely affect our citizens.

Average. Average, because while there is an endless water supply off our coast, we still have not figured out how to take advantage of it. It is great to hear the city has finally gone past the "study" phase and is actually pursuing the process of "desalination". I am also concerned because with the two lakes that we get water from and the Mary Rhodes pipeline included, we are still having to implement water conservation measures at times. These issues must be revisited to make sure we are doing everything correct in taking full advantage of the resources available to the community.

Corpus Christi City Council, District 5

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What are your three (3) top priorities for public infrastructure maintenance and expansion in Corpus Christi and what will you do to support them?

Using a scale of poor, below average, average, above average, or excellent, please explain your response to the question, "How would you rate the capability of Nueces County to provide water for drinking, irrigation, and industry in the next 20 years?"



**Paul
Thurman**

I decided to run for City Council because I believe Corpus Christi needs strong effective leadership. Experienced individuals whose common goals are the betterment of our city and not just temporary distractions. I offer both with my resume of political experience and activism, including supporting our County as Executive Director of the Nueces County Republican Party. I believe in common sense government, that can offer vision without raising taxes; public safety without breaking the bank; and find new ways of funding needed services including public private partnerships.

I think we need to look at funding for more police officers for our city. We also should be supporting community approaches to crime prevention and law enforcement, including neighborhood watches, partnerships with police and greater citizen involvement. I think we need to be promoting more personal responsibility and broader social responsibility in our policies and programs.

Our current city council has made enormous advances in fixing our streets and looking at ways to improve our infrastructure, but there is still much more to be done. First, we need to not only look at fixing our streets but maintaining them as well. We need to secure the funds for the future so that regardless of who is in office, our tax dollars will be used for what you intended them to be used for. Second, we need to seek opportunities to coordinate and leverage both public and private capital investments and leverage new technological processes for new and existing public infrastructure.

Below average. Corpus Christi residents have dealt with water quality issues — including four water advisories the last few years and that's unacceptable. And most recently we're dealing with problems with billing. Stories and personal accounts of water bills skyrocketing seem to be coming in daily. At some point enough is enough, trust in our water department has been depleted to the point of exhaustion. We need insure that our focus is the availability as well as the cost efficiency of safe drinking water for all our residents from District 5 to the Island.



**Gil
Hernandez**

I have a BBA from Texas Tech. I'm a Veteran; Naval Officer with 9 years of active duty service with tours in Asia and the Persian Gulf. I worked for Coca-Cola for the last 18 years with responsibility for all national accounts in south Texas. Currently, I have my own consulting business in the food & beverage industry. I was an RTA board member. I'm also the president of the Diamond Lake Masters HOA. Taking into consideration my experience in the military, corporate America, and local government entities, I have a broad range of experience and leadership that more than qualifies me.

We need to have more proactive policing. Unfortunately, we are lacking in the number of police officers compared to other like-sized cities. We need to try to improve our manning levels. Ideally, I would like to add between 10-20 patrol officers and 5 detectives. As this is an annual cost of approximately \$2.5M, we'll need to find recurring revenue without raising taxes. Our property taxes are already high as compared to like-sized cities. My hope is to find savings in the 380 agreements, vendor agreements, industrial agreements, plus identify possible public safety grants to fund this need.

Every initiative to replace or repair infrastructure requires money to pay for it. So, we need to ensure the city's finances are in order to accomplish these goals without raising taxes. I also support the use of concrete for major roads versus asphalt. The life span of concrete is greater with less maintenance which makes it a better value over time. Unfortunately, our city has a history of neglecting the maintenance needed by asphalt. Because of the initial cost of concrete, we can't replace every street. However, we should replace every major road with concrete moving forward.

Average. Aside from the past water boils and the ongoing waste water treatment issues, the city (via Mary Rhodes pipeline) has secured water rights for the future. However as the city and port industries continue to grow, we need to look ahead to ensure we have the water we need for the future. This includes looking at improving waste water treatment and desalination. If we do this right, we can secure water rights for the future and may have the opportunity to sell water upstream to other municipalities.

City of Corpus Christi and Corpus Christi ISD Both Seeking Approval for Bond Programs

Two governmental entities—the City of Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi Independent School District (CCISD)—are seeking voter approval for their respective Bond Programs that will be included on the Tuesday, November 6, General Election Ballot. The City of Corpus Christi is proposing a \$96,000,000 bond that includes six individual propositions and CCISD is proposing a single \$210,770,000 bond.

A bond is a form of debt that provides local governmental entities with funds to finance large capital improvement projects. A Bond Program includes both the authority to issue bonds and a listing of the purposes for which the funds may be used. Voter approval is required.

Both organizations have prepared detailed information about the bond proposals, and those materials are available to voters. The City's information guide is printed in English and Spanish and available on the City's website at xmxmxmxmxx. CCISD's information sheets are available on the CCISD website at www.ccisd.us. Below is a summary of the two Bond Programs prepared by the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi, based on published information provided to the League.

Proposed 2018 Bond Program/ City of Corpus Christi

Total Requested: \$96 million

Six propositions, each to be voted on individually:

Proposition A—Streets: \$52 million for 23 projects. No tax increase.

Proposition B—Additional Streets: \$22 million for 14 projects.
1 cent tax increase in property tax.

Proposition C—Parks and Recreation: \$5.6 million for 2 projects.
¼ cent tax increase in property tax.

Proposition D—Libraries & Cultural: \$3.9 million for 4 projects.
1/5 cent tax increase in property tax.

Proposition E—Public Safety: \$11.3 million for 7 projects.
½ cent tax increase in property tax.

Proposition F—Public Health: \$1.1 million for 1 project.
1/20 cent tax increase in property tax.

Estimated Tax Impact: City officials say Proposition A does not require an increase in the City's property tax rate. However, the other Propositions each require an increase in property tax as indicated in the list above. If all Propositions are approved, property taxes are expected to increase a total of about 2 cents per \$100 valuation.

Proposed 2018 Bond Program/ Corpus Christi Independent School District

Total requested: \$210,770,000

One proposition that includes monies for Construction, Safety and Security, and Technology.

Construction: A new campus for Mary Carroll High School; additional gymnasiums for Elliott Grant Middle School and Harold C. Kaffie Middle School; locker room renovations for Tom Browne Middle School, Carl O. Hamlin Middle School and Sterling B. Martin Middle School; completion of ongoing renovations at W. B. Ray High School.

Safety and Security: All campuses in need—single-entry security vestibules, perimeter fencing, security alarms, security cameras, and fire alarm replacements.

Technology: All campuses/mobile computer labs, library technology; Galvan, Jones, Menger, Moore, and Schanen Estates Elementary Schools/overhead paging system; Middle Schools/Wi-Fi and network upgrade; High Schools/Career & Technical Education technology; and Districtwide/Data Center protection and upgrades.

Estimated Tax Impact: With this bond initiative, CCISD officials say property owners will see a 6.6-cent increase per \$100 valuation, starting with the 2019 tax bill. Property taxes for citizens 65 years or older will not increase as a result of the school bond election.

Del Mar College Regent, At-Large

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and are not edited.

Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

What measures, if any, can Regents take to manage student debt?

With development of the Del Mar College Southside campus, how will duplication of services and class offerings be addressed?



**Guy
Watts**

Educated at Ray High School (Student Body President and State Champion in Oration), Del Mar College (Class President, Class Favorite, Hall of Fame, Swim Team Co-Captain), University of Texas BA/JD. TAMU-Kingsville BS/MA, Texas Tech University/WU Ph.D in Government. Del Mar Regent 1988-2018 as an 'academic students advocate' for academic students from Padre Island to Calallen, advocate of Southside Academic Campus, submitted ten academic proposals/ten East Campus proposals, created Watts Foundation for Del Mar Graduates, and proposed 'plant management courses' for Jobs Programs.

When the Republican Party took control of the Texas legislature one of the first actions was to 'de-regulate' student tuition costs with legislators honestly convinced that tuition costs would go lower whereas costs have accelerated tremendously; e.g., UT Law School tuition is \$42,000.00. As a result 'student debts' have risen enormously and have overwhelmed graduates adult lives. Concerned state Republican leaders need re-establish 'tuition control' in Texas. And national leaders need to elevate Pell Grants to graduate school level so we can 'maximize students education'.

Del Mar College is moving forward to prepare academic students with a basis for graduate school. In 2011, I drafted a Resolution to create a Southside Academic Campus for 'academic students'. It was adopted by the Southside Business Council, PIBA, FBBA, NWBA, and later by the Southside Leadership Council. In response, our outstanding President Dr. Mark Escamilla, who also has developed well 'Jobs Programs', proposed a public bond issue that was adopted by voters. By 2020, the first phase of the Southside Campus will be built with focus on 'STEM': science, technology, engineering, and math.



**Hector "Coach"
Salinas**

First, I believe anyone running for an office must love his or her community, and I do. I raised my family in the coastal bend community because I believe in our educational systems and the opportunities they afford the residents. My children, grandchildren and I are graduates of Corpus Christi Independent School District and they have attended Del Mar College. I have over 50-years of experience working in the community and different levels of education – middle, high school and collegiate. I work well with parents, students and the community. I strongly advocate for educators; I am a teacher and I understand the interests, concerns, and issues we face. I have extensive experience in working with budgets, managing teams and staff, volunteers, board of directors and community members. I am a goal-oriented person with strong leadership capabilities. I am highly motivated and detail-oriented. I obtained my diploma from Mary Carroll High School in 1962//

Student debt is a big concern nationwide. In the Coastal Bend community, we want to make sure we take care of our students and provide every opportunity for them to succeed post-secondary. High schools do a great job of promoting post-secondary education and I commend them for that. We, as a community, must continue to build relationships with our administrators, counselors, and parents. In building those relationships, we can ensure our students and parents are informed of all financial assistance that is available. There are scholarships, work-study programs, financial aid, loans, and internships available for our students and we must take an active role in educating our community. We must dig deeper, not wider. Del Mar College is a competitive college with much to offer and we must continue to promote the programs of study available on each of our campuses.//

I am excited to see that Del Mar College is accessible to our community in various locations. Equity and consistency in providing class offerings and services is vital to the success of ALL learners. Our community is growing and so are the opportunities for our young people. I believe every student should have the same opportunities to learn, grow, and develop into a productive member of our community. We have a responsibility to our youth to promote learning and provide the arenas within which the learning may occur.

Del Mar College Regent, At-Large

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Describe your credentials and life experiences that qualify you to hold this office.

What measures, if any, can Regents take to manage student debt?

With development of the Del Mar College Southside campus, how will duplication of services and class offerings be addressed?



Sandra Longoria-Messbarger

My credentials include attending Del Mar College for two years. Received a Bachelors' degree from Texas A&I in Music Education and a Masters in Educational Administration from TAMUCC. I taught choir/ music for over 25 years and served as a principal in Grades K-5/ 9-12.. Served as Executive Secretary for The Texas Music Educators Association in Austin for years and was elected and have served as Del Mar Regent at Large since 2012. I am member of Kingsville Investment Club, Past President of Woman's Club of Kingsville and Garden Club. I am married to Dick Messbarger and live Padre Island.

Students Debt concerns us all. 60% of Del Mar students work jobs while attending college. There are two major government programs that assist students with their college expense. The Federal governments Pell Grants and the state's SGOE. Both of these grant programs do not have to be paid back. Military , veterans and their families also have an opportunity to attend college without any cost. Our own Del Mar Foundation provides scholarship monies that are awarded to students without reimbursement. The average age of a Del Mar student is 27. An emergency fund is also made available.

The planning of the south campus is both exciting and daunting. The core and development programs will be taught at this location and all student services such as financial are, registrar, counseling and food services. A beautiful new library will be available not just to the students but also for the community. The Culinary Arts program will be located there and will be a great addition to the neighborhood. The Architectural Design program will be moved from the Wes campus and a new Applied Construction certificate will be started on the south campus. Bus service will be available.



Are You Registered to Vote?

Not sure if you are registered to vote? *Am I Registered?* is an online search tool for the Texas statewide voter registration database. Accessing the webpage is easy.

1. Use this link to the *Am I Registered?* webpage:

<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>.

2. Use the drop-down menu to choose the Selection Criteria you want to use: VUID (Voter Unique Identifier that appears on your voter registration card) & Date of Birth; TDL (Texas Driver License) & Date of Birth; or Name, County, & Date of Birth.

3. If you are registered to vote, you will see a screen with your personal information listed.

4. If you are NOT registered to vote, a pop-up window will state that your voter registration was not found. In some cases, the response will be incorrect. In that case, you should call the Nueces County County Clerk's office to confirm your voter registration status. As the webpage states, it is NOT your official voter registration record.

Curbside Voting

Curbside Voting will be available at all Early Voting locations and at all Vote Centers on Election Day, November 6, for voters who are unable to leave their vehicles. If questions, please call the County Clerk's Office at 888-0303.

RTA Provides Free Transportation on Election Day

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) says everyone rides for free on Election Day, not just those showing a Voter Registration card. (This is a legal requirement to prevent discrimination.)

Check out the RTA routes to see which one will be needed to get a voter to a VOTE CENTER on Election Day.



HEY, ALL VOTERS HAVE RIGHTS!

As a registered voter in Texas, you have the right to:

- A ballot with written instructions on how to cast a ballot.
- Ask the polling place official for instructions on how to cast a ballot (but not suggestions on how to vote).
- Cast your vote in secret and free from intimidation.
- Receive up to two more ballots if you make a mistake while marking the ballot.
- Bring an interpreter to assist you as you qualify to vote if you do not understand the English language.
- Help to cast your ballot if you cannot write, see the ballot, or understand the language in which it is written.
- Report a possible voting rights abuse to the Secretary of State (1.800.252.8683) or to your local election official.
- Cast a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the list of registered voters.
- Vote once at any early voting location during the early voting period within the territory conducting the election.

SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS VOTERS

Polling places should support voters, not hinder them. When voters with special needs or disabilities go to the polls in Texas, they can expect:

- Their polling place will meet strict accessibility standards, including a location on the ground floor that can be entered from the street or via an elevator, with doors that open at least 36 inches; any curb next to the main entrance to the polling place must have curbs-cuts or temporary non-slip ramps; stairs necessary to enter or leave the polling place must have handrails on each side and a non-slip ramp.
- Each polling place will offer at least one type of accessible voting equipment or Direct Record Electronic (DRE) device. Depending on the type of system, voters with disabilities may use headphones or other assistive devices to help them vote independently and secretly.
- Tell the election official if you are a voter who needs help to vote. You do not have to provide proof of your disability. Voters are entitled to receive assistance if they cannot read or write; or have a physical disability that prevents them from reading or marking the ballot; or cannot speak English, or communicating only with sign language; and want assistance in communicating with election officials. They may also use an interpreter.

More information to assist voters with disabilities with voting is available at the **Disability Rights Texas** website.

SEE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS VOTERS at right:

What Voter Photo IDs Are Accepted at the Polls?

Voters are required to use one of seven (7) forms of photo ID listed below. **IDs may be expired up to four years.**

- Texas Driver License
- Texas Election Identification Certificate(EIC)
- Texas Personal Identification Card issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS
- US military identification card containing the person's photograph
- US passport
- US citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph

ADDITIONALLY, registered voters without a photo ID may sign a one-page form titled "Voter's Declaration of Reasonable Impediment or Difficulty" and present it with one of the following documents to vote a regular ballot:

- **Valid voter registration certificate (card)**
- **Certified birth certificate**
- **Current utility bill**
- **Bank statement**
- **Government check**
- **Paycheck**
- **Any other government document with the individual's name and address**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS VOTERS

"Pursuant to Section 63.0013, Election Code, an election officer may give voting order priority to individuals with a mobility problem that substantially impairs the person's ability to move around. A person assisting an individual with a mobility problem may also, at the individual's request, be given voting order priority.

Disabilities and conditions that may qualify you for voting order priority include paralysis, lung disease, the use of portable oxygen, cardiac deficiency, severe limitation in the ability to walk due to arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition, wheelchair confinement, arthritis, foot disorder, the inability to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, or use of a brace, cane, crutch, or other assistive device."

VOTE CENTERS (Nueces County voters can vote at any one of these **84 Vote Centers on Election Day, November 6, 2018, regardless of where they reside.**) **Curbside voting will be available at all locations. Call 361-888-0303 for more information.**



Antonio Garcia Arts & Education Center--2021 Agnes
Baker Middle School--3445 Pecan St.
Banquete ISD--4339 Fourth St. - BANQUETE
Ben Garza Gym--1815 Howard
Bishop High School--100 Badger Ln. - BISHOP
Bishop Primary School--705 W. Main St.-BISHOP
Blanche Moore Elementary--6121 Durant Dr.
Calallen East Elementary--3709 Lott Ave.
Calallen Middle School--4602 Cornett Rd.
Cimarron Senior Apartments--2802 Cimarron Blvd.
Club Estates Elementary--5222 Merganser Dr.
Crockett Elementary School--2625 Belton Street
Cunningham Middle School--4321 Prescott St.
David Berlanga Community Center--1513 2nd St – AGUA DULCE
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center--5151 McArdle Rd.
Del Mar College--101 Baldwin Blvd.
Driscoll I.S.D. Guadalupe Hernandez Complex--315 West
Dragon Street - DRISCOLL
Driscoll Middle School--3501 Kenwood Dr.
Ella Barnes Elementary--2829 Oso Parkway
Ethel Eyerly Senior Center--654 Graham Rd.
Fannin Elementary--2730 Gollihar Rd.
Flour Bluff ISD (Maintenance Building)--2510 Waldron Rd.
Galvan Elementary--3126 Masterson Dr.
Gibson Elementary--5723 Hampshire Rd.
Gloria Hicks Elementary--3602 McArdle Rd.
Grace Presbyterian Church--6301 Yorktown Blvd.
Grant Middle School--4350 Aaron Dr.
Greenwood Senior Center--4040 Greenwood Dr.
Hamlin Middle School--3900 Hamlin Dr.
Harold T. Branch Academy--3902 Morgan Ave.

Hilltop Community Center--11425 Leopard St.
Island Presbyterian Church--14030 Fortuna Bay Dr.
John F. Kennedy Elementary--1102 Villarreal Rd.
Johnny Calderon Building -- 710 E. Main St. - ROBSTOWN
Keach Family Library--1000 Terry Shamsie Blvd - ROBSTOWN
King High School--5225 Gollihar Rd.
Kiwanis Recreation Center--3933 Timon Blvd.
Kolda Elementary--3730 Rodd Field Rd.
Korean Presbyterian Church--4326 McArdle Rd.
Kostoryz Elementary--3602 Panama Dr.
La Retama Central Library--805 Comanche St.
Lindale Senior Center--3135 Swantner Dr.
London ISD Middle/High School--1306 FM 43
Lotspeich Elementary--1000 Ruben Chavez Rd. - ROBSTOWN
LULAC West Apartments--10702 IH 37
Luther Jones Elementary--7533 Lipps Blvd.
Magee Elementary - Star Annex--4201 Calallen Dr.
Menger Elementary--2401 S. Alameda St.
Metro E Elementary--1707 Ayers St.
Mireles Elementary--7658 Cimarron Blvd.
Montclair Elementary--5241 Kentner St.
Moody High School--1818 Trojan Dr.
Nueces County ESD #4--5781 FM 666 - ROBSTOWN
Oak Park Recreation Center--842 Erwin Ave.
Oveal Williams Senior Center--1414 Martin Luther King Dr.

(VOTE CENTER list continues on Page 36)



This nonpartisan Voters Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi and is available free of charge at public libraries, municipal and county buildings, and several local businesses. For specific information, call the League at (361) 445-4436 or visit the League's website at www.lwv-cc.org.

VOTE CENTERS (Continued from Page 35)

Parkway Presbyterian Church--3707 Santa Fe
 Peerless Cleaners--2806 Santa Fe St.
 Petronila Elementary--2391 Cnty Rd. 67 - ROBSTOWN
 Port Aransas Community Center--408 North Alister-
 PORT ARANSAS
 River Hills Baptist Church--16318 FM 624 - ROBSTOWN
 Robert Driscoll Elementary--122 W. Ave. H - ROBSTOWN
 Ronnie H. Polston County Bldg. -- 10110 Compton Rd.
 Rose Shaw Elementary--2920 Soledad St.
 San Pedro Elementary--800 W. Ave. D - ROBSTOWN
 Schanen Estates Elementary--5717 Killarmet Dr.
 Schlitterbahn--14353 Commodores Dr.
 Scott Veters Scout Hut--3221 McKinzie Rd.
 Smith Elementary--6902 Williams Dr.
 South Park Middle School--3001 McArdle Rd.
 St. Anthony Catholic Church-Violet--3918 County Rd. 61 -
 ROBSTOWN

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi--6300 Ocean Dr.
 T. G. Allen Elementary--1414 18th. St.
 The People's Baptist Church--1355 FM 665
 The Valencia--6110 Ayers St.
 Tom Browne Middle School--4301 Schanen Blvd.
 Travis Elementary--3210 Churchill Dr.
 Tuloso-Midway High School--2653 McKinzie Rd.
 Tuloso-Midway Middle School--9768 La Branch Dr.
 Veterans Memorial High School--3750 Cimarron
 Villa of Corpus Christi - South--4834 Yorktown Blvd.
 West Oso Junior High School--5202 Bear Lane
 Woodlawn Elementary--1110 Woodlawn Dr.
 Yeager Elementary--5414 Tripoli Dr.
 Zavala Senior Center--510 Osage St.

NOTE: VOTE CENTERS are approved by the Nueces County Commissioners Court and compiled by the Nueces County Elections Department. If questions, call (361) 888-0865 or (361) 888-0303



LWV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi (LWV-CC), was formed in 1945-46 and is celebrating its 73rd year.

Open to men and women 16 years of age and older, LWV-CC provides opportunities to participate in voter services projects; study local, state, and national issues; become better informed about public policy issues; and partner with individuals and organizations who believe in making democracy work.

Annual dues (June 1-May 31) are \$60 for an individual; \$90 for two individuals residing in the same household; \$100 for an individual sustaining member; and \$5 for a student. Another membership category is "Friend of the League" (\$30). Your check or money order, made payable to LWV-CC, is gladly accepted. Online payment through Pay Pal also is available at the League's website: www.lwv-cc.org.

() YES, I would like additional information about the League.

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____ City/Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO:
LWV-CC (Attn. Membership)
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX 78468
 E-mail: lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com
 or leave a message at 361-445-4436

