



VOTERS GUIDE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HOUSTON

NOVEMBER 2, 2021 • ELECTION • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7PM

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Go to www.LWVHouston.org for links to voting locations

- Last day to register to vote: Monday, October 4, 2021
- Last day to request a Ballot-by-Mail: Received no later than Friday, October 22, 2021
- Early Voting Dates and Hours of Operation
 - October 18-23: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 - October 24: 12 noon - 7 p.m.
 - October 25-27: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 - October 28: 7 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. [Extended hours voting options at select locations, TBD]
 - October 29: 7:00am - 7 p.m. - 24-hour voting dates, TBD
- Election Day: Tuesday, November 2, 2021: 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

THINGS VOTERS SHOULD KNOW

NOTE: Recent changes to the Texas Election Code will take effect December 2, 2021. They will not apply to the November 2, 2021 election.

✦ PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE IN PERSON IN ALL TEXAS ELECTIONS

Those voting in person either early or on election day will be required to present photo identification or an acceptable alternative identification allowed by law. Go to page 2 for details.

✦ ANY HARRIS COUNTY POLLING LOCATION CAN BE *YOUR* POLLING PLACE

All Harris County polling places are now Voting Centers! Choose the location that is most convenient to you — you no longer have to return to your home precinct to vote! Go to <https://www.harrisvotes.com/waittimes> or call 713-755-6965 to find the location nearest to you. Bonus! By using the link, you will also be able to see which locations have the shortest wait times. For more information, go to pages 3 & 4.

✦ **NEW! HARRIS COUNTY HAS NEW VOTING MACHINES**

The VerityDuo system is now in use. **Using the VerityDuo is a 2-step process.** Step 1: Cast your ballot on the touch screen VerityDuo machine and print a copy for verification. Step 2: Take the printed copy of your ballot to the VerityScan machine to record your ballot and cast your vote. See page 3 for more information.

✦ **BALLOT BY MAIL**

Voters may cast mail ballots if they are at least 65 years old, if they will be out of Harris County during the Early Voting period and on Election Day, if they are sick or disabled, or if they are incarcerated but eligible to vote. For more information, go to page 3.

✦ **INFORMATION FOR VOTERS WITH UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES**

College Student away at school? Living abroad, serving in the military or a military spouse/dependent? No permanent physical residence address? Served your time and are now “off paper”? You have the right to vote! See more information about how on page 4.

✦ **VOTING IS YOUR RIGHT**

Should you encounter any problems at the poll, you may always ask to cast a Provisional Ballot and have the opportunity to correct any problem; see page 2 for details about “curing” a Provisional Ballot. You may also contact the Harris County Office of the Election Administrator at 713-755-6965, the Texas Secretary of State Election Division at 1-800-252-8683, or the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-253-3931 if you believe that your right to vote is being unlawfully denied or impeded.



VOTERS GUIDE UNDERWRITERS*

League of Women Voters Houston

LWV/Houston Board of Trustees

OCA-Greater Houston

Thanks also to everyone who provided funding support through their donations to the Voters Guide. We invite you to join your fellow Houston-area voters in supporting the Voters Guide. See page 10 for details.

*As of print date. For complete list of donors go to www.LWVHouston.org

OUR THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The League of Women Voters Houston wishes to thank the League of Women Voters of Texas for providing information about the Statewide Constitutional Amendments.

We also wish to thank our many community partners who assist with production and distribution of the Voters Guide. Special recognition and thanks to our members who support our voter education and voter service work through their personal donations and volunteer time. Without them this Voters Guide would not be possible.

ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND THIS *VOTERS GUIDE*

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. For 100 years, the League’s mission has been to support active and informed citizen participation in government. The League believes that voting is a vital part of *Making Democracy Work*.

The League of Women Voters of Houston publishes the Voters Guide to help each voter cast an informed vote. Inside you will find information about the voting process, the duties and responsibilities of the offices that are included in this election and candidates who will appear on the ballot in Harris County.

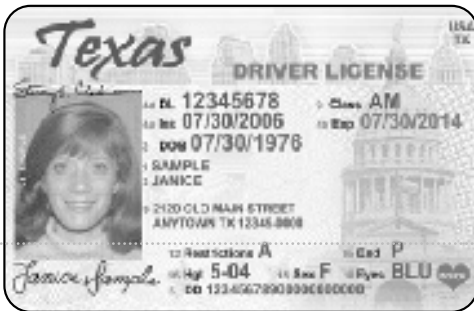
Candidates running in opposed races have been asked to submit answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters and their responses are included in this Guide.

No portion of this Voters Guide may be reproduced for use in political campaigns or advertising. Other proposed uses are permitted only with advance written authorization of the League of Women Voters of Houston.

**VOTING IN PERSON?
YOU MUST BRING ONE OF THESE PHOTO IDs**

✦ With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or, for voters aged 18-69, have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. A person 70 years of age or older may use a form of identification listed below that has expired if the identification is otherwise valid.

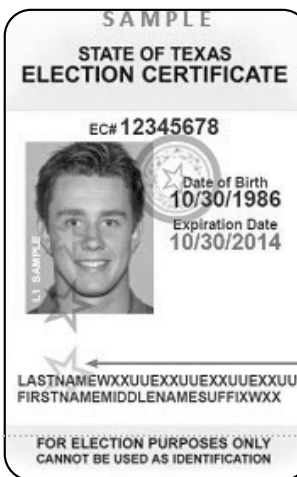
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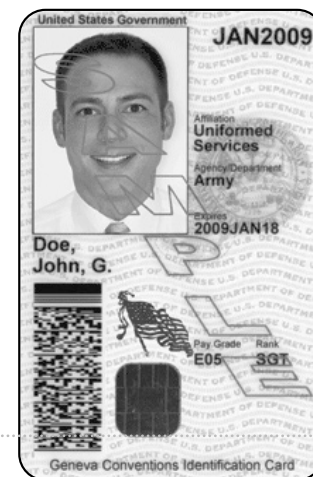
Texas driver license
issued by the Texas
Department of Public
Safety (DPS)



Texas personal
identification card issued
by DPS



Texas Election
Identification Certificate
issued by DPS



U. S. military identification
card containing the
person's photograph



Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS



United States passport



United States citizenship
certificate containing the
person's photograph

Voters who currently do not have an approved form of photo ID may apply for an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) at no charge with the Department of Public Safety. For more information:

CALL (512) 424-2600

OR VISIT

<https://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/electionID.htm>

Do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of these IDs? Bring one of the following supporting documents to the polling place. The election official will help you complete a form and you'll be able to vote.

- Valid Voter Registration Certificate
- Certified Birth Certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original Bank Statement
- Copy of or original Government check or paycheck
- Copy of or original current Utility Bill
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

If you have questions or concerns about acceptable form of ID, check before heading to the polling place by calling 713-755-6965 or visiting www.harrisvotes.com

“CURING” A PROVISIONAL BALLOT

Voters who are unable to provide an acceptable form of photo ID or an acceptable supporting document may vote provisionally. Voters will need to sign a provisional affidavit and will have until Monday, November 8, 2021 to cure their ballot by bringing acceptable form of identification to the Harris County Elections Administrator's Office.

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR ALL VOTERS

Where do I vote?

During the Early Voting Period from Monday, October 18 through Friday, October 29, 2021, you may vote at any of the designated Early Voting Locations. You can find a list of Early Voting locations posted online at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713-755-6965.

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 2, 2021, you may now cast your ballot at the neighborhood polling place designated for your precinct or at ANY Harris County Polling Location.

There are over 700 polling places located throughout Harris County. Information about these locations is available online at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713-755-6965.

Please note: Your current neighborhood polling place may have changed from previous elections.

📍 When can I vote?

You may vote:

- In person on Election Day at your assigned precinct's polling place or at any Harris County polling location.
- In person during the Early Voting period, Monday, October 18, 2021 through Friday, October 29, 2021.
- By mail if you are at least age 65, disabled, confined in jail but still eligible to vote, or if absence from the county will prevent you from casting a ballot during the Early Voting Period and on Election Day.

What identification will be required at the Poll?

Those voting in person either early or on election day will be required to present photo identification or an acceptable alternative identification allowed by law. See page 2 for acceptable forms of ID.

Can I vote if I do not have an acceptable form of ID with me?

Voters who do not present a valid form of acceptable identification will be permitted to cast a provisional ballot. These voters have until Monday, November 8, 2021 to present acceptable identification at any office of the Harris County Office of the Election Administrator (Branch Offices: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am-4:30pm; Main Office/Downtown: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-5:00pm).

This process is called “curing” a ballot. Once this and all other requirements are met, the provisional ballot must be accepted.

Are there Exemptions/ Exceptions to the photo identification requirements?

Voters with a disability may apply with the Harris County Office of the Election Administrator for a permanent exemption. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration evidencing he or she has been determined to have a disability, or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing a disability rating of at least 50 percent. In addition, the applicant must state that he or she has no valid form of photo identification. Those who obtain a disability exemption will be allowed to vote by presenting a voter registration certificate reflecting the exemption. Please contact the Harris County Election Administrator's Office at 713-755-6965 for more details.

Voters who have a consistent religious objection to being photographed and voters who do not have any valid form of photo identification as a result of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may vote a provisional ballot, appear at the Harris County Election Administrator's Office within six (6) calendar days after Election Day, and sign an affidavit swearing to the religious objection or natural disaster, in order for this ballot to be counted.

What else may I take to the Poll?

If it's handy, we recommend that you take your current orange and white Voter Registration Certificate since it contains useful voter information.

You can take this Voters Guide or other written or printed material for your personal use. Voters are not allowed to display or share any campaign material in the polling place. Voters may NOT access notes stored on electronic devices. **Electronic devices, including mobile phones and tablets, may NOT be used for any purpose while at the polls.**

What is VerityDuo?

VerityDuo is the new voting system for Harris County. It is a two-step voting system that provides a paper trail of your vote. At the first machine, you will view your ballot, use the touch screen to make your selections, and print your ballot. Next, take your printed ballot to the second machine where you will cast your vote. Questions? Poll workers can help or you can watch a tutorial video at www.harrisvotes.com

How long may I take to vote?

Voters may take as much time as they wish at the VerityDuo machine. Once activated the ballot will not time out or expire. If you are having problems using the machine, you may ask a poll worker for assistance.

What if I need assistance or have physical limitations that must be accommodated?

Voters with special needs will be accommodated at all polling places. No medical explanation is necessary and no proof of illness or disability is required. Voters may be assisted by any person of their choice as they cast their ballots. However, a voter may not be assisted by his employer or his employer's agent, or an agent of his union. The helper will be asked to sign an oath of assistance. A voter may also be assisted by a poll worker. To serve voters with mobility deficits or other physical limitations, all polling places will have ramp access. Every polling location will be equipped with an ADA compliant voting booth.

Does your voting name have to match the name on your photo ID?

Texas law requires election officials to determine if a voter's name as shown on the identification credential matches the name as shown on the official list of registered voters. If the names are not exactly the same but are “substantially similar” the voter will be asked to initial a box affirming the match. The voting process will then continue as usual.

What if I've registered but election workers cannot find my name?

The Precinct Judge will contact the Harris County Office of the Election Administrator by telephone immediately. If your registration cannot be verified, you are eligible to cast a provisional ballot. This form will include space to describe your particular circumstances and will be reviewed by the ballot board that meets after Election Day. You will receive a letter explaining whether your provisional ballot was accepted or rejected.

What does the term “suspense” mean on a voter's record?

The term “suspense” is used to designate those voters for whom the Harris County Office of the Election Administrator does not have a current, confirmed address. An individual on the suspense list is still a registered voter and has the same rights as a non-suspense list voter. “Suspense” voters may cast a regular ballot after completing a Statement of Residence form.

May I vote if I have permanently changed my address and still live in Harris County?

You may vote a full ballot in accordance with your former precinct details. Failure to update your address information will affect your ability to vote in future elections. You will be able to vote in your new precinct 30 days after your notice has been received by the Harris County Office of the Election Administrator.

May I vote if I have changed my address and moved to another county?

You must complete a new registration form when you move to a new county. However, you may be eligible to vote a limited ballot in your new county (i.e. on measures in common between your former and new county) if you vote during the Early Voting period only. Your registration in your new county of residence must have been submitted by Monday, October 4, 2021 for you to vote in your new residence in this Election. Failure to register in your new county of residence will affect your ability to vote in future elections.

VOTE 411

**FAST - EASY
BALLOT INFORMATION
JUST FOR YOU**

VOTE411

Find candidate responses and ballot issues

for YOUR specific ballot on VOTE411

(www.vote411.org)

LWV



YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

Voting is important because you are important! Register to vote so you have the opportunity to cast a ballot. When you vote, you help elect officials who set policy that will impact nearly every part of our lives, from education to taxes to medical care to law enforcement. When you vote YOU help to decide who represents us and how we will be governed.

FIVE QUALIFICATIONS THAT MUST BE MET BY EVERY ASPIRING VOTER IN TEXAS

Everyone who wishes to register and vote must be:

- a United States citizen
- a resident of the Texas county in which you apply
- at least 18 years old on Election Day, but you can apply to register to vote when you're at least 17 years and 10 months old
- not finally convicted of a felony, or, if you have been convicted, you must have completed all of your sentence or received a pardon
- not determined by a final court judgment to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.

HARRIS COUNTY VOTERS HAVE MANY OPTIONS THAT MAKE VOTING CONVENIENT AND ACCESSIBLE.

VOTING IN PERSON

ANY HARRIS COUNTY POLLING LOCATION CAN BE YOUR POLLING PLACE FOR EARLY VOTING OR ON ELECTION DAY.

THERE WILL BE OVER 100 EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS. EARLY VOTING DATES AND TIMES APPEAR ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THIS VOTERS GUIDE.

ON ELECTION DAY, VOTERS MAY CHOOSE FROM OVER 700 IN-PERSON LOCATIONS.

Find the Early Voting or Election Day location that is most convenient to you:

Call 713-755-6965 OR go to <https://www.harrisvotes.com/waittimes> to find the location nearest to you. *Bonus?* By using the link, you will also be able to get updates on which locations have the shortest wait times.

VOTING BY MAIL

YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE BY MAIL IN TEXAS IF:

- (1) You are age 65 or older by Election Day, November 2, 2021;
- (2) You will be outside of Harris County for all of the Early Voting period (October 18th -

October 29th) and on Election Day (November 2nd);

(3) You are confined in jail but otherwise eligible to vote; or

(4) You have a disability.

REQUESTING A BALLOT BY MAIL

Mail ballots may be requested by visiting www.harrisvotes.com or by phoning 713-755-6965. A signed paper copy of your ballot by mail **request** must be **received no later than Friday, October 22, 2021**. Requests received by fax or email will not be honored.

RETURNING A BALLOT BY MAIL

A completed mail ballot MUST be returned to the Harris County Election Administrator's Office in the Official Carrier Envelope provided to you. It may be returned in any of the following manners:

(1) Regular residential mail via United States Postal Service;

Ballot must be postmarked by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 3 (the day after Election Day)

(2) In-person drop off at Harris County Election Harris County Administration Building (1001 Preston St, Houston, Texas 77002) on Election Day only from 7 am – 7 pm

a. You must present an acceptable form of photo identification

b. If a voter does not possess and cannot reasonably obtain an acceptable form of photo identification, the voter may show a List B identification and complete a reasonable impediment declaration (RID) See page 2 for acceptable forms of ID

c. **Only the voter may deliver their ballot in person**

(3) Common or contract carrier, such as personal courier, FedEx or UPS, or other contracted mail service

a. Ballot must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day

b. If the carrier provides receipt mark indicating a time before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, it may be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 3 (the day after Election Day)

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

HOMELESS DOES NOT MEAN VOTELESS!

Can someone who is homeless or living in a shelter register to vote and cast a ballot?

Yes! Persons experiencing homelessness can register and vote in Texas, as long as they meet the five qualifications that apply to everyone.

What should a homeless person give as their residence address?

People who regularly stay at a shelter can give that shelter's address on their voter registration form. Those who are homeless and unsheltered can describe the location that they return to regularly, such as a street corner or park. For example, a residence address may be described as "the corner of 10th and Brazos Streets" or "Lions Park near 5th Street."

Does the registrant need a mailing address to vote?

Yes. However, the mailing address does not have to be the same as the residence address.

The registrant can use any address where they are able to pick up mail. A post office box, shelter, helping agency, church or a friend or relative's address are all suitable.

What forms of identification must a voter who is homeless present at the polling place in order to cast a ballot?

One of the forms of photo ID (or one of the acceptable alternative forms of identification) must be presented in order to vote. See page 2 of this Voters Guide for more details.

PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED? OFF PAPER? YOU CAN VOTE!

I have a felony conviction. Can I register to vote and cast a ballot?

Yes! In the state of Texas, your right to vote is restored immediately upon completion of your sentence, including parole and probation, in addition to any fines/costs, or restitution. You must be "off paper," and meet the five qualifications that apply to all voters.

What do I need to do to "restore my vote"?

You just have to register to vote by the election deadline! If you were registered to vote before the felony conviction, you will need to register to vote again.

I know someone who is awaiting trial in county jail. Can they vote before they are sentenced?

Yes! As long as they are not on parole or probation and do not have any fines related to

another offense, they can vote while in county jail. They will need to request a Ballot by Mail be sent to the jail if they expect to be there when elections are held.

Why is it important that I vote?

Voting is an important way to integrate back into your community, contribute, and stand up for its needs. Local elections matter the most to your daily life. For example, you would have the opportunity to choose your judges and sheriff. Studies have shown a strong correlation between voting and decreasing recidivism. The more involved you feel in your community, the less likely you may get in trouble with the law. You are an important member of society. Your voice matters. Voting is a great way to exercise it.

STUDENTS WHO ATTEND COLLEGE OUTSIDE OF HARRIS COUNTY CAN VOTE!

I am a student who is registered to vote at my family's address, but will be on campus during the Election Season. Can I vote?

Yes! You have two options for how to vote. You can:

- Return home to vote on Election Day or during the Early Voting period (there are weekend hours for Early Voting)
- Vote by mail, If your school address is outside Harris County. Please refer to the instructions for requesting and returning a Ballot by Mail above.

MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND AMERICANS LIVING OVERSEAS CAN VOTE!

Can I vote if I am in the military or living overseas?

Yes! Harris County registered voters who are temporarily out of the country and wish to vote, may complete the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) online. This type of application is limited to:

- A member of the U.S. Armed Forces, their spouse or a dependent;
- A member of the U.S. Merchant Marines, their spouse or a dependent;
- A U.S. citizen domiciled in Harris County, Texas but temporarily living outside the territorial limits of the United States.

Please go to: www.harrisvotes.com or call 713-755-6965 for more detailed information.



AMENDING THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

THE CURRENT TEXAS CONSTITUTION WAS WRITTEN IN 1876 AND HAS BEEN AMENDED NEARLY FIVE-HUNDRED TIMES. COMPARE THAT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, WHICH HAS ONLY TWENTY-SEVEN AMENDMENTS.

WHY DOES THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION HAVE SO MANY AMENDMENTS? RULES FOR HOW STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHOULD RUN ARE VERY SPECIFIC IN THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION, UNLIKE IN THE US CONSTITUTION. THEREFORE OUR STATE LAWMAKERS OFTEN HAVE LITTLE FREEDOM TO MAKE CHANGES TO LAWS WITHOUT AMENDING THE STATE CONSTITUTION. THE PROPOSED CHANGES MUST PASS BOTH HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE BY A 2/3 VOTE, AND THEN THE VOTERS MUST APPROVE ALL CHANGES.

ALL POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS THAT APPEAR ON YOUR BALLOT MUST ORIGINATE IN THE LEGISLATURE. THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION CANNOT BE AMENDED BY CITIZEN-LED BALLOT INITIATIVES, REFERENDUMS, OR PETITIONS, AS IN SOME OTHER STATES.

WE VOTE ON A SLATE OF AMENDMENTS IN THE FALL OF ODD-NUMBERED YEARS, FOLLOWING THE SPRING LEGISLATIVE SESSION. TOPICS VARY, AND CAN COVER A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS, AND SOME MAY AFFECT ONLY A FEW COUNTIES. VOTING ON AMENDMENTS FULFILLS YOUR RIGHT AND DUTY AS A TEXAS CITIZEN. THIS APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF CHANGES TO OUR CONSTITUTION GIVES YOU A DIRECT VOICE IN OUR STATE GOVERNMENT.

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 1

“THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING THE PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAM CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS OF ORGANIZATIONS SANCTIONED BY THE PROFESSIONAL RODEO COWBOYS ASSOCIATION OR THE WOMEN’S PROFESSIONAL RODEO ASSOCIATION TO CONDUCT CHARITABLE RAFFLES AT RODEO VENUES.”

EXPLANATION
This amendment would add professional rodeo charitable foundations that are sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women’s Professional Rodeo Association to the list of similar foundations for other professional sports associations that are authorized to hold raffles. These raffles may be held at rodeos in the state of Texas.

ARGUMENTS FOR Many other professional sports charitable foundations (such as those for the NFL, MLB, NBA) are allowed to hold raffles. This proposed amendment broadens the field to include charitable rodeo foundations. Raffles of this type generate revenue for charities such as youth scholarship programs, the YMCA, and the American Cancer Society, among others.	ARGUMENTS AGAINST Raffles are another form of gambling, which has negatively affected some Texas families. This form of gambling could eventually be extended beyond professional sports to many other organizations.
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PROPOSITION 2

“THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING A COUNTY TO FINANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OR INFRASTRUCTURE IN UNPRODUCTIVE, UNDERDEVELOPED, OR BLIGHTED AREAS IN THE COUNTY.”

EXPLANATION
The Texas Constitution allows the legislature to authorize cities to issue bonds or notes to finance development or redevelopment of transportation or infrastructure in “unproductive, underdeveloped or blighted areas”.
Proposition 2 would amend the Texas Constitution to add counties to the political entities that can issue bonds or notes for that purpose, and to pledge increases in property tax revenues to repay the bonds or notes.
If the county issues bonds for transportation improvements, the county may not:
Allocate more than 65% of the property tax increases annually to repay the transportation bonds or notes; and
Use the bond proceeds to finance toll road construction, operation, maintenance or right-of-way acquisition.

ARGUMENTS FOR Cities and towns can already finance infrastructure and transportation projects using bonds and notes. Counties also need the ability to address infrastructure issues. The development or redevelopment of infrastructure or transportation is expected to increase property values. Higher property values would result in higher tax revenues to repay these bonds. Texas is growing, and infrastructure and transportation development is needed for our future economic prosperity. The proposition would allow counties to use bonds to finance much needed infrastructure projects.	ARGUMENTS AGAINST This proposition could expand debt, which may raise local property taxes. Opponents say that Texas’s local debt ratio per person is too high, and issuing these bonds ties up future funds for debt service payments. These transportation and infrastructure projects could divert revenues that may go to other government services or projects.
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PROPOSITION 3

“THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT THIS STATE OR A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE FROM PROHIBITING OR LIMITING RELIGIOUS SERVICES OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.”

EXPLANATION
The proposed amendment would add a new section to Article 1 of the Texas Constitution, the Texas “Bill of Rights.” It would prohibit state or local governments from prohibiting or limiting religious services. This proposed amendment is a reaction to restrictions put in place by the governor and some local governments during the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions required religious services to be held remotely or limited the number of people who could attend in person. The governor’s restrictions were only in place for twelve days. He then declared that religious services are essential services and issued guidelines that said, “Houses of worship should conduct as many activities as possible remotely, and should follow federal guidelines when providing services in person.”

ARGUMENTS FOR Churches provide important support in a time of crisis. Closing churches reduces access to their services. Proponents say that closing churches violates religious freedom guaranteed by the Constitution. A government official should not be able to keep anyone from attending religious services.	ARGUMENTS AGAINST The proposed amendment could prevent local governments from enforcing safety measures during natural disasters such as tornadoes, hurricanes or another pandemic. No faith group should have an unqualified right to spread a communicable disease. Existing law and the Texas Constitution adequately protect religious organizations.
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AMENDMENTS

STATEWIDE
CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STATEWIDE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS, WATCH VIDEOS AT WWW.LWVTEXAS.ORG

LWV

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 4

“THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CHANGING THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR A JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, A JUDGE OF THE CRIMINAL COURT OF APPEALS, A JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS, AND A DISTRICT JUDGE.”

EXPLANATION

The proposed amendment would change the eligibility requirements for judges to run for office for the following:

Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, and the regional Courts of Appeals: Currently, the candidate for these courts must have been a practicing lawyer for at least ten years, or a practicing lawyer or judge of a court of record for a combined total of at least ten years.

The proposed amendment would add the requirement that the candidate be licensed in the state of Texas for at least ten years, and defines the court of record as a state court or county court established by the Legislature. Also, during the ten-year period, the candidate's license to practice law must not have been revoked or suspended.

State District Judge: Currently, the candidate must be a U.S. citizen licensed to practice law in Texas and have been a practicing lawyer for at least four years, or a practicing lawyer or judge of a Texas court for a combined total of four years.

The proposed amendment would add the requirement that a district judge candidate be a Texas resident, and would change the four-year requirement to eight years. Also, during the specified eight-year period, the candidate's license to practice law must not have been revoked or suspended.

ARGUMENTS FOR

Increasing the required number of years of legal experience for district court judges could result in a better qualified Texas judiciary.

The quality and reputation of the Texas judiciary could be enhanced by the requirement that a judge's license cannot have been revoked or suspended.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

The requirement of additional years of experience as an attorney could adversely impact the diversity (age, race, gender, etc.) of judicial candidates and judges.

The amendment would restrict the size of the pool of candidates eligible to run for the judicial positions, which could result in a judiciary that does not reflect the population.

PROPOSITION 5

“THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT WITH RESPECT TO CANDIDATES FOR JUDICIAL OFFICE.”

EXPLANATION

The State Commission on Judicial Conduct now accepts complaints against, and investigates and takes actions concerning, alleged misconduct by judges currently in office. This proposed amendment would extend the Commission's power to judicial candidates.

ARGUMENTS FOR

Allowing misconduct charges against judicial candidates could result in fairer judicial campaigns. Under current law, misconduct charges can be brought against judges currently in office, but not against candidates running for judicial office.

Bringing complaints about judicial candidates, as well as judges in office, to the Commission on Judicial Conduct could ensure that complaints against both candidates and judges are heard and acted on. This could result in better screening of both candidates and judges.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

Opponents say this amendment is unnecessary. Those who have complaints of misconduct against judicial candidates can file them with other authorities, such as the State Bar, the Attorney General, or the appropriate District Attorney for investigation and action.

Adding complaints against judicial candidates to the Commission on Judicial Conduct could overburden the Commission and its staff with new cases.

PROPOSITION 6

“THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING A RIGHT FOR RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN FACILITIES TO DESIGNATE AN ESSENTIAL CAREGIVER FOR IN-PERSON VISITATION.”

EXPLANATION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, family and other caregivers were restricted from access to nursing homes and other group facilities. This proposed constitutional amendment would allow a resident to name a person to be their essential caregiver, and visits from their essential caregiver would become a resident's constitutional right. The Legislature may provide guidelines for caregiver visitation policies and procedures.

ARGUMENTS FOR

For Texans in group care, visitation by a loved one can help combat loneliness, anxiety, and depression, and can provide advocacy and emotional support.

For residents with no remaining connections, there is comfort in having outside visitors in the facility.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

This amendment takes away the ability of public health and certain government officials to restrict access by outsiders to group care facilities in order to protect the residents and the staff.

Even if health and safety protocols are in place, visitation by outsiders could expose other residents and the staff to disease.

PROPOSITION 7

“THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ALLOW THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A PERSON WHO IS DISABLED TO RECEIVE A LIMITATION ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AD VALOREM TAXES ON THE SPOUSE'S RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD IF THE SPOUSE IS 55 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AT THE TIME OF THE PERSON'S DEATH.”

EXPLANATION

This proposition is needed to update the Constitution to allow surviving spouses of disabled persons a limit on school district property taxes. Currently, this limitation is provided to homeowners over 65 years old and to disabled persons. To be eligible for this limit, the spouse must be at least 55 years old when the disabled person died and still live in the home. The proposed amendment is needed because in 2019, the Tax Code was updated to allow this tax limitation for surviving spouses of disabled persons, but the Legislature failed to authorize a proposed constitutional amendment. Some counties followed the Tax Code and some did not. For those that did not, eligible surviving spouses may be due a refund.

ARGUMENTS FOR

This amendment would protect the surviving spouse of a disabled person from losing an important benefit.

The proposition validates a state law already passed and clarifies that the law is to be enforced.

The proposed amendment passed with zero “no” votes in both the Texas House and the Texas Senate, indicating broad bipartisan support.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

The passage could reduce tax revenues for school districts and other local taxing authorities.

Any lower property values could decrease revenue and affect the state school funding formulas.

This amendment could lead to further property tax exemptions, which could have future negative effects on school and other local finances.

TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSITIONS

PROPOSITION 8

“THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXATION OF ALL OR PART OF THE MARKET VALUE OF THE RESIDENCE HOMESTEAD OF THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A MEMBER OF THE ARMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES WHO IS KILLED OR FATALLY INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.”

EXPLANATION

Currently the surviving spouse of a member of the military who is killed “in action” is entitled to an exemption from property taxes. This exemption is for the property tax on the market value of the spouse's residence homestead if the spouse has not remarried. This amendment would expand eligibility for the same exemption from property taxes for spouses of members of the military who are killed “in the line of duty,” rather than “in action (or combat).” This means that if their death was due to injuries that are not combat related (such as in a training exercise), it was still as a result of their duties in the military.

ARGUMENTS FOR

This amendment would correct an oversight in current law to include surviving spouses of the military who were killed in the line of duty, rather than in action. These additional surviving spouses have suffered the loss of their partner because of their military service, and should be provided the same benefit. Death in combat for our country's soldiers should not be the determining factor on whether we honor their military service by providing relief for their spouse.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

This amendment will reduce tax revenues to school districts, counties, cities and special districts by lowering property value. Many more military are killed in the line of duty than are killed in action. The estimated potential loss of tax revenue could be significant. Any lower property values could decrease revenue and alter the state school funding formula. This amendment would expand property tax exemption to another group of people, which could increase the tax burden for other property owners.

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TRUSTEE

THE HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (HCC) BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS HCC'S GOVERNING BODY. DUTIES INCLUDE ESTABLISHING HCC POLICY AND APPOINTING THE CHANCELLOR. THE NINE BOARD MEMBERS ARE ELECTED FROM SINGLE, GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICTS FOR STAGGERED 6-YEAR TERMS WITH NO TERM LIMITS AND SERVE WITHOUT PAY.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: ***BACKGROUND:** Why are you running for this office? What specific experiences and attributes make you the best candidate for this position? **COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** Describe your vision for the role of the Houston Community College System in the 21 st century? What must the Board of Trustees do to ensure that HCC can fulfill that role? **ROLE OF TRUSTEES:** As a Trustee, how will you work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders to address the needs of current and future HCC students? Please address providing academic and technical training opportunities as well as ensuring accessibility and affordability.*

DISTRICT 3



BRANDON “B.D.” COFIELD SR.

BACKGROUND: I am running because I want HCC to do more for Houstonians, and I know that it can. HCC has an unparalleled wealth of resources and access to Houstonians, but enrollment is declining and there are multiple lawsuits and allegations pertaining to Trustees and the Chancellor that take away from the benefits of HCC. Since the Board must navigate through these issues, I believe that the Board of Trustees will benefit from the addition of an attorney when making tough legal decisions. **COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** HCC must do its part to make sure that Houstonians are well equipped to face whatever the future has in store. To achieve that goal, HCC must offer courses that are relevant and accessible to the needs of our communities, and make sure that Houstonians **Occupation:** Attorney | **Education:** University of Minnesota- B.S.; University of Kentucky- MPH; Texas A&M University- J.D. | **Community:** American Heart Association; Rotary Club of Houston; Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; Big Brothers Big Sisters | **Website:** <http://www.brandoncofield.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/CofieldforHCCdistrict3> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/Cofield4HCC | **Campaign Email:** brandon@brandoncofield.com | **Campaign Phone:** (832) 479-7988 **Campaign Address:** 2612 Cleburne Street Houston, Texas 77004

know that HCC has the resources to provide life-changing education for everyone. The Board must be willing to make tough decisions to resolve the pending lawsuits and honestly review the performance of the Chancellor and the College as a whole. **ROLE OF TRUSTEES:** Current and future students are facing a very different academic landscape than what I experienced while in school. To overcome these challenges, I will meet with students and community members to learn the specific resources that are needed for students to be able to succeed in this environment. Also, I plan to tap into the wealth of resources and energy outside of the school to promote meaningful opportunities for all students to interact and learn from fellow Houstonians who want to give back

DISTRICT 4



ADRIANA TAMEZ

BACKGROUND: Deciding to run for re-election as HCC Trustee, District 3, came after much prayer and thought. I feel passionately about education and Houston. I understand what Houston needs and the challenge to HCC to be part of the economic engine to drive Houston's world-class ambitions. Experienced leadership, professional knowledge, keen business acumen, and most importantly a passion to serve are the attributes I am blessed to possess for use on behalf of HCC and the greater Houston Community. **COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** The pandemic has made it unequivocally clear that the educational enterprise must innovate or perish. If HCC is to remain a key player in education, it must realign and generate new ways for how it delivers instruction. While physical spaces that **Occupation:** Non-Profit CEO and Education Administration | **Education:** Undergrad and Masters in Education - University of Houston Doctorate in Education Administration - University of Texas at Austin | **Community:** Houston Community College Trustee Harris County Housing Authority Commissioner Keep Houston Beautiful Commissioner Houston Read Commissioner Harris County Flood Resilience | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/TrusteeTamez> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/TrusteeTamez **Campaign Email:** vote4adrianatamez@gmail.com | **Campaign Phone:** (281) 865-2755 | **Campaign Address:** 4436 Jefferson St. Houston , TX 77023

provide classrooms, labs and meeting rooms will remain essential, alternative modalities for engaging students, instructors and ancillary support to effect quality teaching and learning are equally critical to meet the needs and demands of students. **ROLE OF TRUSTEES:** I believe the heart of my work as a Trustee is building relationships. Whether a one-on-one coffee visit, hosting a small group to hear their concerns, or holding a town hall style assembly, each is an opportunity to be accessible and learn from those HCC would serve. It's about understanding others' perspective, hopes and needs. HCC must continue to be financially viable by fostering strategic partnerships with Apple, Intel, to name a couple.

DISTRICT 6



DAVE WILSON

BACKGROUND: To bring common sense and sound business management skills to a board that has a history of bad decisions and corruption. I have owned and operated a successful business for 35 years. Twenty years ago I started a non-profit trade school to train electricians without government support. Thousands of young men and women have graduated from our school and enjoy an enhanced standard of living. **COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** Houston Community College can serve students best by curbing wasteful spending and focusing resources on preparing students for jobs. The Board must cut administrative overhead, change procurement policy to “low bidder” from “best **Occupation:** Business Owner | **Education:** Houston Community College, University of Houston | **Community:** HCC District II Trustee; Texas Electrical Safety Association Teacher; National Electrical Code Panel 18 | **Campaign Email:** dave@wilson.work **Campaign Phone:** (713) 202-7983 | **Campaign Address:** 5710 W 34th St. Suite A Houston, Texas 77092

friend”, increase graduation rates, require accountability and transparency, and hire a new Chancellor (if the Texans football team had 7 straight losing years, they would hire a new coach). **ROLE OF TRUSTEES:** If working collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders means dancing in the middle of the road for lobbyists and special interest groups that put their self interest ahead of students, count me out. To get HCC back on track we'll have to rely on bottom-up solutions, not the failed, top-down approaches of the past. Management by Objectives - Organize, Plan, Direct, and Control.

JIM NOTEWARE | WRITE-IN CANDIDATE | NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TRUSTEE

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QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: **BACKGROUND:** Why are you running for this office? What specific experiences and attributes make you the best candidate for this position?
COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Describe your vision for the role of the Houston Community College System in the 21 st century? What must the Board of Trustees do to ensure that HCC can fulfill that role?
ROLE OF TRUSTEES: As a Trustee, how will you work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders to address the needs of current and future HCC students? Please address providing academic and technical training opportunities as well as ensuring accessibility and affordability.

VICTOR GONZALES | UNABLE TO CONTACT

EVA LOREDO



BACKGROUND: I am running for re-election for the Houston Community College Board of Trustees because I have the experience to continue moving the system forward, to advance opportunities for students and staff and to continue building on partnerships which we have established. As a retired educator my passion is education and I want to continue increasing graduation opportunities and to continue being a voice for our community.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE: We must continue to expand the curriculum that the colleges in the system offer to ensure that our graduating students are workforce ready and to succeed at obtaining bachelors degrees once they have completed their studies at HCC. Our workforce

Occupation: Education Consultant | **Education:** Bachelors of Science, Texas Southern University; Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, University of Houston; Mid Management, UH-Clear Lake | **Community:** Mayor's Magnolia Planning Task Force; American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Post 472; Air Alliance Committee, Community Advocate | **Campaign Email:** evaloredo2021@gmail.com | **Campaign Phone:** (281) 989-6752 | **Campaign Address:** PO Box 9342 Houston, TX 77621

JHARRETT BRYANTT



BACKGROUND: I started my career as a high school math teacher in Houston's East End community. Many of my students considered an education at HCC, yet the data shows that only 3 in 10 of full-time students at HCC earn a degree in SIX years. Houston Community College has the potential to equip students with credentials that break cycles of poverty, and yet policies are holding students back from high-demand, high-wage careers. As a long-time K-12 executive, I know what it takes to transform HCC.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE: I envision that Houston Community College will be the destination for Houstonians to advance their futures and earn degrees in high-wage, high demand fields. This requires strategic partnerships with the business community, progressive policies,

Occupation: Executive Officer | **Education:** Yale University - Bachelor of Science; UT Austin - Doctor of Education | **Website:** <http://www.bryanttforhcc.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/bryanttforhcc> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/bryanttforhcc | **Campaign Email:** jharrett@bryanttforhcc.com | **Campaign Phone:** (832) 291-7966 | **Campaign Address:** 777 Preston St, 32P Houston, TX 77002

is increasingly dependent on information technology, health care professionals, engineering as well as certifications to work in energy related positions. I will work to expand to offer bachelors degrees and keep tuition affordable.

ROLE OF TRUSTEES: I will continue to meet with internal and external stakeholders, including faculty, staff and students, build upon our partnerships and continue to expand on trades and technical opportunities by including individuals in these professions. I will continue to advocate for affordable tuition and fees and not increase the tax rate, we must continue to work within our budget.

and outstanding faculty who are equipped to serve students who need the most help. HCC can reimagine its practices to be student first, and the board should hold administration accountable to ensuring high graduation rates and life preparedness.

ROLE OF TRUSTEES: Community college needs to be affordable and accessible, which means that the HCC board and administration should ensure students have ample opportunities to earn dollars from apprenticeships and work study to support their studies. Additionally, as remedial coursework is highly correlated with dropping out from graduation, HCC needs to reevaluate the metrics by which students can earn credit, and incentivize the most talented faculty to teach the students that need the most support.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

THE HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (HISD) BOARD OF EDUCATION IS HISD'S GOVERNING BODY. DUTIES INCLUDE ESTABLISHING HISD POLICY AND APPOINTING THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT. THE NINE BOARD MEMBERS ARE ELECTED FROM SINGLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICTS FOR STAGGERED 4-YEAR TERMS WITH NO TERM LIMITS AND SERVE WITHOUT PAY.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: **BACKGROUND:** Why are you running for this position? What is your relationship to the Houston Independent School District?
PRIORITIES: What are the most pressing issues for the schools in the HISD Trustee District that you seek to represent? What specific plan of action do you have for addressing them?
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: What steps must be taken to ensure that all HISD students have the resources necessary for academic success?
PANDEMIC RECOVERY: What role should HISD play in mitigating not only the academic achievement gap but also the emotional issues faced by students, faculty, and staff as the result of the pandemic?

ELIZABETH SANTOS



BACKGROUND: I have been serving my community—the same one my parents immigrated into—my entire life. HISD public schools provided me with an education and a ten-year teaching career. Four years ago, the people of District 1 elected me to represent them on the school board. I have remained committed to serving the people first, which is why I have a strict policy against accepting contributions from HISD vendors. We need a trustee who understands our community, its schools, and the promise of its future.

PRIORITIES: Safety and equity. COVID has had a devastating impact on our local communities, especially those without stable access to healthcare. The health of our communities and the health of our children are intimately connected. We need to move away from policies like attendance-based funding, which imposes a “poverty penalty” on our neediest schools. My successes passing multiple raises for teachers and support staff are a model for making meaningful change, one I hope to repeat in my next term.

Occupation: Trustee | **Education:** I graduated from HISD District 1 schools: Herrera Elementary, Burbank Middle, and Sam Houston High. I have a BA in English Literature from the University of Houston—Downtown. | **Community:** I regularly volunteer my time connecting resources and communities in need, within and outside my role as HISD Trustee. | **Website:** <http://www.santos4hisd.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Santos4HISD> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/Santos4HISD | **Campaign Email:** santos4hisd@gmail.com | **Campaign Phone:** (713) 254-2236 | **Campaign Address:** 1106 Post St Houston, TX 77022

MATIAS KOPINSKY



BACKGROUND: I have always been passionate about education because I believe that having a good educational foundation allows people to achieve their professional goals and contribute to their communities. I attended neighborhood HISD schools K-12, as well as both my mother and grandmother were educators in HISD. As a result I have the benefit of seeing the first hand impact that even one good teacher can have on a child's life, and I wish that all students can receive quality education.

PRIORITIES: The most significant issue that motivates me to serve on the board of education is recruiting and retaining quality educators while having continuity in school leadership. If a principal is the leader of a school for 4+ years, they will be able to instill a better culture of learning. Currently, there are 25% of schools with first year principals. Consistency enables trust-building and positive relationships between teachers and administrators, which in turn leads to better school outcomes.

Occupation: Petroleum Engineer | **Education:** Bachelor of Science Petroleum Engineering - The University of Texas at Austin 2018; Masters in Petroleum Engineering - The University of Houston (Expected 2022 Graduation) | **Community:** Lindale Park Civic Club active participant; Active Volunteer for the Houston Heights Association; Member of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce | **Website:** <http://www.matiashforhisd.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/matiashforhisd> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/matiashforhisd | **Campaign Email:** matiasforhisd@gmail.com | **Campaign Phone:** (713) 502-3727 | **Campaign Address:** PO Box 925037 Houston, TX 77292

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: We must recognize that our schools in poorer parts of town lack access to the same resources available in affluent areas. They don't get PTA money. They don't get funding from the higher attendance rates. And much of what they do get is earmarked for test prep, which means they don't get fine arts or functional libraries. We should instead earmark funds for arts programs and libraries so that all schools—not just those with high test scores—can provide a well-rounded education.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: Schools are the souls of our communities. When properly supported, they amplify the power that comes from the unique and rich identities of our people. They become a resource and a rallying point. We saw that when our community schools distributed food and medical services at various times during the pandemic. I have long advocated for the community-schools model because it creates the social power necessary for us to close the longstanding gaps caused by decades of inequity.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: The budget needs to be balanced. In the previous 5 cycles, there has been an inability by HISD to accurately project spending. This can be remedied by ensuring that all positions in the central office are actually needed. The money that would be saved by ensuring the necessary positions remain would be able to balance the budget, while increasing the benefits and salaries of all HISD employees. This would lead to HISD to better retain high quality employees, which benefits all students in HISD.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: The role of a school board member is to listen to both teachers and the community and consider the needs of both groups. SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) should be implemented at all education levels where children are taught mindfulness techniques, which leads to the developmental growth of students, academically and emotionally. Also, there should be at least one SEL counselor per school to be able to ensure that students have adequate support.

RACE CONTINUED PAGE 9

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

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QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: **BACKGROUND:** *Why are you running for this position? What is your relationship to the Houston Independent School District?*
PRIORITIES: *What are the most pressing issues for the schools in the HISD Trustee District that you seek to represent? What specific plan of action do you have for addressing them?*
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: *What steps must be taken to ensure that all HISD students have the resources necessary for academic success?*
PANDEMIC RECOVERY: *What role should HISD play in mitigating not only the academic achievement gap but also the emotional issues faced by students, faculty, and staff as the result of the pandemic?*

POSITION 1



JANETTE GARZA LINDNER

BACKGROUND: School is crucial to children and families in our community. As the adopted daughter of a widow, who left school in second grade, we counted on the public schools in my hometown to prepare me for college. I am now a wife and successful working mom of two kids in HISD. I have been shocked and disappointed in the disparity of outcomes for students in our neighborhood schools. That inequality must end. I am ready and excited to use my talents and skills to effect positive change for kids in HISD.

PRIORITIES: HISD has 50 D/F-rated schools, and 10% are in District I. HISD has continuously failed our Special Education students. Campuses are routinely underfunded, while central office administration has grown unchecked. HISD teacher pay is uncompetitive in Harris County, and we fail to use state funds for teacher incentives at our struggling schools. Raising teacher salaries, shrinking a bloated central office, and responsible budget management can provide the resources needed to address these issues.

Occupation: Management Consultant | **Education:** University of Texas at Austin BBA - Management Information Systems | **Community:** Latinos for Education Board Fellowship 2019; Arts Connect Houston leadership committee since 2019; Houston Cecilia Chamber Choir 10+ years **Website:** <http://www.janetteforhisd.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/JanetteforHISD> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/GarzaLindner | **Campaign Email:** janette@janetteforhisd.com | **Campaign Phone:** (713) 367-1396 | **Campaign Address:** 816 Ralfallen Houston, TX 77008

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Students deserve to be held to high expectations because they are all talented and capable of high achievement. However, some kids have challenges to overcome and need more support from their schools to succeed. HISD must reduce central office funds to enable principals to meet their campus needs and partner with community organizations to fill specifically identified gaps. Finally, HISD must attract the region's best teachers to our struggling schools to help kids reach their full potential.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: The pandemic has brought challenges to students' social and emotional health and has hindered their academic achievement. HISD must provide mental health support to kids so they can focus on accelerating their learning. Teachers need productive tools both to create data-driven goals and measure student academic progress. HISD teachers need access to mental healthcare, and principals must encourage a collaborative working environment where teachers and staff can support each other and students.

POSITION 2



MARIA BENZON

BACKGROUND: I want to be the HISD Trustee in District V because I am passionate about helping kids grow and learn. With 21+ years of teaching and leading in urban schools and UH, I have been focused on improving education for diverse learners. I earned a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology researching equity, self-regulated learning, and student-teacher motivation. As a community leader and parent of an HISD student, I want to ensure ALL students are academically prepared for graduation.

PRIORITIES: To address the teacher shortage, I would raise pay and benefits to be competitive with other districts, recruit qualified teachers to teach part-time, and improve teacher efficacy by investing in training on content knowledge and pedagogy for diverse learners. To address the over-emphasis on standardized testing, I would have students demonstrate their learning via performance assessments, deep sampling, and curriculum-aligned tests created by teachers -- instead of for-profit testing companies.

Occupation: Educator | **Education:** University of Texas at Austin BA Plan II Liberal Arts Honors BS Applied Learning & Development MA Curriculum & Instruction University of Houston PhD Educational Psychology | **Community:** Bellaire Young Mothers President, 2020 - Present Speaker Coordinator, 2015 - Present Girl Scouts Troop Co-Leader, 2020 - Present | **Website:** <http://www.benzon4hisd.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Benzon4HISD> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/benzon4hisd | **Campaign Email:** benzon4hisd@gmail.com | **Campaign Phone:** (832) 384-5119 | **Campaign Address:** 5200 Palmetto St. Bellaire, TX 77401

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Every school is different so each campus should do a needs assessment with the input of stakeholders such as teachers, staff, parents, and students. We can create systems to connect students and families to resources and supports. Teachers can identify their professional development needs to ensure they instruct and assess ALL students effectively. In our digital world, students should have access to a laptop/tablet at home with internet access to access online educational resources.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: During the 2020-2021 school year, more students had F's on their report cards, lower test scores, and increased absenteeism compared to previous years. Unfinished learning widened historical inequities and many parents were concerned about students' mental health and behaviors. I would provide more wraparound services and counselors, train teachers and staff on trauma, and ensure every child has access to a laptop or tablet at home with internet access.

POSITION 3



SUE DEIGAARD

BACKGROUND: I am the incumbent HISD District V Trustee, and a HISD parent. As Board President in 2020 I worked to bring stability to HISD, including increasing financial accountability, prioritizing the learning needs of children, and hiring of a permanent superintendent. I now want to return to the board to build on that foundation to achieve better schools and improve learning opportunities for every child in HISD.

PRIORITIES: While trustees are elected by single districts, the decisions we make impact all students in HISD. The most pressing issue confronting our children right now is the learning disruptions caused by COVID. Data at the local and national levels tells us that students have fallen behind in key areas such as literacy and college/career readiness. I plan to get our students back on track for success by ensuring that our federal ESSER dollars are invested for the maximum benefit of our students.

Occupation: Leadership Development | **Education:** Rice University - Bachelor of Arts in English and Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance; Georgetown University - Certification in Education Finance | **Community:** HISD District V Trustee since January 2018; American Leadership Forum Fellow; Former Board Member Houston Center for Literacy; Former Civic Club President | **Website:** <http://www.sueforhisd.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/SueForHISD> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/sueforhisd | **Campaign Email:** info@sueforhisd.com | **Campaign Phone:** (713) 322-9009 | **Campaign Address:** PO Box 1927 Houston, TX 77402

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Resources of money, time, and talent should be based on the needs of the student. More of HISD's budget should be allocated directly to schools to increase teacher pay and reduce class sizes to have the maximum impact for our students. And broadly, our budget should reflect the prioritization of the four goals we've set for the district relating to improving literacy, numeracy, college and career readiness, and special education.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: We are addressing that through the allocation of our federal ESSER dollars, including providing more resources of counselors and social workers to our schools. Additionally, we are expanding professional development for our teachers to support the increased social emotional needs. We also expanded our wraparound services to meet the increased external needs of our children that impact their ability to learn effectively when they are at school.

POSITION 4



CAROLINE WALTER

BACKGROUND: I have 3 young children in HISD schools. I believe the current school board trustees are failing our kids. Their decision making is politically driven and not being made in the best interest of the children. I see the district going down the wrong path and I feel the calling and the responsibility to step in and stand up for what is right.

PRIORITIES: After being extremely involved in our community, the single biggest issue for parents in district 5 is the lack of public middle school options. The issue of zoning needs to be addressed as well as potentially allocating budget funds into the building of a new middle school specific to our community.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: I think that school zoning lines need to be redrawn. This will bring higher enrollment and in turn funding to the schools that need it most. We need to ensure,

with more competitive salaries, that underserved schools are able to attract and keep the best and most driven teachers. Lastly we need to invest in programs that focus on READING to ensure every student is reading at grade level by the 3rd grade.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: I believe that we absolutely need to play “catch up” in schools post-pandemic even if that means slightly altering academic goals. I feel that almost 2 years into this pandemic, which seems to be headed in the direction of becoming an endemic, we need to focus more on getting students back to where they need to be academically and less on “policing” Covid protocols and rules in schools. There should be virtual options for only students who meet a medical criteria.

Occupation: Full-time Mom | **Education:** Eastern Michigan University- Undergraduate | **Community:** Sunshine Kids, Barbara Bush Literacy Foundation, Project 88, West U Parks and Recreation, Texas Children's Hospital, Ronald McDonald House, Baskets of Hope **Website:** <http://www.carolinewalter.net> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Caroline-4-Kids-201109188613719> | **Campaign Email:** caroline.walter1@gmail.com | **Campaign Phone:** (917) 362-4369 | **Campaign Address:** 3524 Georgetown St. Houston, TX 77005

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

THE HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (HISD) BOARD OF EDUCATION IS HISD’S GOVERNING BODY. DUTIES INCLUDE ESTABLISHING HISD POLICY AND APPOINTING THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT. THE NINE BOARD MEMBERS ARE ELECTED FROM SINGLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICTS FOR STAGGERED 4-YEAR TERMS WITH NO TERM LIMITS AND SERVE WITHOUT PAY.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: BACKGROUND: Why are you running for this position? What is your relationship to the Houston Independent School District? PRIORITIES: What are the most pressing issues for the schools in the HISD Trustee District that you seek to represent? What specific plan of action do you have for addressing them? ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: What steps must be taken to ensure that all HISD students have the resources necessary for academic success? PANDEMIC RECOVERY: What role should HISD play in mitigating not only the academic achievement gap but also the emotional issues faced by students, faculty, and staff as the result of the pandemic?

KENDALL BAKER



BACKGROUND: I’m running because the community asked me to run. I have a vested interest in the education of our children; I have an elementary aged child. My district has been underserved by the current Trustee whose actions warranted a TEA investigation. I’m a native Houstonian who attended HISD. I have lived in my district for 37 years. As a pastor and member of the Houston Ministers Against Crime, I volunteered in the schools for 3 decades. Mr. House reached out to us and asked us to continue supporting PRIORITIES: My successful election will more than likely halt a TEA takeover. First, I’d address inequity in education by conducting research and then allocate resources to schools in despair. Next, I’d streamline the budget and find ways to decrease HISD taxes. I’d address the problems with the Special Education program by working with the Curriculum Development Department and my colleagues. Finally, I’d attract qualified educators by addressing salary gaps and create incentives to retain all of them.

Occupation: Business Owner and Pastor | Education: Bachelors of Arts in Divinity; Masters of Divinity; Doctorate of Divinity | Community: 35 Years of Public Service and Management Experience for the City of Houston and Houston Ministers Against Crime, includes volunteering in HISD; Harris County Precinct Chair | Website: http://www.bakerforhouston.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/bakerforhisd | Twitter: twitter.com/kendallbaker1 | Campaign Email: bakerfortown@gmail.com | Campaign Phone: (832) 858-4831 Campaign Address: PO Box 772855 Houston, Texas 77215

HOLLY FLYNN VILASECA



BACKGROUND: As the District VI Trustee for the last four years, I have worked to lift up our students, teachers and staff and move the district forward. We have reformed special education, made curriculum improvements, improved funding formulas, while also responding to the challenges posed by Hurricane Harvey, the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing attempts by the state to seize control of the district. I am passionate about public education, and want to continue my service at HISD. PRIORITIES: The top concern continues to be HISD’s response to COVID-19, both in terms of providing an in-person school environment that is safe for students, faculty and staff, and that delivers a first-rate educational experience for all district students. Additionally, the pandemic has resulted in lost instructional time and sometimes uneven virtual educational experiences, adversely affecting our most vulnerable students. A top priority must be addressing any learning loss due to the Pandemic.

Occupation: Performance Infrastructure Business Development Executive | Education: Bachelor’s Degrees (two) - University of Michigan; Master’s Degree - Columbia University | Community: Current HISD District VI Trustee; ALF Class 55 Fellow; Country Village Women’s Club; Mayor’s Hispanic Advisory Board (past); Leadership TASB; NSBA NHC President-Elect | Website: http://www.hollyforhisd.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/hollyflynnvilaseca | Twitter: twitter.com/hmfv1 Campaign Email: info@hollyforhisd.com | Campaign Phone: (713) 482-1373 | Campaign Address: P.O. Box 440544 Houston, TX 77244

GREG DEGEYTER



BACKGROUND: I’m tired of seeing students suffer because of the infighting on the board, and seeing the special education services in conservatorship status. The litigation with the TEA about possible state takeover is a threat to all Houstonians. My involvement with education activities has been more focused on appearing before the Harris County Department of Education rather than HISD. PRIORITIES: 1) Change the culture from close the achievement gap to maximize student potential. 2) Stop the black-brown divide and pitting groups against each other. Need knows no color, gender, creed or ideology. Issue number one can be achieved by working with outside groups to provide opportunities for the gifted and talented, freeing up resources for the underperforming. Issue number two - by focusing resources based on need and objective test scores rather than look at who is receiving the resources.

Occupation: Attorney, Business Owner | Education: BS Communication, Lamar University MS Geoscience, Mississippi State University JD, South Texas College of Law | Community: Prenatal Disability Help - pro bono legal assistance for expectant mothers whose babies have a disabling prenatal diagnosis. http://www.prenataldisabilityhelp.com | Website: http://www.degeyterforhisd.com | Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/DegeyterForHISD | Campaign Email: degeyterlaw@gmail.com | Campaign Phone: (713) 505-0524 Campaign Address: 9898 Bissonnet, Suite 626 Houston, Texas 77036

THE LEAGUE IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE THIS VOTERS GUIDE FREE OF CHARGE

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IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL VOTERS:

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL VOTERS: TEXAS LAW DOES NOT ALLOW VOTERS TO ACCESS INFORMATION OR PERSONAL NOTES USING ELECTRONIC DEVICES (SUCH AS MOBILE PHONES OR TABLETS) WHILE AT THE POLLING PLACE. HOWEVER, YOU MAY TAKE PRINTED OR HANDWRITTEN NOTES INTO THE VOTING BOOTH, INCLUDING A PRINTED COPY OF THIS VOTERS GUIDE.



HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

THE HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (HISD) BOARD OF EDUCATION IS HISD’S GOVERNING BODY. DUTIES INCLUDE ESTABLISHING HISD POLICY AND APPOINTING THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT. THE NINE BOARD MEMBERS ARE ELECTED FROM SINGLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICTS FOR STAGGERED 4-YEAR TERMS WITH NO TERM LIMITS AND SERVE WITHOUT PAY.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

- BACKGROUND:** Why are you running for this position? What is your relationship to the Houston Independent School District?
- PRIORITIES:** What are the most pressing issues for the schools in the HISD Trustee District that you seek to represent? What specific plan of action do you have for addressing them?
- ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:** What steps must be taken to ensure that all HISD students have the resources necessary for academic success?
- PANDEMIC RECOVERY:** What role should HISD play in mitigating not only the academic achievement gap but also the emotional issues faced by students, faculty, and staff as the result of the pandemic?



LEE “MAC” WALKER

BACKGROUND: With the new superintendent gaining traction, we have a real opportunity for bold change. However, Millard House needs a bold board to work with him. I will provide integrity, financial and operational experience, and a diverse life experience to the board. Further, I will put children first! Native Houstonian, HISD graduate (first in my family to graduate), and involved in HISD as a parent of three children, a mentor to at-risk students at Wisdom HS, and as a PTO leader for more than 10 years.

PRIORITIES: Inequity is a big issue in our district, created by the board’s decisions to cut magnet funding and alter the PUA. When schools lose science, music, and technology positions as a result, we have to revisit the problem. District-wide, I think we must insist on great teachers in every classroom! Both of these issues can be addressed with a bottoms-up review of the budgeting process and school funding model. It would take less than 2% of HISD’s \$2.1 billion budget to address these two issues.

Occupation: Small Business Owner | **Education:** BSE, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Duke University; MBA, University of Texas at Austin (McCombs School) | **Community:** Mentor to At-Risk Students, Wisdom (Lee) HS, 2007-2010; PTO at ROES (Treasurer; Dad’s Club President; Budget & Finance), 2016 - present; TEA Lone Star Governance | **Website:** <http://www.macwalkerforHISD.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/macwalkerforhisd> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/macwalker4hisd | **Campaign Email:** mac@macwalkerforHISD.com | **Campaign Phone:** (713) 820-6596 | **Campaign Address:** P.O. Box 27619 Houston, TX 77227

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Student need is highly contextual and HISD is far too diverse to think a one-size-fits-all, top-down approach could work. This thinking leads to unmet needs in some areas, and tremendous waste in others. I would support a review of the school funding model so that discretionary power (financial, operational), is placed back into the hands of the principals on the front lines. They know what their students and teachers need better than headquarters.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: HISD has an incredible opportunity to serve a positive role here. The federal government has earmarked ESSER funds for procuring additional instruction, educational technology, and SEL resources to help students get back on track. Additionally, these funds can also be used for equipment (e.g. air purifiers) that will help everyone feel safe. These are basic needs everyone accepts, so HISD should promote this to get all children and staff back into schools where they can move forward together.



BRIDGET WADE

BACKGROUND: I am running to restore pride in public education, restore the public trust through accountability, encourage community involvement in public education and most importantly improve student outcomes. Our current Board of Trustees have lost the confidence of the citizens and of the state. As a native Houstonian, former HISD student and a mother of three children who also attended HISD schools, my experience on both the inside and outside of public school have informed my lifelong relationship.

PRIORITIES: I believe that the On Level learners in the district represent the largest majority but get the least support. This adds to the difficulty for this large majority to prosper. This indirectly effects those with special needs. The resources for the most at risk are dispersed to offset the real cost - this undermines all. The district and the Legislature work together to offer a voucher for children with disabilities, to use the funds to access the best educational avenue and look at On Level funds

Occupation: Volunteer/Homemaker | **Education:** Briargrove Elementary, Paul Revere Middle School, Wisdom (formerly Robert E. Lee) and Episcopal High School. BA University of Oklahoma. | **Community:** President of Briargrove Elementary PTO, Campus New Construction Committee. Episcopal High School Board of Trustees and Alumni Council, Houston Methodist. U of H, MFAH, Apostle | **Website:** <http://www.bridgetforthekids.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/bridgetforthekids> | **Campaign Email:** Bridget@bridgetforthekids.com | **Campaign Address:** 3262 Westheimer #881 Houston, TX 77019

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Great teachers with strong pay. Teachers should be the most valuable resource based on past performance and classroom outcomes. This should be valued as much as teachers’ academic degrees. The teacher is the best way to meet these needs. By giving students educational building blocks and having direct contact with the family and child, they know how to best serve any need.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: Through strong academic foundations, and getting students back to the classroom and normal conditions, we have the opportunity to mitigate through action and leadership. Strong teachers and district leaders, who do not shy away from setting goals and metrics, would do the most good. I understand that trauma needs to be addressed with good council, but getting back and pressing in, will do the most good for the most invested.



DWIGHT JEFFERSON

BACKGROUND: My concern for educating the next generation led me to volunteer for the HISD H.E.A.R. Committee. We lobbied the legislature for the 2019 educational reforms that reduced HISD recapture and increased funding. As a result of these efforts HISD saved \$800 million on recapture. I am part of class eight of leadership Houston. Our class sponsored a book fair to place books in the Douglas Elementary Library.

PRIORITIES: Remediate COVID Slide; work for full day preschool for all 3 and 4 year old students in HISD. Work to close the achievement gap (preparation gap), work for board effectiveness and end Robin Hood and return our tax dollars to HISD and the taxpayers.

Occupation: Attorney | **Education:** University of Texas Undergraduate; University of Texas Law School | **Community:** Vice Chair of TX Commission for a Representative Student Body; Chairman American Diabetes Association; HISD HEAR Committee; METRO Board | **Website:** <http://www.jeffersonforhoustonchools.org> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/Jefferson-for-Houston-Schools-102937262082285> | **Campaign Email:** info@jeffersonforhoustonchools.org | **Campaign Phone:** (346) 298-0026 | **Campaign Address:** 5007 Dickson St Houston , TX 77027

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: The Commissioner of Education should support an amendment to Robin Hood exempting districts with at risk student populations of 60% or more from being designated a rich or recapture district. Although throwing more money at the problem may not in and of itself resolve the problem of failing schools, it can certainly contribute towards finding a solution. We need to keep our resources in Houston in order to address the needs in HISD.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: We must work hard to remediate the COVID Slide. This may mean increased summer school and/or after school programs.



ANNE SUNG

BACKGROUND: I am an HISD parent, trustee, and former teacher of the year. Since 2017, I have strengthened college and career readiness, special education and internal auditing. I have increased budget efficiency, raised teacher salaries and put \$26.5 million into school budgets. I am running to make HISD work for all kids. I will work with my colleagues and superintendent to strengthen early childhood education, provide competitive teacher salaries and rebuild old elementary schools without raising taxes.

PRIORITIES: (1) Retention of strong principals and teachers: Raise salaries to be competitive with neighboring districts. Literacy, math, and special education professional development. (2) Rebuild aging elementary schools: Facilities assessment (complete). Capital Planning Steering Committee to begin planning for a new bond. (3) Improving Special Education: Reform special education systems. Teacher and principal professional development. Regular board oversight of Independent Education Plan progress.

Occupation: Houston ISD Trustee, District VII | **Education:** Anne Sung attended HISD’s Askew ES, TH Rogers MS, and Bellaire HS. She holds a BA in Physics & Math, an MA in Physics, and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University. | **Community:** Anne has served as Project GRAD Houston’s VP & Chief Strategy Officer. She serves on the boards of the Texas Association of School Boards and the SPARK School Park Program. | **Website:** <http://www.anne4hisd.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/anne4hisd> | **Twitter:** twitter.com/anne4hisd | **Campaign Email:** info@anne4hisd.com | **Campaign Phone:** (832) 598-6878 | **Campaign Address:** Anne Sung for HISD PO Box 27625 Houston, TX 77277

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: (1) High standards: The Board has set expectations for strong academic programs and teachers at every school, so every child can achieve at a high level. (2) Universal design for learning: HISD curriculum is being redesigned to support English learners, students with disabilities, and gifted students to thrive in every classroom. (3) Equitable supports: Tutoring, counselors, mentors, wraparound supports, and college and career guidance level the playing field to help all students achieve.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: Students and educators alike have been traumatized by this pandemic, and HISD is using federal pandemic recovery funds to address both social and emotional and academic needs. HISD is hiring additional counselors and social workers and offering mental health programs and wraparound services at every school. To address the academic achievement gap, HISD is offering small-group math and reading tutoring, college guidance counseling, SAT/ACT prep, and special education interventions.

POSITION 7

HOW THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ASSEMBLED THE VOTERS GUIDE

The League of Women Voters of Houston contacted all candidates in contested races for the following offices: Houston Community College, Trustee and Houston Independent School District, Trustee. These candidates were asked to respond to our candidate questionnaire with biographical information and answers to questions about important issues.

Each candidate’s response is reproduced exactly as submitted without editing or verification. Each candidate is personally and solely responsible for the content of his/her response.

Candidates are advised that their responses are character limited. Candidates who fail to respond to our invitation to participate in the Voters Guide are listed with the notation, “No Response Received.” Candidates without a photo did not submit one. Some candidates may have submitted responses after the print deadline. We suggest that you check the digital edition of the Voters Guide-- www.lwvhouston.org/votersguide --for additional responses.

The League of Women Voters does not request responses from unopposed candidates. Names of unopposed candidates are listed in the Voters Guide, followed by the notation “Unopposed.”

Candidates are advised that the League of Women Voters reserves the right not to print obscenities, slurs, or egregious personal attacks.

Candidates and races are listed in the order in which they will appear on the official ballot published by the Harris County Office of the Election Administrator.

Every effort has been made to include the most complete, current and accurate information in this Voters Guide; however, Court decisions and other circumstances may change election procedures and processes. Please visit: www.lwvhouston.org/votersguide or www.harrisvotes.com for the most up-to-date information.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: *What steps must be taken to ensure that all HISD students have the resources necessary for academic success?*
PANDEMIC RECOVERY: *What role should HISD play in mitigating not only the academic achievement gap but also the emotional issues faced by students, faculty, and staff as the result of the pandemic?*



GERRY MONROE

BACKGROUND: I’m running because my community demanded I run. The Board has been too dysfunctional over the past 4 years, to continue down this path. I feel I have the right educational background and skills set to help HISD get back to being one of the top school districts in the country. My relationship has been as an educational consultant. I’ve represented teachers, parents, and children. This was to make sure our children receive a quality education.

PRIORITIES: 1. I plan to address teacher pay. Our teachers are grossly underpaid. A first year teacher should make no less than 65K a Year. We need realistic step raises in place, on a yearly basis. 2. Making sure we increase our PUA. No more cutting on campus funding. 3. Making sure our campuses are safe. Student and teacher safety is a must. 4. Lastly funding Special Education to the highest degree. Making sure students are tested and identified if they qualify for Special Education.

Occupation: Education/Political Consultant | **Education:** 1986 Graduate Jack Yates Sr High; 2020 Associates Degree Criminal Justice / Central Texas College; Current Student (Senior) Lamar University Studying Criminal | **Community:** EXE. Director - Unite Urban Alumni Assoc.; EXE Director - One Houston/One Hood; Consultant - Black Families Reunited; Member - United In Peace | **Website:** <http://www.GerryMonroeforHISDTrusteeDistrict.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/TheFiveStarGeneral86>
Campaign Email: gerrymonroefordistrictix@gmail.com | **Campaign Phone:** (832) 933-3447 | **Campaign Address:** 13960 Hillcroft St. Apt 1112 Houston, Texas 77085



JOSHUA RYAN ROSALES

BACKGROUND: I am running for this position because our city and HISD is need of leadership that can put our students and teachers first, make HISD more efficient, ensure HISD is a world-class school district and more investments are made into District 9, a heavily underserved HISD area, that I have seen firsthand. I bring strategic thinking and will bring back the public’s trust in HISD leadership and execute on my promises above. I have been very active in advocating for better conditions in our District.

PRIORITIES: It’s time to prioritize our children and school campus needs. More new schools, increase our teacher and school staff salaries and provide the best technology and facilities to our students and HISD families. Increase wraparound, counseling, tutoring and parent engagement services and ensure oversight so campus leaders are primarily spending on these priorities. I will make sure we are amongst the highest direct spend per student districts in Texas. Our people are our greatest asset.

Occupation: Strategic Planning, Legal Marketing, Communications | **Education:** Double Bachelor’s Degree in Int’l Studies, Spanish, Economics from DePaul University in Chicago. Studied in Madrid, Spain and was a previous law candidate at South Texas Law. | **Community:** Past 2 years serving as Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) President at Hobby Elementary Dual Language Academy in the Brentwood area. | **Website:** <http://www.joshuarosalesforhisd9.com> | **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/JoshuaforHISD9> | **Campaign Email:** joshua@joshuarosalesforhisd9.com | **Campaign Phone:** (979) 709-8933 | **Campaign Address:** 11935 Fortune Park Dr Houston, TX 77047



MYRNA S. GUIDRY

BACKGROUND: I am the current Trustee for HISD District IX, appointed to the seat in December 2020. I want to continue to serve the students, parents, and community as the Trustee of District IX. It’s a privilege to serve, and I’m ready, willing, and committed.

PRIORITIES: Accountability is one of the most pressing issues in District IX. I believe in the “Village Concept” in education. All parties are responsible for the education of the student. Parents, teachers, and the administration all share in the responsibility of student success.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Resources are a valuable asset. We must ensure our resources are

adequately distributed throughout the district, specifically where the need is the greatest. We must be diligent and have discernment in how best to use the resources we have.

PANDEMIC RECOVERY: The pandemic is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. As we all learn and adapt to the science of this virus, it is imperative that HISD as an educational institution guide and lead not only the students and faculty, but also the community at large. We must disseminate the best safety practices for our students, staff, and parents. Communication is a crucial factor in guiding our HISD community to conclude that we will overcome this pandemic and return to a sense of normalcy.

Occupation: Attorney | **Education:** Bachelor of Arts Degree; Juris Doctor Degree | **Community:** Member - Riceville Mt. Olive Baptist Church; Star of Hope - Miles Ministry; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority | **Website:** <http://www.myrnaguidryforhisd.com>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/HISDMyrnaguidry> | **Campaign Email:** info@myrnaguidryforhisd.com | **Campaign Phone:** (985) 517-2848 | **Campaign Address:** 1001 Texas Avenue Suite 250 Houston, TX 77002