



# VOTERS GUIDE

Published by the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

## November 6, 2012

## General Election

### Early Voting: Oct.22-Nov. 2

#### Early Voting Sub-Stations/Hours

Monday-Friday, Oct. 22-26 ..... 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
 Saturday, Oct. 27..... 7 a.m.-7 p.m.  
 Sunday, Oct. 28..... Noon-5 p.m.  
 Monday-Friday, Oct. 29-Nov. 2.... 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Nueces County has designated 18 voting sub-stations for Early Voting in the Nov. 6 General Election. Any registered voter may vote at any sub-station. All sub-stations and voting sites are located in Corpus Christi, TX unless otherwise noted.

### WHO'S INSIDE?

This Voters Guide lists candidates in more than 23 contested races in our community:

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Local candidates seeking election to the Texas Court of Appeals are not included in this guide because they were featured with other state races in the LWV-Texas Voters Guide, which is posted online at [www.lwvtx.org](http://www.lwvtx.org).

#### NUECES COUNTY COURTHOUSE

(1st Floor Atrium)  
901 Leopard St.

#### CORPUS CHRISTI AREA COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF

5151 McArdle Rd.

#### ETHEL EYERLY SENIOR CENTER

654 Graham Rd.

#### GREENWOOD SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

4040 Greenwood Dr.

#### HILLTOP COMMUNITY CENTER

11425 Leopard St.

#### JOHNNY S. CALDERON COUNTY BUILDING

710 E. Main St.  
Robstown, Texas

#### NUECES COUNTY BISHOP COMMUNITY CENTER

102 W. Joyce St.  
Bishop, Texas

#### PADRE ISLES COUNTRY CLUB

(Laguna Room)  
14353 Commodores Dr.

#### PORT ARANSAS CIVIC CENTER COMPLEX

(Council Chambers)  
710 W. Avenue A  
Port Aransas, Texas

#### BANQUETE ISD (Administration Building)

4339 Fourth St.  
Banquete, Texas

#### CORPUS CHRISTI CITY HALL

(1st Floor Utility Section)  
1201 Leopard St.

#### CORPUS CHRISTI ISD (Administration Building)

801 Leopard St.

#### DEL MAR COLLEGE (Administration Building)

101 Baldwin Blvd.

#### FLOUR BLUFF ISD (Maintenance Building)

2505 Waldron Rd.

#### LONDON ISD (Middle School)

1306 FM 43

#### ROBSTOWN ISD (Administration Building)

801 N. First St.  
Robstown, Texas

#### TULOSO-MIDWAY ISD (Administration Building)

9768 La Branch St.

#### WEST-OSO ISD (Administration Building)

5050 Rockford Dr.

The Nueces County Mobile Early Voting Calendar is printed on Page 16 of this Voters Guide.

# US Representative, District 27

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

What specific changes, if any, would you propose to the current immigration policy?

Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?

The Supreme Court's Citizen United decision has changed the role of money in politics. What changes, if any, do you support to regulate campaign financing?

What's your answer to ensuring a sound Social Security program for the next 15 years?



**Blake Farenthold (R)**  
[www.blake.com](http://www.blake.com)

First, we must secure the border and stop illegal immigrants, guns, and drugs from crossing. We must also reform the process for those who seek to come here legally to meet workforce needs and improve the process for guest workers and those who served in our military or were brought here as young children. There must be strong sanctions in place for those who employ illegal workers. We must improve and fully deploy e-verify.

The United States should only intervene militarily in a foreign conflict when our vital national interests are at stake and only with the approval of Congress. I do not believe our troops should ever be put in harm's way unless the United States has a clear reason for military intervention and a plan for victory. Our greatest threat continues to be terrorism and we must clearly and decisively battle al-Quaeda and other terrorist groups.

The First Amendment guarantees free speech. I consider this to be one of our most fundamental rights and believe everyone has the right to support or oppose candidates or issues. I do also, however, believe in accountability. The public has a right to know both the people and organizations behind campaign advertising. Individuals and corporations should not be able to hide behind PACs or other entities to mask their true identities.

Social Security is a promise that must not be broken. Over 50 million Americans rely on it, and I support preserving and strengthening the program. Reforms must address the fact that Social Security is paying out more in benefits than it brings in. The program must be modernized to address longer longevity and the needs of modern seniors. I support the plan laid out in Paul Ryan's and the House Republican's Path to Prosperity.



**Rose Harrison Meza (D)**

I believe that we need comprehensive immigration reform. America is a country of immigrants and our system is broken. While we do need stronger security, we also need to address the families who already here with compassion. Young people who stay out of trouble, stay in school, or join the military should be afforded a chance. I'm for bringing these people out of the shadows and giving them the ability to be productive, taxpaying citizens.

One of our most important jobs, as elected officials, is to make sure America is secure from the people and organizations who want to do us harm. I believe that the United States has an obligation to intervene in a foreign conflict when our country, our people, or our allies are at serious risk. I also believe we have a responsibility to give our brave troops the best possible training, equipment and leadership they deserve.

I believe we need campaign finance reform. Large corporations, special interest groups, and wealthy benefactors should not be allowed to spend unlimited amounts of money influencing an election. Elections should not be bought and sold by the highest anonymous bidder. Rather, our system should be transparent, and focus on competing ideas and who can best represent the people.

Social Security is an important safety-net that we must protect for future generations. There are some simple solutions that can be used to fix the problem immediately. Because of a cap on the highest salaries, a firefighter who makes \$110,000/yr pays the same in Social Security taxes as a multimillionaire. This is wrong and is destroying the program. Lifting the arbitrary limit would help it become solvent by raising over \$100 billion annually.

**Additional US Representative  
Dist. 27 Candidates on Page 3**

# US Representative, District 27 (continued)

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

What specific changes, if any, would you propose to the current immigration policy?

Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?

The Supreme Court's Citizen United decision has changed the role of money in politics. What changes, if any, do you support to regulate campaign financing?

What's your answer to ensuring a sound Social Security program for the next 15 years?



**Bret Baldwin**  
Independent

[www.bretbaldwin.com](http://www.bretbaldwin.com)

I support an immigration policy that best contributes to our society and economic growth – which means, we need to establish a secure process for first identifying the true economic needs within various industries throughout our local communities for such legal immigrants; then register those individuals who seek to legally work as guest workers in the United States. Never forget that the United States was founded by immigrants and many helped to build this great nation.

I strongly support our military and highly appreciate the dedication and service of our men and women in our armed forces. The United States military intervention in a foreign conflict should only be an option when full diplomacy has been exhausted and the vital interest of our great nation are at risk. Given our current economic situation, we must be extremely wise with our military budget, and do our best to keep our troops safe.

I support limits on campaign contributions and limits on campaign spending – both should be fully captured, itemized and transparent – no hiding of individuals behind Super Pacs or causes. You want to see which candidates can truly lead us out of this negative economy, watch and see which candidate can earn the most votes per least amount spent – there is where you will find real economic leadership.

I support our Social Security system but only with managing it with sound business principles to ensure that the tax contributions made into the system, over the years from individuals and businesses, are accounted for and expectations met. Going forward, we must not use the Social Security tax dollars for anything other than the Social Security program to make sure that we meet the hard-working citizens' expectations from Social Security upon their retirement.

**Corrie Byrd**  
Libertarian

**No response received**

## The Ballot Is *L-o-n-g!* Don't Stop 'til the End!

The Nueces County Master Ballot for the November 6 General Election ballot is a long one...so don't stop reading and voting until you reach the very end! Here's the general order of races and ballot issues, beginning at the top:

- Straight Party
- President/Vice President of the US
- US Senator
- US Representative
- Texas Railroad Commissioner
- Justices, Texas Supreme Court
- Judges, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
- State Board of Education
- State Senator
- State Representative
- Chief Justice/Judges, Court of Appeals
- District Judges
- District Attorney
- County Court at Law
- County Attorney
- Sheriff
- Tax Assessor-Collector
- County Commissioners
- Justices of the Peace
- Constables
- Mayor and City Council
- City of Corpus Christi Bond Propositions
- Del Mar College Regents
- Local/Area School District Trustees
- South Texas Water Authority Bond Election
- Nueces County Drainage District Commissioners

# State Senator, District 20

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Texas ranks very low among states in percentage of persons with health insurance. What changes would you support for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program?

How would you balance the need for clean air and water and the need for energy independence?

How should Texas finance public education in light of reduced revenues from property and business taxes?

What are the most important issues for the state's economy and jobs, and how would you address them?



**Raul Torres (R)**

- Introduce legislation to specifically reduce fraud thereby freeing up money for those who truly are in need.
- Incentivize participants to become a stakeholder in the use of services.
- Increase opportunities for eligible families to enroll in CHIP.

- Continue to evaluate and implement high standards established by TECQ.
- Form a commission to evaluate the current regulations with the goal to remove those whose costs greatly outweigh the benefits and remove those that no longer are relevant to the needs of our society.

· The state should implement SB 563 throughout all state agencies. It is projected that this program can eliminate waste in government spending by as 20-25%. A pilot program that was just completed demonstrated a 50% cost savings in order to operate that particular test agency. It is estimated that the state could save \$10-15 billion every year in cost savings. This is money that could be used to fund increases in education.

Improve the Regulatory Environment. Strengthen the Predictability of Our Legal Environment. Increase funding for the state's infrastructure capacity especially South Texas. Begin now implementing and funding a long term plan for providing a stable water supply. Eliminate the margin's tax. A fresh approach to our state's K-12 and higher education systems. We must solve our problems with bold new ideas to increase the number of high school and college graduates.



**Juan Chuy Hinojosa (D)**  
[www.senatorhinojosa.com](http://www.senatorhinojosa.com)

Healthcare is a necessity, not a luxury. I support expanding Medicaid through the Affordable Care Act. It will be 100% funded by the federal government for the first three years and 90% thereafter. Texas has 6.2 million uninsured people, the highest in the nation. Under the expansion, Texas could insure an additional 2 million people. Healthcare for our children is key to our future and prevention is needed to prevent ER visits and higher costs.

I support a balanced approach. Clean air and water is key to a positive, healthy life. We need a balanced approach to not overregulate our energy producers while updating and modifying our environmental and energy policies to reflect our changing needs and priorities.

Education is the best equalizer. It is knowledge that empowers our children to succeed. We cannot continue to cut school funding which only results in decreased academic performance. We must invest in public education by correcting the structural deficit in the margin tax. We need to create a finance system where we pool all education revenue and distribute on an equal basis per student statewide regardless where that student resides.

Job creation is a priority. Education is the best economic development tool we have, with education comes more opportunities and higher paying jobs that translate into a stronger economy. We also face a shortage of skilled labor. We must invest in career technology by creating high-tech and skills-training programs. Transportation is also key. We must invest our infrastructure by building roads, bridges and waterways. The State Water Plan is also important to our state's future.



# State Representative, District 34

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Texas ranks very low among states in percentage of persons with health insurance. What changes would you support for Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program?

How would you balance the need for clean air and water and the need for energy independence?

How should Texas finance public education in light of reduced revenues from property and business taxes?

What are the most important issues for the state's economy and jobs, and how would you address them?



**Connie Scott (R)**

We need more market-based solutions to help the uninsured, in particular more affordable options for small businesses to offer insurance. I support CHIP, and I support Medicaid. But I oppose the Obama-Care expansion of Medicaid that would bust our budget. Medicaid is already on track to consume one-third of the state budget by 2023. States need greater flexibility in administering its costs.

We all want clean air, land and water. In Texas, we do a good job of striking a balance between the environment and the economy. Energy exploration in shale formations is creating good jobs for South Texas workers, and revenue for schools and local government. More energy exploration at home also means less dependence on foreign oil. We can have economic opportunity and a cleaner environment. We don't have to choose one over the other.

Business tax revenues are on the rise, and property taxes are almost always on the rise. The issue is how much money should come from the state. I do support more money for public education, but our focus should be on classroom outcomes more than anything else. I am for throwing out our entire testing regime, letting teachers teach, and making sure children learn critical skills, and not just how to pass a test.

Texas needs to lead the way in energy exploration, which creates good jobs in the Coastal Bend. We need greater focus on technical schools, and career-and-tech programs in high school because not every student will go to a four-year college. I want young Texans to either be career-ready or college-ready. We need to fight over-regulation of small businesses, and keep taxes and spending under control while continuing to reduce frivolous lawsuits.



**Abel Herrero (D)**

Texans face major roadblocks when trying to access health care. I support streamlining CHIP's eligibility and enrollment process to cover more eligible uninsured children. I also support an increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates for our doctors. Reimbursement rates have been stagnant for over 20 years resulting in fewer doctors accepting Medicaid and limiting access to healthcare for thousands of eligible Texans. Texas needs to attract and keep good doctors in the Medicaid system, ensuring greater //.

The Coastal Bend is situated within one of the most energy-rich areas of the country. Increasing investment in infrastructure that will expand output from our abundant renewable energy sources, like wind and solar, will help shift our dependence. However, while promoting the use of renewable sources helps the growing demand, we also need responsible, cleaner extraction of other natural resources. These efforts combined with new efficiency goals, can set our nation on a pathway to //.

Education should be our state's top priority- without it we cannot expect to have a strong middle class or prosperous economy in the future. Schools should be funded first, instead of last, as happened during this last legislative session. We should close wasteful tax loopholes and fix the structural deficit that is underfunding our schools and hurting small businesses. The state should also legalize gaming as an added revenue stream.

Education, now and in the future, will determine how strong our state's economy will be. We need to provide access to a quality education for every student in Texas. This will ensure that we remain competitive and attract high-paying jobs in a globalized market. Texas needs to eliminate the bureaucratic red tape from our schools and allow teachers to spend more one-on-one time with students.

# State Board of Education, District 2

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

What criteria should be used in developing and approving curriculum stands for courses?

What changes, if any, would you make to current investment policies for the Permanent School Fund and to distributions to fund public schools? Please explain.

What changes, if any, would you support to ensure sufficient oversight of charter schools?

What's your opinion about mandated testing in public schools and what could be done differently to take the emphasis off "teaching to the test?"



**Laurie Turner (R)**  
[www.lauriejturner.com](http://www.lauriejturner.com)

Board members should confer with the teachers that they represent; asking them for direction in determining changes/alterations/deletions/additions. Expert teachers should be part of a committee that draft and revise curriculum. Based on the curriculum committee's recommendation, the new curriculum should be approved by the Board without the Board altering the curriculum.

I would not change the current investment policies of the Permanent Fund. The Fund has gained a 9.99% interest return for the last 10 years. But what I would change is the spending of \$90 million dollars going to testing and redistributing the funds to schools and the advancement of vocational programs that would allow our students to have skills when they graduated high school.

I support the enforcement of charter schools' compliance with state quality standards, governance requirements and financial accountability. I support the closure of state-approved charter schools that fail persistently to meet state quality standards.

I support accountability but schools today have lost focus on teaching the child and more on testing. Testing controls our curriculum, class choice, teaching and funding of our schools. It's time to get rid of the negative sanctions tied to high-stakes testing. It is time to reduce testing days to allow for more instructional time. It is time to revert back to a 3 by 3 graduation degree plan to increase vocational education programs in our local school districts.



**Ruben Cortez (D)**

First, we must have standards that are void of political ideologies and personal agendas. The job of SBOE is to set the overarching curriculum standards, direction and strategy. Second, only qualified educational experts should draft the actual curriculum standards. Third, I support input and review from teachers *in the classroom* to ensure that the curriculum standards approach is based on practical classroom implementation and the curriculum standards deliver the intended results.

I support a "full disclosure policy" that requires board members to disclose ties, including family, as stated under the TEA's nepotism policies, to prospective or current private investment managers, and to recuse themselves from any decisions concerning those private investment managers and firms with whom a board member has such ties. Additionally, candidates seeking the office of State Board of Education should, by law, disclose relations with private investments firms doing business with SBOE.

I support rigorous criteria for academic and financial performances as well as governance practices for charter schools. I support board action to strengthen the Texas Education Agency's oversight of charter operations and enforcement of charter schools' compliance with state quality standards, governance and financial accountability. Should a charter school fail to meet state standards, I support abolishment of that school and an immediate review of any other charter schools held under that license.

I believe that high-stakes testing should be eliminated and testing should be part of the overarching curriculum standards. Teachers should teach course material, not to a standardized test. Monies used for high-stakes testing could be utilized in many different areas of education including funding career and technology programs. High-stakes testing has proven to be a colossal failure, yet we continue down the same path. We must take a different approach.

**Additional State Board of Education Dist. 2 Candidate on Page 7**

# State Board of Education, District 2 (continued)

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

What criteria should be used in developing and approving curriculum stands for courses?

What changes, if any, would you make to current investment policies for the Permanent School Fund and to distributions to fund public schools? Please explain.

What changes, if any would you support to ensure sufficient oversight of charter schools?

What's your opinion about mandated testing in public schools and what could be done differently to take the emphasis off "teaching to the test?"



**Lenard Nelson (L)**

A varied educational experience is necessary to open student's minds to the knowledge necessary for lifetime choices. Students have varied learning abilities and needs; as teachers have varied techniques. Materials need to be geared to these diversifications. The curriculum should give direction and set goals, but allow the teacher to have discretion to make modifications. Materials should present an opportunity for the teachers to engage the students to problem solve, interpret, and apply their knowledge.

To properly manage a fund of 22.6 billion dollars takes specialized expertise. The Board hires staff for this purpose and has a good track record. I would make assurances that the staff is diverse and politically independent. The method of fund distribution has morphed into a system that is eerily similar to the federal tax code in complexity. We need a simplified, understandable system.

I feel that the current oversight of Charter Schools is adequate. The problematic schools have been exposed, and corrected or closed.

The current requirements for mandated testing must come to an end. It prevents teachers from teaching the curriculum and it impresses on students that their goal in school is to score high on tests, not to gain knowledge. No one is more qualified to assess and grade students than the teacher. The teacher can keep an array of performance measures in the student's portfolio to use in grading.

## General Information about Voting

### Who Can Vote in This Election?

Voters who are registered at least 30 days ahead of the election date (Oct. 9 Deadline for the Nov. 6 General Election) are eligible to vote. Voter registration cards (yellow) furnished to all registered voters indicate the voting precinct in which your residential address is located.

### How Do I Know Where To Vote on Election Day?

A listing of all precinct/polling locations can be accessed and downloaded from the Nueces County website, [www.co.nueces.tx.us](http://www.co.nueces.tx.us). To confirm your precinct/polling location, you can click on "Precinct Information," then type in your first and last name and your birthdate. Your voting precinct number and location will be confirmed. Our daily newspaper, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, also will list all polling places prior to the election. You may also access the Secretary of State's website at [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov) to confirm that you are registered to vote.

*Thanks to Our  
Voters Guide  
Supporters!*

*AEP-Texas  
Port of Corpus Christi Authority  
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Nueces County Republican Party  
Sue Williams  
Port Industries  
Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni*



# Judge, 28th District Court

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

What qualities should the public consider to be the most important in selecting judges?

How can you impact the court differently than your opponent?

Under what conditions would you recuse yourself from cases?

What groups support your candidacy?



**Doug Mann (R)**

Fairness, decisiveness and knowledge of the law. It is also important that a judge understand the workings of the Jail and the District Attorney intake system in order to reduce jail over-crowding. I have that additional knowledge from my experience as a prosecutor and supervisor with the Nueces County District Attorney's Office.

If elected, I will insure that indigent defendants have counsel promptly appointed in accordance with the requirements of State law. I will insure that important cases and bond decisions are not delegated to any visiting judge, as they bear no responsibility to the voters. Finally, I will take no more than two weeks vacation per year and will clear any backlog I inherit without the need to pay for such visiting judges at taxpayer expense.

I anticipate a need, at least for awhile, to recuse myself on gang cases on which I have worked while employed by the District Attorney's office. With passage of time, the number of those cases will decrease. An equalization of other, non-gang criminal cases can be effected to insure that overall criminal workload remains the same.

The Fraternal Order of Police has endorsed my candidacy over my opponent.



**Nanette Hasette (D)**

My humble upbringing instilled the values of honesty and hard work which are among the most important qualities in selecting a judge. With 16 years of substantial judicial experience, I have disposed of well over 15,000 jury and non-jury cases providing me the legal ability to interpret and apply the law to every possible factual situation. Through honesty, experience and hard work, I will continue to handle each case competently and fairly.

I bring to the Court 24 years of legal experience and 16 years of judicial experience whereas my opponent has zero judicial experience. With a solid understanding of the judicial process, I have the experience of dealing with a wide range of legal issues. I have earned a stellar reputation for being even tempered yet firm, open-minded and willing to hear and consider all sides of a case while being fair and impartial.

I would recuse myself from a case if I were a witness; if I have served as an attorney or expressed an opinion on the merits in a particular case; if a relative has been retained in a case assigned to the Court; if I have any financial interest to one party or the subject matter in controversy and in any case where evidence shows my impartiality would be questioned.

I am very fortunate to be supported by a number of individuals representing a cross-section of our community stretching from the Island to the outlying County. I have the support of former and current prosecutors, attorneys from both civil and criminal bars, and the CC Police Officers Association-GPAC, along with professional, educational and civic organizations, organized labor and individuals who continue to support my candidacy.



# Judge, 214th District Court

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

What qualities should the public consider to be the most important in selecting judges?

How can you impact the court differently than your opponent?

Under what conditions would you recuse yourself from cases?

What groups support your candidacy?



**Jack W. Pulcher (R)**

When considering a judge, they need to look at the qualifications and the quality of a person. They need someone who knows the law and can apply it correctly with integrity, honesty and neutrality. It's how you treat a person when no one is looking and giving everyone their day in court. You need to know how to treat everyone fairly, without bias and is a good steward of taxpayer's money and time.

I can make an impact by first applying the law correctly. I will treat every one with respect, consideration and regard for their time and knowledge. I will rule promptly and decidedly and not take legal matters under advisement. I will use the attorney appointment wheel to avoid impropriety. I will not belittle or disrespect anyone and give everyone their time in court. No one will be threatened to settle or work out their disputes.

I would recuse myself if I felt I could not give my most unbiased and impartial decisions. This would be the case if I knew the party/person involved in the case or if I felt the appearance of personal bias. I would also recuse myself if I had a financial interest. I want everyone to have a fair day in the courtroom and be as transparent as possible.

I was endorsed over the 12-year incumbent by all the major law enforcement agencies in Nueces County. This includes the Corpus Christi Police Department, GPAC and the Fraternal Order of Police. This includes CCPD, NCSO, Constables Office, rural police departments, US Border Patrol and other Federal government agencies. My endorsements in the Primary were the Corpus Christi Bar Association and the Caller-Times. Nueces County is ready for a change in the 214<sup>th</sup> District Court.



**Jose Longoria (D)**  
[www.JudgeLongoria.com](http://www.JudgeLongoria.com)

Experience, hard work, demeanor, and decisiveness. • Eleven years experience on the bench assures that I'm equipped to address difficult legal issues quickly and correctly. • Hard work is essential. Handling over 15,000 cases without backlog is proof of my diligence. • A proper demeanor is important. I treat all litigants with respect. • The ability to make difficult decisions in cases is essential. I have been doing this daily for the past eleven years.

My fellow Judges recognized my impact by electing me Presiding Administrative Judge of the Nueces County Council of Judges. My impact upon the Court is based on eleven years of judicial experience, presiding over more than 15,000 cases and disposing of 98% of those cases, without a backlog. I also have the necessary demeanor to serve on the bench, and I have the ability to make the hard decisions in criminal and civil cases.

In recusal matters I am guided by the Texas Constitution, Chapter 29 of the Texas Government Code, Article 30.01 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Canons of Judicial Ethics. I do not involve myself in cases in which I have any personal involvement. I have recused myself from any case in which my impartiality could seriously be questioned, and I will continue to do so.

So far, I have received endorsements from:

- Nueces County Combined Law Enforcement Political Action Committee
- Doctors of Corpus Christi Political Action Committee
- Combined local labor and trade unions (20 individual unions)
- 344 individual members of our community, including attorneys from all sides of the criminal and civil docket, and residents who are interested in having fair, skilled, and experienced judges on the bench. Other endorsements are listed at [www.JudgeLongoria.com](http://www.JudgeLongoria.com).

# Judge, 347th District Court

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

What qualities should the public consider to be the most important in selecting judges?

How can you impact the court differently than your opponent?

Under what conditions would you recuse yourself from cases?

What groups support your candidacy?



**Missy Medary (R)**

A Judge must be honest, fair, impartial and rule with integrity. They must have a keen knowledge of the law and the right judicial temperament to represent their community and treat everyone who appears in front of them with courtesy, dignity and respect. It is my honor to be your presiding judge of the 347<sup>th</sup> District court, and I will never forget that I work for you, the citizens of Nueces County.

I have been an attorney for the past 23 years and have ten years of judicial experience. As your district judge I have implemented programs that have not only impacted the court, but have impacted the community that I serve. I have installed an anonymous suggestion box at the court to receive input from the citizens I serve. I also created the first ever "child friendly witness room" for abused children waiting to testify.

A judge should recuse themselves from hearing a case when their impartiality might be reasonably questioned, where they have a personal bias against the subject matter or the parties, or where they have personal knowledge of any disputed facts. Simply put, if a judge can't be fair on a case, that judge should recuse themselves. Our judicial system depends on the fair, impartial administration of justice and this is how I run my courtroom.

I am supported by many in our community; from nurses, teachers and ranchers to firefighters, doctors, attorneys and members of our military. I am humbled and honored to have bipartisan support from the many Nueces county citizens who are supporting me as their judge of the 347<sup>th</sup> District Court. I also have the endorsement of the Corpus Christi Police Officers' Association GPAC and Nueces County Combined Law Enforcement Officers's Association.



**Rene C. Flores (D)**  
[www.reneflores.com](http://www.reneflores.com)

Qualifications, Experience, Fairness and Balance: I'm a Princeton University and University of California at Berkeley Law School graduate, former Chief of Litigation for Nueces County, former Assistant Federal Public Defender and a private practice attorney who has over nineteen years combined experience in all the types of cases the court handles. No favoritism will be shown to ANYONE. I will not only follow the law, but see that justice is served. See [www.electrenefloresjudge.org](http://www.electrenefloresjudge.org)

I will be an open-minded, receptive, respectful, and discerning presence in the courtroom, above reproach in every judicial decision I make, courageous to make the kind of decisions that are just and right according to the law regardless of who is before me, and, above all, to be fair and always seek the truth. I will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the court so that no justice is delayed or denied.

I will recuse myself when I have a conflict of interest, and where anyone, including the parties of the case, may reasonably believe that I may have a conflict of interest. I believe the appearance of a conflict of interest is just as important as the actual conflict itself. Judges must be above reproach, or else people will lose faith in justice. However, I will always state a specific reason why I recuse myself.

The Coastal Bend Labor Council, the AFGE, American Federation State, County, and Municipal Employees, APW, Association of Contract Employees: Security, Police and Detention Enforcement, CWA, AFT, IAMAW, IBEW, IBOT, International Union of Printers and Allied Trades, NALC, National Nurses Organizing Committee, Office & Professional Employees International Union, Plumbers & Pipe Fitters, Texas Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Texas State Employees Union, UFCW, Union of Electronic, Salaried, Machine and Furniture Workers, and USW of America.

# District Attorney, 105th District

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Describe the qualities that make an effective district attorney?

What are the responsibilities of a district attorney?

What administrative skills are needed to run an efficient office?

What changes, if any, would you like to make in the way the DA's office functions?



**James Sales (R)**

An effective District Attorney leads by example. He has a proven track record of success in the courtroom. He is a relationship builder that enables the whole office to function in sync with law enforcement, the judiciary, our fellow lawyers and most importantly the victims of crime. He also conducts himself as a professional and trains his staff accordingly. This professionalism will raise the credibility of the whole office.

The District Attorney should do more than just set policy. He should be active in the courtroom so he doesn't lose touch with crime victims, law enforcement, the judges and his own staff. The District Attorney is responsible for all the cases that are currently backlogged. Those cases are actual people. We must run an efficient office so all involved parties can pick up with their lives. The District Attorney must lead.

You need to have the knowledge so that you can teach young attorneys. You have to realize that the current micromanagement system ties the hands of your staff and leads to inefficiency. You have to empower your people to make decisions. You treat your people like professionals and they will blossom. That means you train them and then you trust them. You must be accessible to address any concerns.

The relationship between the District Attorneys office and law enforcement and the judiciary is a disaster. I will repair those relationships by earning the respect of both entities by displaying, teaching and enabling professionalism within the office. That means being prepared for court hearings, being courteous to officers, victims and witnesses and treating all parties with respect. I will train my staff and then give them the freedom to excel.



**Mark Skurka (D)**

A district attorney should be experienced, dedicated, and qualified. His integrity should be beyond reproach. The district attorney must be a leader, a teacher, and a mentor to his staff. The district attorney should be someone the community trusts to do the right thing, even though it may not be easy or popular. An effective district attorney should be independent, have superior trial and legal skills and base his decisions on the law and not politics or popular opinion.

The District Attorney of Nueces County is responsible for the prosecution of all felony crimes and Class A and B misdemeanor crimes. In addition, the District Attorney's office prosecutes class C misdemeanors in the Justice of the Peace Courts. Juvenile crimes, both felony and misdemeanors, are also prosecuted by the office. A district attorney's job is not to convict, but to seek justice.

Leadership, organization and an intimate knowledge of the inner workings of the District Attorney's office are skills needed to run an efficient office. The office has 45 attorneys, 25 support staff, 10 departments and a budget of over \$4 million dollars. A district attorney must be familiar with all aspects and divisions within the office and run it as a cohesive unit. Further, interaction and communication with other members of the justice system such as the courts, //

As District Attorney, I have already made changes in the areas of intake, electronic discovery and supervisory functions. I have also started a Pre-Trial Diversion program for first-time offenders, assisted in the creation of a Veteran's Court, concentrated on the prosecution of repeat offenders, funded additional prosecutors at no cost to the public and increased training for prosecutors and law enforcement alike. I plan to begin a drug and crime interdiction unit and start a program //

# County Court at Law #3

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

What types of cases come before this court?

What qualities do you bring to this court to be an effective judge?

What type of program needs to be in place to deal with graffiti?

What are your goals for the next four years?



**David Stith (R)**

County Court at Law #3 handles all class A and B misdemeanors such as driving while intoxicated, assault family violence, and lower level drug possession. The court also handles civil cases such as car accidents, breach of contracts, medical malpractice and general litigation (concurrent jurisdiction with district courts), and probate. The court also hears emergency mental health warrants, and presides over mental health hearings to determine if a patient needs involuntary psychiatric care.

I am board certified in criminal law, and I run a fair courtroom where everyone is entitled to have their voice heard. I believe the rule of law should be rendered with a just and firm hand and judges should be committed to working hard to serve the public by administering justice equally to all who come before the court. We need public servants who put the community before their own personal interests.

Graffiti is a widespread problem in our community that must be dealt with firmly. A slap on the wrist will not stop the problem. We need judges willing to hand down tough sentences for offenders who violate our laws, and we need to make the offense enhanceable so repeat offenders will be subject to harsher and harsher penalties. We need to send the message that this community will not stand for graffiti violators.

In addition to completing work on the changes to the jury selection process, I am working to add a mental health court program. I will also finish changes to the way we collect unpaid fines and costs. We currently have over \$11,000,000 owed to the county and we need to collect that money in order to fund necessary county services. Before we raise taxes lets collect what is owed and use that money wisely.



**Deeanna Galvan (D)**  
[www.deanneforjudge.com](http://www.deanneforjudge.com)

County Court at Law Number Three handles civil cases of all sizes, probate cases, and misdemeanor criminal cases. I have practiced in each of these areas of the law. While some cases require more time than others, I recognize that each and every case is critical to the parties and important to our community, and I will treat them accordingly.

I have experience, I am hard working, and I am fair. I hold a law degree from St. Mary's University and have been licensed since 1989. In 1999, I became a Municipal Court Judge and developed a record of treating everyone in my court with respect and courtesy. In my 23 years of practice as an attorney and a judge, I have handled thousands of cases, including civil litigation, criminal cases, probate cases, and appeals.

I propose an anti-graffiti program where everyone guilty of a graffiti-related offense must contribute to a restitution fund used to pay for paint, painting supplies, and access to power-washers. I propose that these funds be made available to local homeowners, local businesses, and local groups for the purpose of cleaning up graffiti. I believe that anyone guilty of a graffiti-related offense should be required to participate in the cleanup as part of their punishment.

First, I plan to make efficiency in the jury empaneling process a priority. Second, I will make domestic violence and driving while intoxicated cases a priority. For those guilty of these offenses, it is my goal that their first interaction with the criminal justice system be their last. Third, I want to increase efficiency in the courtroom so that law enforcement officers do not wait all day in a witness room to testify.



# County Commissioner, Precinct 1

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Why are you the best person for this job?

What improvements are needed in your precinct?

What criteria do you use when deciding what needs to be in the county budget?

How will you balance the needs of your precinct with those of the entire county?



**Mike Pusley (R)**

As the incumbent Nueces County Commissioner for Precinct One, I feel that my 25 plus years of experience in both elected and appointed positions in our community have provided me with a unique and valuable background for not only dealing with County issues but also working with other governmental agencies to effectively represent the taxpayers in Nueces County.

As Nueces County Commissioner for Precinct One my main focus has been improvements to road and drainage infrastructure and that will continue to be a priority in the future. I worked with the City on expanding County Road 52, a \$2.4 million dollar project that was shared 50/50 with the City. I also completed a badly needed drainage project on County Road 69, a \$270,000 project that was done 50/50 with Nueces Electric CoOp.

County budgets are developed over the course of several months starting with reports from the different departments in County government. This includes departments supervised by either appointed directors or elected officials. Commissioners then prioritize the request of each department to deliver a budget that provides the best services while respecting our responsibilities to taxpayers. Therefore, budget criteria is developed through a cooperative effort of my people within our County government, not just one Commissioner.

While each commissioner is responsible for the needs of their individual precincts we also work very closely on issues that impact the entire county. For example, during this year's budget process we worked with Christus Spohn to develop new funding arrangement for the Nueces County Hospital District that will enable Nueces County to continue funding our State mandated support of indigent health care for over 11,000 residents of Nueces County.



**David Torres (D)**

In the decades I spent with the Corpus Christi Police Department, I was the one asked to fix problems no matter who was chief. That's exactly the role I hope to serve on the Nueces County Commissioners Court. I always find a way to bring people together rather than divide them. I have dedicated my entire life to public service and have been making the important decisions that affect budgets, policy-making decisions, rules and regulations.

We need a full-time Commissioner who is going to make the Precinct his top priority. We need a strategic master plan for the Northwest Corridor which has one of the highest growths in Nueces County. We need to develop working relationships with the Downtown Management District, North Beach Development Plan, and Westside Business Association. The district needs a full-time Commissioner delivering full-time results.

County budget items will be determined by efficiency, costs, who it affects, and are there alternatives to using county funds such as federal or state funds or partnerships with the private sector. There is a crucial balancing act between representing my district and representing the entire county but using county funds must always be for the Common Good, and not for a select few or special interest groups.

Being a full-time commissioner that is responsive to the entire precinct, regardless of where you live or what party you belong to, and has the courage to bring positive results through an open and fair government will be my No. 1 priority. Whether they are capital improvements, infrastructure or unforeseen contingencies, I will always keep in mind that managing our public monies via the County budget will be a core responsibility for me.

# County Commissioner, Precinct 3

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Why are you the best person for this job?

What improvements are needed in your precinct?

What criteria do you use when deciding what needs to be in the county budget?

How will you balance the needs of your precinct with those of the entire county?

No Photo  
Furnished

Richard H. Mitchell (R)

My training education and experience in Ad Valorem Tax Appraisal gives me the perspective to understand that the power to tax, when abused is the power to destroy. Most taxpayers do not mind paying taxes if their property is assessed fairly and the revenue spent wisely.

The needs of precinct 3 are basically the same as the other precincts. The Commissioners Court of Nueces County has one main responsibility to make sure that county government is funded adequately to meet the needs of the people.

When deciding what the total county budget should be I would work with each department head to understand their needs. I would of course be guided by the financial condition of the county and Input from the public.

I will be an advocate of the citizens of precinct 3 to see that their problems are solved.



Oscar O. Ortiz (D)

I have the disposition, education and the experience that make me the best person to continue to serve as your county commissioner. I have represented Nueces County as Commissioner for precinct 3 for the past 18 years. I have completed the Commissioners Court Advanced Curriculum Pro-gram. I know County Government. I have participated in furthering community development throughout the county for all areas and all citizens.

Maintenance and improvement of infrastructure that are already in place—roadways, right of ways, parks and community centers.

Review what it took to run the County last year. We know at all times there are more needs and requests than money to fund those requests. I Look at what new unfunded mandates are coming down and make allowances for those. Listen to Department Heads and prioritize needs. Personnel costs are always biggest concern.

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. I will strive to make precinct three as strong as the rest of the County. Investment in infrastructure and personnel needs to benefit all Nueces County citizens.

## ABOUT THE VOTING PRECINCTS...

Because space in this Voters Guide was limited by the number of contested races, there was no room available to include the list of Voting Precincts where voters will cast their votes on Election Day. Please visit the Nueces County website at [www.co.nueces.tx.us](http://www.co.nueces.tx.us) and access the County Clerk's page. In the menu bar, click on Elections and you will find a link for the list of Voting Precincts. Look at your voter registration card to find your Voting Precinct number. Then find the number on the list of Voting Precincts to confirm the location and street address.



# County Tax Assessor-Collector

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Describe your training and experience that qualify you to serve.

What would you do to improve accountability?

Among the duties of the tax assessor-collector, which is most important to you?

How can your office work with taxing entities to ensure good communication?



**Kevin Kieschnick (R)**

My 12 years of lending and bank management provided extensive experience in dealing with internal controls, checks and balances, and workflow process improvement. This experience also brings knowledge of current technologies that will be proposed to help the efficiencies of the current operation.

In the past 8 months since taking office we have begun to revamp the motor vehicle department. The following has been accomplished: created a dedicated dealer work process that resulted in elimination of a 2.5 week backlog in transactions and eliminated a \$792,000 backlog revenue; implementing new training process; creating policy and procedures for the motor vehicle department; performing audits of questionable transaction; seeking prosecution of criminal activity. In short, I inspect what I expect.

The most important duty of the TAC is consistently applying policies to all tax payers across the board, and communicating expectations with staff.

We have excellent communication with taxing units. We currently have the following in place:

- Quarterly tax advisory council meetings
- Monthly reporting to all taxing units
- Assist taxing units with their Truth in Taxation processes
- Notify taxing units of potentially critical tax delinquencies.



**Alex Garcia Jr. (D)**

After receiving my BBA in Accounting, I was employed as a Mortgage Banker servicing Mortgage Loans which included Property Taxes, Escrow payments and Customer Service. Over the next 30+ years I have owned and operated six businesses, managed H.E.B. Plus and Wal-Mart Supercenters responsible for sales goals, operations, budgeting and Human Resources while maintaining profitability. Today as a Commercial Lender I assist customers with their financial needs related to personal, businesses and real estate investments.

I would evaluate the frequency of internal/external audits that maintain the department's checks and balances in an effort to support transparency, reconciliation and accountability. Even though motor vehicle operates by state statues I would request the regional office review and make recommendations pertaining to registration stale dates, license plate transfers, inventory controls and paper trails for loop holes. I would focus on implementing managerial reports that list exceptions, productivity and non-reconciled transactions.

Ensuring the proper reconciliation and accountability of all revenues collected and processed for all taxpayers and taxing entities that entrust the County Tax Assessor-Collectors Office to manage their funds while providing proper documentation. As a former Banker, Multiple business Owner/Manager I comprehend and have experienced the ramifications with lack of proper operating policies and procedures pertaining to checks and balances.

My team and I will continue to support the Tax Advisory Council, representing all taxing entities, on quarterly basis or more frequently, if necessary, to review and discuss recap reports addressing pending issues and concerns. Our team's goal will be to visit each taxing entities office and meet administrative staff for transparency and open communications. I am committed to seeking ways improve the delivery of service, communications and accountability. I ask for your VOTE!

# Nueces County Mobile Early Voting Calendar

## October 22-November 2, 2012

Monday Oct. 22	Tuesday Oct. 23	Wednesday Oct. 24	Thursday Oct. 25	Friday Oct. 26	Saturday Oct. 27
<p>CHRISTUS Spohn Shoreline 600 Elizabeth St. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>Y.W.C.A 4601 Corona 8 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>LINDALE SENIOR CENTER 3135 Swantner Dr. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>LONE STAR COUNTRY STORE 14342 Northwest Blvd. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.</p>	<p>DRISCOLL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL 3533 S. Alameda St. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>TEXAS A&amp;M-CC UNIVERSITY CENTER 6300 Ocean Drive 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>WOOLDRIDGE PLACE 7352 Wooldridge Rd. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>DRISCOLL ISD (Cafetorium) 410 W. Ave D Driscoll, TX 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p>CHRISTUS SPOHN MEMORIAL 2606 Hospital Blvd 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>CCAD (Subway Lobby) 308 Crecy St. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>TRINITY TOWERS 101 N. Broadway St. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>BANQUETE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER 4359 4th St. Banquete, TX 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p>CC MEDICAL CENTER BAY AREA 7101 SPID 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>ONE SHORELINE PLAZA 800 N. Shoreline Blvd. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>OVEAL WILLIAMS SENIOR CENTER 1414 Martin Luther King 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>PETRONILA ISD (Cafeteria) 2391 Co. Rd. 67 Robstown, TX 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p>CHRISTUS SPOHN SOUTH 5950 Saratoga Blvd 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>LA MICHOCANA BAKERY 3829 Crosstown Expressway 7 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>TRISUN CARE CENTER 202 Fortune Dr. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>DAVID BERLANGA COMMUNITY CENTER 1513 2nd St. Agua Dulce, TX 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p>NUECES COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER 415 Mainer Robstown, TX 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>HALF PRICE BOOKS 5425 SPID 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>CORPUS CHRISTI ATHLETIC CLUB 2101 Airline Rd. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>CORPUS CHRISTI TRADE CENTER 2833 SPID 8 a.m.-5 p.m.</p>
Sunday Oct. 28	Monday Oct. 29	Tuesday Oct. 30	Wednesday Oct. 31	Thursday Nov. 1	Friday Nov. 2
<p>SUTHERLAND'S 4041 S. Staples St. 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.</p> <p>HALF PRICE BOOKS 5425 SPID 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>GARDEN ESTATES RETIREMENT CENTER 2709 Cimarron Blvd. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>CORPUS CHRISTI TRADE CENTER 2833 SPID 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</p>	<p>CORPUS CHRISTI MEDICAL TOWER 1521 S. Staples St. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>TOWER II 555 N. Carancahua 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>ZAVALA SENIOR CENTER 510 Osage St. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>LONE STAR COUNTRY STORE 14342 Northwest Blvd. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.</p>	<p>CC MEDICAL CENTER DOCTORS REGIONAL 3315 S. Alameda St. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>DEL MAR COLLEGE SOUTH-Center for Economic Development 3209 S. Staples St. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>LEGACY HOME HEALTH CENTER 5633 S. Staples St. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>PETRONILA ISD (Cafeteria) 2391 Co. Rd. 67 Robstown, TX 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p>SOUTH TEXAS LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND 4421 Agnes St. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.</p> <p>DEL MAR COLLEGE WEST (Coleman Ctr) 4101 Old Brownsville Rd. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>HARBOR PLACE RETIREMENT CENTER 5518 Lipes Blvd 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>BANQUETE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER 4359 4th St. Banquete, TX 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p>MHMR OF NUECES COUNTY 1630 S. Brownlee 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET 1440 Airline Rd. 9 a.m.-6 p.m.</p> <p>HOMEWOOD RESIDENCE RETIREMENT CENTER 6410 Meadowvista Dr. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>DRISCOLL ISD (Cafetorium) 410 W. Ave D Driscoll, TX 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>	<p>KIKO'S MEXICAN FOOD RESTAURANT 5514 Everhart Rd. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.</p> <p>N.A.S. COMMISSARY 10801 D St., Bldg 337 10 a.m.-5 p.m.</p> <p>GARDEN SENIOR CENTER 5325 Greely Dr. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.</p> <p>DAVID BERLANGA COMMUNITY CENTER 1513 2nd St. Agua Dulce, TX 8 a.m.-4 p.m.</p>



# Nueces County Sheriff

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Why are you running for this office?

What would be your priorities, if elected?

How much longer do you think the current jail facilities will meet the needs of Nueces County?

Identify two major concerns impacting the Sheriff's office that must be addressed.



**Jim Kaelin (R)**

I ran for this office 2006 to return the county jail to a safe, secure, and sanitary facility to house county inmates. Prior to my election all Federal Inmates had been removed from the jail and the jail lost its state certification because of its deplorable condition. Through my leadership I have brought the sheriff office and jail into the 21 century. I wish to continue the work I started in 2006.

High among my priorities would be the expansion of available bed space in the Nueces County Jail. I have a plan currently on the table to house an additional 150 Nueces County inmates. Our current jail capacity has not kept up with the growth of our community. A safe community depends on a jail with the capacity to safely house people arrested in our county.

The jail is currently at or near capacity but with my plan to expand the jail bed space by 150 additional beds our jail can continue to serve us for at least another 20 years. State Jail Standards mandates we can only use only 90% of our available bed space. This 90% rule is for officer and inmate safety. Space limitations do not permit further discussion on this issue.

First, the housing of mentally ill people in the county jail. The jail was never meant to serve as a mental institution, but we currently serve more mentally ill people in our jails than we do in our state mental facilities. Second, our current salary system is inadequate. Deputy and jailers pay needs to be on a more competitive level with other agencies in our area so we can attract the best qualified applicant's available.



**Isaac Valencia (D)**

My extensive experience as a 29-year veteran of the Corpus Christi Police Department equips me to set a new standard of leadership at the Sheriff's Department, that's why I earned the endorsement of the Nueces County Sheriff's Association GPAC. They know we desperately need workable solutions to improve the Sheriff's department—namely the long overdue jail consolidation. Six years ago, my opponent campaigned on the issue of jail consolidation, yet that campaign promise remains unkept.

Our jails are overcrowded and law enforcement is understaffed, yet we're paying twice as much as we should to fund two jails — Taxpayers need relief, not broken promises. My short term goal is to conduct a risk assessment to seek immediate improvements in vital areas of the department; my long-term goal is to conduct a Feasibility Study for consolidating the City Jail (CDC) and County Jail. It's time for a Change in Command!

The future of our jail will be determined by the incumbent administration's vision and employing alternative efforts to impact the jail population (ie: electronic monitoring, faith-based intervention programs, efforts to reduce recidivism rates, etc.) The CDC is a pass-through to the county system and was never intended to house a long-term jail population; it's simply an eight-hour temporary detention center and does not effectively meet the needs of Nueces County.

Jail consolidation and staffing issues remain the two major concerns impacting the Sheriff's office. Staffing is tied into the ability to provide services to the outlying areas of the county which currently remains underserved. Lack of action in addressing these issues leads to ancillary problems like gang violence and drug trafficking interdiction. I cannot overstate the importance of electing a leader with credibility whose vision incorporates the issue of jail consolidation once and for all.

# Justice of the Peace

Responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Why are you running for this office and what experience qualifies you?

Describe the duties of your office and how it affects the citizens in your precinct.

Responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Why are you running for this office and what experience qualifies you?

Describe the duties of your office and how it affects the citizens in your precinct.

## Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 1



**Amanda Torres  
(R)**

I am seeking re-election because you deserve a Judge that can confidently decide disputes, and promotes accountability in juveniles and families. I am a licensed attorney. I have judicial experience, having presided over thousands of cases both criminal and civil for the past three years. As a board member on the Education Committee for the Texas Justice Court Training Center, I help plan curriculum that will be taught to all JP's throughout the State.

JP Court handles evictions, criminal class C misdemeanors from truancy to traffic tickets, and civil cases up to \$10,000. AJP can also perform magistrations, sign search and arrest warrants, and conduct administrative hearings. Since a majority of people will experience the legal system through a JP Court where a person can represent themselves, it's important that they can rely on the Court to operate with integrity and consistency.



**Joe Benavides  
(D)**

I have been a community servant all of my life here in Nueces County and while serving my country half way around the world. I hold a bachelors degree, have served in many administrative managerial roles and am very familiar with the justice courts. It is a people's court and I as a great listener will enforce the law with the knowledge, compassion and restraints that is expected of me.

This jurisdiction has an amount of controversy of up to \$10,000, and exclusive landlord tenant suits and cases that touch and concern the common citizen. I would ensure that juveniles are set on the night path as the front line defense to delinquency that affects us all, making the difference in our youth, seniors, and veterans by working with our community. I will operate my court in a courteous, professional and competent manner.

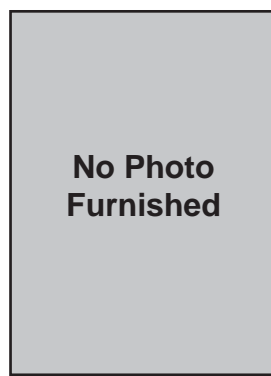
## Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2, Place 1



**Janice Stoner  
(R)**

I am concluding my 3rd term in office as JP for Precinct 2, Pl. 1. This job is a challenge as well as rewarding. I would like to continue the efforts previously attempted to alleviate truancy problems. AJP hears a wide variety of cases. The job requires mandatory educational requirements and with this I have been able to learn how the law works and changes. I worked for 10 years as a clerk of //

The duties of a JP include Magistrating, hearing small claims, traffic cases, truancy issues, and other Class C Misdemeanors. Civil suits are a very large part of the case load. This court gives Nueces County citizens the opportunity to file their case with or without legal representation. They can tell their side of the story, call witnesses, and present evidence in a comfortable environment.



**No Photo  
Furnished**

**Joel Mumphord  
(D)**

I am running for JP to make a difference in my community, I have worked with juveniles and parents on issues of truancy and I have educated friends and family on the civil process in this level of the justice. I have years of experience working in the community and I have the judicial temperament to be an effective judge.

The duties of the jp is spelled out, A jp have jurisdiction in class c offenses and in minor civil matters. a jp may also issue search warrant and may serve as a coroner in counties where there is no provision of a medical examiner. it a great affect on the community because one a jp can performs marriage ceremonies, manages taxpayer monies, handles hearing on small claims issues which have a maximum amount of controversy of \$10,000 //

# Nueces County Constable

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Why are you running for this office and what experience qualifies you?

Describe the duties of your office and how it affects the citizens in your precinct.

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Why are you running for this office and what experience qualifies you?

Describe the duties of your office and how it affects the citizens in your precinct.

## Nueces County Constable, Precinct 1



**David Garcia (R)**  
www.electdavidgarcia.com

I'm a third generation Corpus Christian. I have been asked by many citizens of this community to run for this office. My concern is for the wellbeing of all the citizens in Nueces County. I'm a 27-year veteran and a licensed master peace officer. I have worked in all areas of law enforcement. I am an active member in various civic and law enforcement organizations. I have received many recognitions including a Purple Heart.

Having worked at Precinct 1 and currently at the Sheriff's office, I am aware of the duties this office entails. I will run the office effectively and efficiently. I will serve the Justice of the Peace offices', serve subpoenas, warrants, assist with truancy cases, assist with bailiff duties, provide for the wellbeing of the courthouse and JPs. I will work cooperatively with other law enforcement agencies and the needs of this community.



**Robert "Bobby" Cisneros (D)**

I am seeking the office of Constable because I have the experience and ability to fulfill its responsibilities. My 40 years in public service including 4 years Military Service, 28 years as a CC Police Officer and 9 years as Constable Chief Deputy have prepared me to be Constable. I have attained a B.S Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master Peace Officer License. The Corpus Christi Police Officers Association fully endorses my candidacy.

The Constables responsibilities as set forth by the Texas Constitution are the civil process and attending Justice Court. We serve thousands of court issued documents in our precinct and our efforts will continue in an expedient professional manner. We are also committed in providing a safe environment for our Judges and all citizens who attend the real Peoples Court.

## Nueces County Constable, Precinct 3

Jack Caughman (R)      No response received

Jimmy Rivera (D)      No response received



**Early Voting:  
Oct. 22 - Nov. 2**

**See list of Early  
Voting sites on  
pages 1 and 16.**

## Election of Trustees in 7 School Districts Also on Nov. 6 Ballot

Seven local and area independent school districts are electing trustees to their school boards. Because of space limitations in this Voters Guide, the candidates' names are not featured but voters are encouraged to seek information on each candidate in order to make an informed choice.

Banquete ISD--Trustee, At-Large (vote for up to four of the seven candidates)  
Corpus Christi ISD--Trustee, At-Large (vote for up to three of the 10 candidates); Trustee, District 2 (vote for one)  
Flour Bluff ISD--Trustees, At-Large (vote for one in each of four places)  
London ISD--Trustee, At-Large (vote for up to three of the four candidates)  
Robstown ISD--Trustees, Places 1-4 (vote for one in each place);  
\$12.5 million Bond Proposition for educational facilities  
Tuloso-Midway ISD--Trustees, Places 1,3,4 (vote for one in each place)  
West Oso ISD--Trustees, At-Large (vote for up to four of the five candidates);  
At-Large-Unexpired Term (vote for one)



# Mayor, Corpus Christi City Council

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Roads in disrepair and a crumbling infrastructure are major concerns for city residents. What's your plan to address these issues?

What is your vision for Corpus Christi in terms of economic development?

What percent of the budget is used for salaries and pensions? What plans need to be in place to ensure the city will be able to meet these obligations in the future?

What's the biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi?



**Nelda Martinez**

The best solution is to adopt a range of equitable funding strategies: Re-allocation of funds from budget cuts and staff reductions already underway or completed; Increased street funding from the Regional Transportation Authority; Increased funding from our partners in the Industrial District to be enacted upon the renewal of their contracts and a street user fee designed to create a **dedicated funding source** directly tied to activities that impact our streets.

My vision is to expand our tax base by using our existing economic tools to build on our strengths using our invaluable deepwater port, beaches, waterfront shoreline location, growing medical industry, military bases, Corpus Christi Army Depot and partnerships with our educational institutions growing our work force. We need to build on the Convention and Visitors Bureau's momentum with our invaluable eco-tourism trade with our natural assets to become a world class destination.

Salaries and pensions account for 54.2% of the General Fund Budget including overtime, car allowances; vacation/sick leave, etc. Without the overtime and other items, it is 50.5%. Citywide, 33.75% of the budget is used for salaries and pensions. We have a well-funded pension plan through TMRS to meet nearly all of those obligations. We continue to make cuts where needed and identify cost savings measures on an ongoing basis to ensure fiscal accountability.

Over the past 30 years, we have not had a predictable, stable or sustainable street funding plan. This lack of planning has caused a \$967 million backlog of needed street repairs. There are also many city buildings with significant deferred maintenance needs. We are close to completion on our streets solution with short and long term plans. We must also have a sustainable plan for our city buildings maintenance. Doing nothing is not an option.



**Chris N. Adler**

A plan is in place to repair the dilapidated roads and crumbling infrastructure. A bond issue will come to the voters on the November Ballot that, if passed, will help with repairs and reconstruction. We have \$10.5 M in our street fund for the coming budget, and a probable street user fee will be added. The roads did not get in this condition overnight, and it will take us several years, plus additional money, to make the much needed improvements.

My vision is quickly becoming a reality. We have economic development happening all around us. Housing permits are up this year over last, businesses are expanding daily, we have several new business coming to town, and new industries have announced their intention to open business here. TEPCO, CHENIERRE, MAJEK BOATS, MG, and others will be adding large numbers to our workforce. We must continue to search for other large economic boosters for our city.

54.2% of our General Fund budget is attributed to salaries and pensions. We will meet these obligations in the future by balancing the budget each year. We will focus on priorities, planning appropriately, and making difficult decisions if revenues decrease.

Economic Development and Jobs are always #1. We must always keep that at the forefront of our plans. Also, we must insure long term secure water sources. Water is the lifeblood of our city and our industries. CONSERVATION must play a big part in our future plan. We must also identify new sources of water, such as De-Sal, drip irrigation, water storage, and always sustain our Eco systems.

**Additional Mayoral Candidates on Page 21**



# Mayor, Corpus Christi City Council (continued)

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Roads in disrepair and a crumbling infrastructure are major concerns for city residents. What's your plan to address these issues?

What is your vision for Corpus Christi in terms of economic development?

What percent of the budget is used for salaries and pensions? What plans need to be in place to ensure the city will be able to meet these obligations in the future?

What's the biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi?



**Josey Wales**

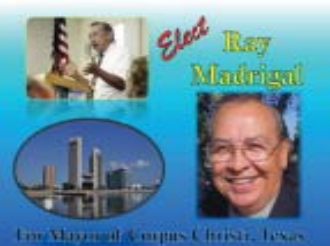
I favor a strong mayor form of city government. This will require a majority of the votes from the city council to make the change. If successful I would remove the city manager Ron Olson, and his 4 assistant city managers. The salaries of those 5 people total \$71,430/ month. That's plenty of money, every month, to fix pot-holes and streets every month!

If I am elected mayor, we will grow and prosper by doing all of the things that I say I will do, because Corpus Christi residents will now have a way ask the mayor to do projects. If Nelda Martinez or Chris Adler is elected mayor, we will become a mediocre city because they will have no money to do any of these projects.

Policemen and firefighters are paid 8%-10% above what they pay policemen and firefighters in Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio. Note the firefighters association has said that they will not endorse anyone on the current city council, including Nelda Martinez and Chris Adler, because of the way city council treats them on the revised pay contract agreement and negotiations. So Martinez and Adler will continuously be at odds with them over pay negotiations!

If I am elected mayor of Corpus Christi, I will do the following:

1. Fix city council.
2. Reverse the firefighters association agreement back to the way it used to be!
3. Fix the Schliterbaum boon-doggle!
4. Do what the citizens of Corpus Christi ask me to do. Remember I have \$71,430/month to work with!
5. Stop the user-fee proposal that city council is now working on!



**Ray Madrigal**

The roads are one of my main concerns. However, I will be placing an emphasis on the infrastructure. Which I believe is also the main concern of the citizens of City of Corpus Christi. My plan is to begin in the outer limits of our city and work towards the inner city. Tackling the problem in the past, the previous leaders have started on the East and gone west.

My vision for Corpus Christi Economic Development is on our national resources which are our beaches. By making them more family friendly. For our citizens as well as our tourists. The skating rink, the Ferris wheel and the tallest roller coaster in Texas others would be great for North Beach that would have room for expansion. There should be an outdoor amphitheater for the general public, but facing East instead of the West.

The percentage of the budget should be consistent with past city budgets of the living increase so that we do not lose our brain power to other cities that pay their employees more. My plan is to ensure that the city plans ensure that we will meet this obligation and is reviewed and make improvements on the present plans for the future of all employees.

The biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi is the developments of the Downtown area because many of the buildings and empty lots that are owned by out of town residents. The city "must" complete the 2008 Bond election project the voters approved. The project must not be scaled back as proposed by present City Council. No further neglect should be given to the Downtown area by future City Government.

# At-Large, Corpus Christi City Council

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What is your vision for Corpus Christi in terms of economic development?

What percent of the budget is used for salaries and pensions? What plans need to be in place to ensure the city will be able to meet these obligations in the future?

What's the biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi?



**Lillian Riojas**

My plan is to urge that we undertake and/or continue comprehensive assessments of the entire infrastructure across the City—streets, facilities, utilities, water, parks, etc. Then, develop workable, sustainable, economical and affordable plan that prioritizes the infrastructure needs and outlines why, when, and how we will maintain, improve, and pay for City infrastructure. Also, it's vitally important through this process the City communicates and reaches out to the community for their input and collaboration.

My vision is a community with a vibrant economy from diverse businesses and an educated, skilled, and qualified workforce to fill the abundant supply of jobs. My vision is a community where people, especially young people, build a life here because Corpus Christi IS the place to be with many opportunities for employment and entertainment. My vision is a community that continues the common mission of promoting the City and the region.

Nearly 34% of the citywide budget is allocated for salaries and pensions for more than 3,000 City employees. I think we must continually evaluate City services and strive for more efficiency. Furthermore, we can compare/benchmark with other municipalities, assess other community best practices as relates to pensions and salaries, and always be mindful of economic conditions. I believe this will ensure we plan for the future in a fiscally responsible manner.

In the short term, biggest challenge is getting the program for reconstructing and maintaining our City's road and utility infrastructure funded, moving forward and building the community trust needed to keep it going into the future. Next challenge is to continue to develop long term water supply strategy. Finally, we are faced with always working to improve our economic base such that tax revenues fund the many projects and core services residents expect.



**David Loeb**  
[www.electdavidloeb.com](http://www.electdavidloeb.com)

1. Increase our maintenance budgets so the streets and infrastructure that is in good condition stays that way.
2. Replace broken infrastructure at a rate that will let us catch up over time.
3. Have built to last construction standards.
4. Fight unnecessary state and federal mandates that take money away from our replacement efforts.
5. Prioritize replacement projects based on pavement condition and improvements to safety rather than politics.

1. Ensure fair, predictable, and cost effective regulation and permitting of construction and development.
2. Ensure the maintenance of infrastructure.
3. Ensure a reliable water supply for our community and industry.
4. Preserve the airspace around our military training bases so we keep our bases.
5. Continue to support funding to expand education and workforce training to ensure a trained and qualified workforce.
6. Support new transportation linkages (port infrastructure, Interstate 69 etc.).

It is about 1/3 of the total budget. The recession heavily affected our pension system. Pension Reform was passed by the State in 2011 which will lower the potential for future shocks. We are already working to make up the difference in our budget created by the recession. We also must continue to invest in technology and cross-training so the services citizen pay for are delivered with fewer employees.

Our biggest challenge is to become a city known for quality. By improving how our city looks, properly maintaining our infrastructure and public facilities, improving the health and safety of our neighborhoods, and attracting companies with high-paying high-skilled jobs, we can make it one.

**Additional City Council  
At-Large Candidates  
on Pages 23-24**

# At-Large, Corpus Christi City Council (continued)

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

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What's the biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi?



**Mark Scott**

I believe the Council should create a funding plan to appropriately handle Maintenance. That plan's framework should be voted on in a couple of weeks. I believe citizens should vote on reconstruction projects. As such, I have proposed we put \$55 Million in street reconstruction before the voters for approval every two years for the next 10 years. At the end of this time, we will have invested over \$450 million into our streets.

Folks, we are in the mist of unprecedented job growth. Forbes Magazine recognized us as the sixth best jobs market in the Country! My vision is to keep up our current efforts to recruit oil and gas, Industrial and tourism projects. But, of equal importance is to make sure we prepare our local workforce for these jobs.

Citywide - 33.75% is used for salaries and pensions. 54.2% of the General Fund budget is directed towards salaries and pensions. The Council passes annual budgets to fund these programs. The Pension plans are routinely reviewed by actuaries and auditors to ensure appropriate funding coverage. Our most recent Actuarial rates our pension funds at over 90% funded (generally 80% is the safe threshold). In addition, the City Manager has plans to increase that percentage.

First, I think we have an actionable Street plan that will provide a solution to that problem. Another challenge is to ensure appropriate preparation of local citizens to take advantage of the huge increase in jobs opportunities. Third, I will continue to fight unfunded mandates and intrusions by State and Federal bureaucracies. I will continue to stand up against Federal and State efforts that are frankly wrong for us.



**John Sendejar**

Several candidates are asking for you to re-elect them. One of them has been on the City Council 12 years. What have they been doing I have to ask. Why did they let things get so bad. The creation of a Utility Street User Fee is not the answer. We did not get like this overnight. Let's first make sure we are funding the Street department correctly from this point forward. Then lets see how much //

We must find ways to grow our tax base. This means more homes need to be built, more jobs need to be created for people to buy new homes, we need to offer tourist attractions that will keep tourist in our City one or two more days so they can shop more, eat out more, buy more in our community increasing the sales tax we receive from the state, and we need to support investors who want to spend //

On average, salaries make up anywhere between 34%-54% depending on the city fund. The key is growing our tax base to increase Ad Valorem and Sales Taxes, which are the two largest revenue sources in the General Fund. As our City prospers, both these revenues increase and reflects the positive economic effects that are happening in our community. When there is a positive growth in our community, more people want to invest their dollars //

The biggest challenge Corpus Christi is facing is the amount of debt we have acquired and will acquire to take care of all our infrastructure needs. We have existing GO debt that voters have approved for past city voted projects, we also have 300 mil in utility debt we have acquired for past utility infrastructure projects, we need 950 mil in street repair or maintenance, the water department is recommending we issue 170 mil to build //

**Additional City Council At-Large Candidates on Page 24**

# At-Large, Corpus Christi City Council (continued)

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

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What's the biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi?



**John Garcia**

Corpus Christi roads need repair, I would want to see funding from constructing, reconstructing, restructuring and extending our streets. Propose allowing voters to approve re-allocations of Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) funding and use city local sales taxes to fix area roads.

Promoting equality and good relations are key to improving the quality of life for everyone in the city - making Corpus Christi a better place to live, work, socialize and do business. We want to make sure that fairness, equality and respect are at heart of everything we do. These values are central to our policy making process and underpin all our activities. Corpus Christi is OPEN for business!

34% of the budget is used for salaries and pensions. 10% of the monthly revenues collected must go to make sure that salaries and pensions are solvent for the employees now and in the future.

The challenge is to create an improved climate for economic growth and better lives for all of our residents. My goal is to empower the people and businesses of Corpus Christi to achieve all that they can to strengthen our community. In the grand scheme of things, there is a natural tension in the relationship between government, residents, and businesses in Corpus Christi. And there is always room to improve it. The best way for //



**Alicia Benavides**

My understanding is that the citizens voted for a bond to fix the streets and some of that money has been shifted elsewhere. If true, it is considered misappropriation of funds. That bond money needs to be allotted for what it was voted for. The city should also research the State & Federal Agencies for possible funds or grants to repair the streets and infrastructure.

We need to have a more involved Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Agency to attract more businesses to Corpus Christi. Each time a building is vacated for whatever business reason, the Economic Development Agency and the Chamber of Commerce should work together to search out companies that might like to come and do business in our city and keep the buildings occupied instead of letting them deteriorate.

The percent of the budget citywide used for salaries and pensions is 33.75% of the budget and the percentage of the general fund budget for salaries and pensions in about 54.2%. Balancing the budget each year, focusing on priorities and planning accordingly are steps to meeting these obligations.

Besides the streets and infrastructure, the drought is drying our sources of drinking water. I don't know how committed the city is to the Mary Rhodes Pipeline project. If the City is considering \$172 million for that project, it would be better spent on a Desalination plant to provide for the future water needs of the city.



# District 2, Corpus Christi City Council

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What is your vision for Corpus Christi in terms of economic development?

What percent of the budget is used for salaries and pensions? What plans need to be in place to ensure the city will be able to meet these obligations in the future?

What's the biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi in your district?



**Chad Magill**

[www.chadmagill.com](http://www.chadmagill.com)

**OUR CITIZENS DESERVE BETTER ROADS.** The "Band-Aid" approach has got to stop. Expect a Councilman who will fight for our community to get Complete Streets. Complete Streets include improved drainage, curbs, gutters, pedestrian/bicycle friendly and accessible sidewalks - that are all 1) Maintained properly, 2) Repaired correctly, and bottom line... 3) Done right the first time.

**WE MUST ATTRACT AND CREATE WEALTH PRODUCING JOBS.** Expect a Councilman who will fight for our City to practice consistent, predictable, & high ethical standards in working with our Existing businesses, Entrepreneurs, & Prospective businesses looking to expand in Corpus Christi. Bottom line, our local economy can grow if our City is held accountable, is consistent, removes obstacles to business growth, & understands that our citizens expect and deserve more from their hard earned tax //

In the 2012-2013 Budget, \$110,956,451 is for personnel. (Translating to 54.1% of the General Fund, & 15.2% of the total City Budget of \$730,351,256) What is important, is creating a budget that can fulfill the commitments made with bargaining units. Meeting current obligations may mean looking at different funding formulas that don't result in a decrease in salary for personnel. We need to revitalize and grow our city, diversify the tax base, & generate //

**NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE/REVITALIZATION:** Expect a Councilman who will fight for our Neighborhoods to be revitalized, our roads improved, & our citizens Proud to Live in District 2. District 2, the Heart of Corpus Christi, is the only District that touches all other Districts, it is the most densely populated, & has much of the oldest residential infrastructure in Corpus Christi. Expect a Councilman who will fight for much needed revitalization, reinvestment, & renewal in our //



**Brian Rosas**

These issues are very important to me. I have lived here all my life and seen the deterioration especially in areas surrounding my District 2. My plan on this issue is to have a clear statement of city council's intentions to fix infrastructure and where its funding would directly be appropriated. Additionally I would advocate for using local firms when addressing local infrastructure issues and revitalizing roads so that money can stay within the community.

I envision a prosperous Corpus Christi. I am adamant that the time for economic development is now. Corpus Christi is on the cusp of becoming a big venue for both tourism and development. It is imperative this vision be accomplished by electing a resident and a vested person of Corpus Christi. Economic development is necessary to become an attraction for companies and families to make this area their home.

Right now the city uses 33.5% of the budget for salaries and pensions. The percentage of the general fund is 54.2%. First and foremost economic development is paramount to get businesses and outsiders to come to Corpus Christi. Student exemptions and student internships along with tourism would be vital to continue to ensure the city will fulfill its obligation to our past city employees and retirees for their dedicated service.

The biggest challenge that I am facing is the lack of revitalization of my District 2. My District faces the competition of economic development in other districts in Corpus Christi. District 2 is the heart of Corpus Christi and needs to become reestablished by enticing satellite businesses and venues back to the core of Corpus Christi. Commercial properties and real estate are already built that have shown great durability. It's just a matter of bringing //

# District 3, Corpus Christi City Council

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What is your vision for Corpus Christi in terms of economic development?

What percent of the budget is used for salaries and pensions? What plans need to be in place to ensure the city will be able to meet these obligations in the future?

What's the biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi in your district?

**Priscilla Leal**

**No response received**



**Jesse Noyola**

Plans for the repair of roads and infrastructure are to work with the state legislators to propose a "fuel tax" within the city limits of Corpus Christi. In addition, to work with our County Commissioners to propose a "surcharge" for every vehicle in Corpus Christi.

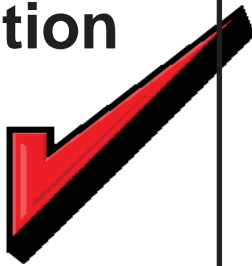
Economic development can be enhanced by offering an educated and trade trained work force utilizing current programs at Del Mar College and Texas A&M Corpus Christi.

33.75% is used for salaries and pensions. Continue to forecast a good 3 year plan considering past and current economic conditions, encourage a zero based budget within the city departments, and be fiscally responsible with every dollar earned by the City.

The biggest challenge is the lack of "thorough" representation in District 3. There is much focus on the arterial streets that many neighborhood streets continue to be neglected. Crime is on the increase thereby needing more patrol. Finally, the lack of "encouragement" for economic development in District 3.

## List of Acceptable Voter Identification

Registered voters who do not have their Nueces County voter registration cards may show one of the following at the polling place during Early Voting or on Election Day:



- Driver's license or personal ID issued by the Department of Public Safety
- Birth certificate
- Concealed handgun license
- US Military ID with photo
- US citizenship papers or a US passport
- Current utility bill or paycheck that shows name and address

## Visit These Websites for Information ...

Voters have a wealth of information at their fingertips. Visit these websites to get answers to your questions, to access details about your rights as a voter, to learn more about races and candidates, and more:

- League of Women Voters of US ([Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org))
- League of Women Voters of Texas ([www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org))
- League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi ([www.lwv-cc.org](http://www.lwv-cc.org))
- Nueces County Clerk ([www.co.nueces.tx.us](http://www.co.nueces.tx.us))
- Texas Secretary of State ([VoteTexas.gov](http://VoteTexas.gov))
- Nueces County Republican Party ([ncrptx.com](http://ncrptx.com))
- Nueces County Democratic Party ([www.nuecesdemocrats.org](http://www.nuecesdemocrats.org))
- Libertarian Party ([lptexas.org](http://lptexas.org))

# District 4, Corpus Christi City Council

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

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What is your vision for Corpus Christi in terms of economic development?

What percent of the budget is used for salaries and pensions? What plans need to be in place to ensure the city will be able to meet these obligations in the future?

What's the biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi in your district?



**Colleen McIntyre**

Our most pressing challenge is creating and implementing comprehensive plans for infrastructure maintenance and repair. The plans must begin with a needs assessment, allow for continued evaluation, and address contractor capacity, community capacity, and City Hall capacity. To restore trust in City Hall, we must complete projects in a timely manner and increase appropriations for scheduled maintenance in the budget to minimize expensive crisis repairs.

I envision Corpus Christi as a wonderful place to live with a great quality of life and standard of living. Many diverse businesses and families will be attracted to locate and remain here. We will maintain infrastructure and facilities, provide efficient city services, and benefit from a vibrant economy with growth in business, industry and tourism.

Salaries account for 33.75% of the general fund and utilities. Pension contributions are just over 5%, but to meet future obligations, will need to increase to 7.5%. Increasing revenue through economic development is the most crucial step. We must also continue to look for methods of increasing efficiency at City Hall. Finally, we must continue to engage in comprehensive budget planning projecting long term debt, pension obligations, and long term capital projects.

While some challenges are unique to District 4, its greatest challenges mirror those of the rest of the city: streets, infrastructure and facility maintenance; rising property taxes and utility bills; job creation and economic development. Economic development and job creation is the linchpin in this trio. In diversifying our tax base, the City generates revenue from new business and industry to maintain infrastructure without continuing to tap our residents' property tax and utility bills.



**Jano Andrasik**

Fiscal financial planning within the general fund to progressively increase funding within future budget plans. An incrementally set percentile increase is needed to establish a guaranteed protocol within city council agenda.

Being pro active within the business community and listening to there concerns and needs. Proper dialogue within government to streamline and increase efficiency of the licenses and permits process. Actually actively pursue companies and offering incentives to increase our attractiveness.

According to the assistant to the city manager: "33.75% of the budget citywide is used for salaries and pensions. The percentage of our general fund budget attributable to salaries and pensions is about 54.2%. The city will meet these obligations in the future by balancing the budget each year, focusing on priorities, planning appropriately and making the difficult decisions when revenues decrease."

The people of district 4 would answer this best. Ive heard concerns ranging from wast water pumping stations to Park Road 22 and everything in between. The biggest problem is that there is nobody there to listen. They want an aggressive energetic hands on councilman and after i hear them then ill tell you what the problem is. Then after that the people want action and i intend to do that.

**Webster Pell**

**No response received**

# District 5, Corpus Christi City Council

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

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What is your vision for Corpus Christi in terms of economic development?

What percent of the budget is used for salaries and pensions? What plans need to be in place to ensure the city will be able to meet these obligations in the future?

What's the biggest challenge facing Corpus Christi in your district?



**Rudy Garza**  
[www.4district5.com](http://www.4district5.com)

Given our current situation a street user fee may be the only option we have to maintain and repair current infrastructure. If we don't do something drastic in the near future those road repair bills are going to continue to escalate. Major road construction will need to be funded though bonds but any windfalls that we experience through increased sales tax revenue or economic activity could be earmarked for repairs as well.

The projects we have in place right now in terms of increased port activity and the Eagleford Shale have positioned us well. We need to take advantage of the increased opportunity and ensure that we are preparing our young people for the jobs that are coming. Investments in the Craft Training Center and Del Mar College are great examples of such initiatives.

Currently 34 percent is utilized for salaries and pensions. The percentage of the general fund budget attributable to salaries and pensions is about 54 percent. We need to look at several options for addressing future obligations such as attrition. We need to also better evaluate departments to ensure that we are providing employees with the most current technology so that they may do their jobs efficiently and with the less employees. We may also consider //

The biggest challenge in District 5 is the congestion caused by being the highest growth area of our community, which is a great problem to have. Beyond the obvious continued infrastructure investment needed in our arterial and collector streets, we need to continue to find innovative ways to encourage development where existing infrastructure is available.



**John Valls**

My plan is not to ignore these problems but rather to address them immediately. As a council member, I will work closely with the other members of the council and city staff to ensure money which is dedicated for infrastructure is applied to infrastructure. Further, I will ask the tough questions of city staff to ensure they are recommending the most cost effective approaches while keeping infrastructure projects on schedule and budget.

My vision is to help create a business climate that attracts new companies while helping existing businesses expand. The city has several economic development incentive programs in its tool belt, matching the right ones is critical. Further, developing sound and reasonable public policies that do not harm our current major industries makes the city an attractive place to locate. Doing this will expand the tax base and ease the tax burden on residents.

The percentage of the city's general fund budget used for salaries and pensions is approximately 54%. The city needs to model out resources so they can meet current expenditure obligations as to keep pace with current cost. If the model shows they are not keeping pace with obligations then, corrective measures must be taken to include analyzing staffing levels, service levels and sources of revenue to ensure the city is charging for service at the //

The challenges in District 5 are much like the rest of the city, good streets, good drainage and public safety. However, we also have the added challenge of growth as District 5 is the fastest growing area of town. With growth comes the need for more streets, drainage, water-sewer services and police and fire personnel/resources. As District 5 representative, I will work to ensure the district has its share of all needed services and infrastructure.



# At-Large, Del Mar College Board of Regents

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Describe the changes that you think need to be made at Del Mar College to better prepare students for the workforce, or to produce higher paying jobs.

How would you work toward increasing enrollment and graduation rates?

Discuss three challenges and opportunities for the college.

How would you interact with the administrative leaders of the college?



**Larry Lee White**  
[www.votelarrywhite.com](http://www.votelarrywhite.com)

The best way to help students enter the workforce with higher paying jobs is to track job placement at graduation to see which programs are working and which are in demand. This information can be used to continually improve the curriculum. These statistics should also be publicized to help potential students choose a successful path.

I would work towards building on Del Mar's reputation of success. This in itself will attract more students. The best way to achieve this is to recognize the importance of the counselors. I would endeavor to provide them the necessary support to best evaluate each student's abilities, learning styles, and interests. The goal is to help counselors guide students toward programs where each student will be successful, and where the jobs are.

The biggest opportunity I see is to expand the Associate Degrees in Engineering, because this will lead to the higher paying jobs in industry. A challenge is to track which programs are most beneficial to students and community when funding is limited or reduced. The biggest challenge in my view is to maintain the quality of graduates as we push for higher enrollment and graduation rates.

My goal is to act as a consultant, liaison, and support between the college and industry. Because of my industrial background and my background as a college professor, I understand and appreciate the differences between academia and industry. I will work to build an even closer relationship between the two. I have the time to do the work needed because I'm recently retired after 38 years as an engineer in industry.



**Sandra Glover-Messbarger**

It is my desire to continue supporting the highest standards for Del Mar College students who will continue their education at a upper level university. I believe it is imperative to also provide quality technical and vocation training to meet the growing needs of Coastal Bend employers. The Coastal Bend area should be where large companies want to locate because of the globally competitive skills of our workforce – and Del Mar College should be the leader in developing those skills.

Del Mar is in a unique situation. It is surrounded by two institutions of higher learning; therefore, it is especially important that the standards be kept high and scholarships be made available to those who need assistance. Del Mar should coordinate with the local school districts to ensure that those students who plan to continue their education are adequately prepared. When students are well prepared they have a better chance of finding good jobs //

As in all educational programs, budgets are being cut and yet the challenges and demands for young people to produce in this economy are greater. Del Mar has always had a great reputation for excellence. It must continue to keep its standards high, particularly in academics. With growth at the Corpus Christi Army Depot, NAS Corpus Christi, Eagle Ford Shale and other industrial developments like the Tianjin Pipe Company, thousands of jobs are coming to //

As a board member, I would listen and learn about the vision for Del Mar as set forth by the administration. It would be an honor to serve the very best I can in support of the college community and students.

**Additional Candidates on Page 30**

# At-Large, Del Mar Board of Regents (continued)

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Describe the changes that you think need to be made at Del Mar College to better prepare students for the workforce, or to produce higher paying jobs.

How would you work toward increasing enrollment and graduation rates?

Discuss three challenges and opportunities for the college.

How would you interact with the administrative leaders of the college?

**Herbert Schueneman** No response received

**Ramiro Gambi Gamboa** No response received

## **League of Women Voters-CC** **Has a Rich and Long History**

Since 1945, the League of Women Voters has served Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend as a voice for voter awareness and voter participation, good public policy, transparency, and civil discourse on community issues. Membership is open to both women and men.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I want membership information about the League of Women Voters. I understand that annual dues are \$60 for individuals; \$90 for a household of two individuals; and \$30 for students over age of 18. Please send me information about upcoming meetings and activities.

YES, I want to support the League's voter awareness activities with a financial gift. Please accept my check or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_, payable to LWV-CC.

Donations to the LWV Education Fund are tax-deductible under 501(c)3.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and your membership payment to:

LWV-CC

PO Box 8276

Corpus Christi, TX 78468

## Your Rights as a Voter

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

1. A ballot with written instructions on how to cast a ballot.
2. Ask the polling place official for specific instructions on how to cast a ballot (but not suggestions on how to vote).
3. Cast your vote in secret and free from intimidation.
4. Receive up to two more ballots if you make a mistake while marking the ballot.
5. Bring an interpreter to assist you if you do not understand the English language.
6. Help in casting your ballot if you cannot write, see the ballot, or understand the language in which it is written.
7. Report a possible voting rights abuse to the Secretary of State (1.800.252.8683) or to your local election official.
8. Cast a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the list of registered voters or you do not have proper identification.
9. Take this copy of the Voters Guide with you when you get ready to read the ballot and vote.
10. File an administrative complaint with the Secretary of State concerning violations of federal and state voting procedures.



**YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

# District 1, Del Mar College Board of Regents

Candidate responses to LWV-CC questions are reprinted verbatim and not edited. Responses are cut at the 75-word limit with //.

Describe the changes that you think need to be made at Del Mar College to better prepare students for the workforce, or to produce higher paying jobs.

How would you work toward increasing enrollment and graduation rates?

Discuss three challenges and opportunities for the college.

How would you interact with the administrative leaders of the college?



**Gabe Rivas**

We need to continue looking for partnerships with corporate or municipalities such as city of Corpus Christi. We partnered with the airport to train aircraft maintenance workers. Also training firefighters and healthcare professionals at our west campus. We need to constantly monitor the needs of companies moving to our city and determine what their workforce needs in the way of training and fill their needs. Its important to provide a seamless transition for students wanting //

Stay close to local I.S.D.'s with dual credit programs bring students to Del Mar as early as possible to make them aware of what we offer. Students need to be ready for college and constant counseling and tutoring will help them succeed and avoid having them drop. We need to continue lobbying for increase in Pell grants to help the students that can't afford college the resources to stay in college. Our campus should be flexible //

Funding, funding, funding. Money from the state is getting reduced every year and the burden of meeting our budget and retaining quality Instructors are being shifted to students and local taxpayers. Del Mar tries to be accessible and affordable but with reduce state funding at all Levels of education its putting more of a financial strain on students and their families. Students have an opportunity to take advantage of rising economic future with more companies //

A regent needs to understand their role we hire a CEO and need to support him and step back and let him do his job. We as regents set policy/change policies for the college, set the budget and the tax rate but we do not micro-manage the college. We have professional hired to run the college day to day and we have to step back and let them do their job. This doesn't mean that //



**Abel E. Perez, Sr.**

The multiple missions of community Colleges and how they're funded make it difficult for them to focus on completion and to accurately track effectiveness.

a. Collect and use data better: We need to know what students learn and how we can support them in their educational pursuits.

b. Revamp "developmental" (remedial) courses: This is one of the first and biggest stumbling blocks students encounter after high school. The Post-secondary Success Initiative is investing heavily in //

It is imperative on all levels to increase high graduation rates and improve college enrollment rates, particularly for high need students. We must fast track various approaches including proper data use and data warehousing, teacher preparedness, individualized student support, family and community involvement, advance planning, as well as college and career curriculum integration to produce young people who are prepared to take on society, and more importantly, the world. Growth is unceasing.

These are some of challenges facing the college:

a. Enrollment management (Recruitment Retention), Recruiting faculty, staff, administration and increasing competition.

b. This are some of the opportunities available: Ability to quickly change/adapt, ability to meet demands of business and industries (partnerships) and add/improve developmental/technical courses.

a. I would work with, support and listen to the administrative leaders.

b. I would communicate clearly and openly.

c. I would manage my reactivity to others in moments of intensity.

d. I would respond quickly and thoughtfully in intense situations.

e. I would take a clear stand on important issues while staying connected to colleagues with different points of view.

f. Above all be a strong team player.

# Nov. 6 General Election Ballot Includes Propositions for the City of Corpus Christi

Eight bond propositions for the City of Corpus Christi, as identified below by categories and amounts, are included on the Nov. 6 General Election Ballot. The full text of the propositions, furnished below by the City Secretary's Office, will appear on the ballot in both English and Spanish, Voters will consider each proposition separately.

## Proposition No. 1 Streets

For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_  
The issuance of bonds for designing, constructing, renovating, and making permanent street improvements in the aggregate principal amount of \$55,000,000 including: (22 projects described)

## Proposition No. 2 City Hall Improvements

For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_  
The issuance of bonds for the design, construction, renovation, improvement, and equipment of city hall improvements in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,750,000 including: (Three projects identified)

## Proposition No. 3 Service Center Complex Improvements

For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_  
The issuance of bonds for the design, construction, renovation, expansion, improvement, and equipment of the City Service Center Complex in the aggregate principal amount of \$4,750,000 including: (Six projects identified)

## Proposition No. 4 Parks & Recreation

For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_  
The issuance of bonds for designing, constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping city parks and recreational facilities in the aggregate principal amount of \$16,000,000 including: (Six projects identified)

## Proposition No. 5 Museum & Library Improvements

For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_  
The issuance of bonds for designing, constructing, renovating, improving and equipping museum and library facilities in the aggregate principal amount of \$2,340,000 including: (Five projects identified)

## ATTENTION, VOTERS:

For the wording of the City of Corpus Christi's eight Bond Propositions as they appear on ballot, visit one of the following websites:

City of Corpus Christi-- [www.cctexas.com](http://www.cctexas.com)  
"Bond 2012"  
Nueces County-- [www.co.nueces.tx.us](http://www.co.nueces.tx.us)  
"Elections"

## Proposition No. 6 Public Health Improvements

For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_  
The issuance of bonds for designing, constructing, renovating, improving and equipping public health facilities in the aggregate principal amount of \$820,000 including: (Three projects identified)

## Proposition No. 7 Public Safety Improvements

For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_  
The issuance of bonds for designing, constructing, renovating, improving, and equipping public safety improvements in the aggregate principal amount of \$700,000 including: (Two projects identified)

## Proposition No. 8 Economic Development Projects

For \_\_\_\_\_  
Against \_\_\_\_\_  
The issuance of bonds for the design, construction, renovating, improvement, and equipment of city streets, sidewalks, and related facilities that are expected to promote and expand business activities, in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$8,400,000, including: (Seven projects identified)



## THE LEAGUE'S MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi is a nonpartisan, political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government; works to increase understanding of major public policy issues; and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.