

MARCH 14, 2000 PRIMARY ELECTIONS

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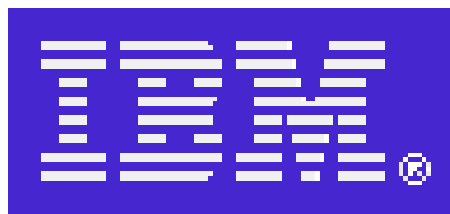
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EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS AND TIMES

The Voters Guide is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund. This educational organization, associated with the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area, operates exclusively for educational purposes in the general areas of government and public policy, carrying out its objectives through research, publication of educational materials, and other appropriate projects.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS A NONPARTISAN ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS TO PROMOTE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH ACTIVE, INFORMED PARTICIPATION OF ALL CITIZENS IN THEIR GOVERNMENT. NEITHER THE LEAGUE NOR THE EDUCATION FUND SUPPORTS OR OPPOSES ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR CANDIDATE.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AUSTIN AREA ACKNOWLEDGES WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE THE SUPPORT OF :



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- **HOLT, RINEHART AND WINSTON**
- **LIBERTY BANK**
- **MAZDA SOUTH**
- **RADISSON HOTEL**
- **SOLECTRON TEXAS**
- **TEXAS DISPOSAL SYSTEMS**
- **THE THOMPSON GROUP**
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The information on Travis County area candidates was compiled by the trustees of the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund. The information on stateside candidates was provided by the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund, whose format has been reprinted as received.

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LWV-AA

Dear Voter,

This VOTERS GUIDE is prepared for you as part of the League's effort to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of all citizens in their government. We hope you study it, share it, and above all, use it to make your choices and VOTE on Tuesday, March 14, 2000.

This is a Primary Election, which means you must make a choice as to which party's primary you will vote in. Furthermore, after the polls close, a precinct party convention will be held for each party in each precinct. The location of the precinct convention should be posted where you vote. The precinct convention provides you the opportunity to influence the party platform as resolutions will be presented (you may want to present one of your own), discussed, and voted on. Resolutions which are passed will be considered at the next level and will continue to the state level if they are passed all the way up the line.

Early voting will be from Monday, February 28 through Friday, March 10. For the sake of the city, county, state, nation and for your sake VOTE on March 14, 2000. Democracy works best when you VOTE!

Maxine Barkan, President
League of Women Voters -- Austin Area

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About the Voters Guide

The **League of Women Voters-Austin Area** is a nonpartisan organization that provides information about political issues and candidates in order to promote greater citizen responsibility and participation in government. Because the League is nonpartisan, it does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It does publish and distribute factual information for citizens to use in preparing to cast an informed vote.

The publication of statements and opinions of candidates is solely in the interest of public service and is in no way to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters. The League takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates.

Responses in this VOTERS GUIDE were obtained by means of a questionnaire sent to all candidates. The answers from candidates are printed exactly as received. The League does not edit for meaning, grammar, or spelling. Because of space restrictions, the League advised the candidates of word limits on their responses. Responses exceeding the 75 word limit have been cut, as indicated by double slash marks (//).

The names of the candidates are listed by political party under the office sought in the order appearing on the ballot. If a candidate did not respond to the questionnaire, the words "No response" appear under the candidate's name. If a candidate has no opponent for the office sought, in either party, the word "Unopposed" appears after his/her name.

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 - DISTRICT 14
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U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Position: 2-year term. Duties: represents district in the United States Congress. Votes on laws that affect policy and budget at the federal level. Serves as advocate for citizens in the district.

DISTRICT 10

Ronnie "Reeferseed" Gjemre - No Response

Jerry J. Mikus, Jr.

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience that qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

I qualify for the office as written in the U.S. Constitution. My training and experience that qualifies me for the office is experiencing the impact of the rules, regulations and laws that our elected officials have bestowed on U.S. citizens. I have served on several non-profit boards, which assist groups to improve their quality of life.

Question 2.

What changes, if any would you propose to ensure Social Security's long-term solvency? What changes would you oppose? (75 word limit)

The changes proposed to ensure Social Security's long-term solvency can be solved by gradual privatizing of "Social Security into the Roth IRA and to cease the practice of using the social Security Trust fund to Balance the Federal Budget. Individuals should be allowed to have control and determine their risk and reward as it affect their retirement investing. The changes I would oppose are allowing the Federal Government to invest in the stock market//

Question 3.

Soft money contributions are unlimited donations to the political parties from corporations, labor unions, and individuals. Should these contributions be regulated? If so, how? (75 word limit)

These contributions should not be regulated. It impairs the ability of free speech in the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Question 4.

Traffic congestion and safety are major concerns along IH-35 due to increased traffic caused by the NAFTA. In what ways can you use your position to help solve these problems? (75 word limit)

Human safety should be placed as a number one priority in solving the problem of IH-35. An alternative route should be built without any delays for truck haulers. I would push extremely hard in making Federal Highway Funds available for construction of the new alternate roadway. I would build consensus among all parties regarding a decision on the route to begin the construction of the roadway without delays.

Question 5.

What should be the federal government's role in insuring basic health care for all citizens? (75 word limit)

Where is it in the U.S. Constitution that the federal government has a role to provide everyone a basic right to Healthcare? If it is a basic right, then food should be the first priority. Once food has been met, then housing should be the second priority. The third priority should be clothing. And lastly healthcare should be provided to everyone. Then you have a country of true socialism instead of a republic. The federal//

Charles Moritz

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience that qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

I am a practicing Nephrologist in Austin. I have been as Assistant Professor of Medicine and have taught in two medical schools. I have extensive knowledge in the medical problems facing the majority of people in both this district and across the USA. I have direct experience in teaching and my medical practice has given me experience in running a small business. I also have served in the US Navy.

Question 2.

What changes, if any would you propose to ensure Social Security's long-term solvency? What changes would you oppose? (75 word limit)

I favor guaranteeing the current level of benefits to those that contribute to the system. The SS system will be broke by 2014, we will need to add some money from the general revenue. I would privatize the system(super IRA). This will allow our children to own and control their retirement monies and save taxes in the long run. I oppose reducing benefits!

Question 3.

Soft money contributions are unlimited donations to the political parties from corporations, labor unions, and individuals. Should these contributions be regulated? If so, how? (75 word limit)

Space does not allow me to fully outline my answer. I would offer the California referendum as an example to begin looking at ways to reform campaign contributions. I do not believe soft money should be eliminated but certainly some reform can be accomplished.

Question 4.

Traffic congestion and safety are major concerns along IH-35 due to increased traffic caused by the NAFTA. In what ways can you use your position to help solve these problems? (75 word limit)

I would use whatever influence available in congress to increase highway funding to Texas. Then I would work with state legislators to help direct the monies to urgent highway problems in Texas. Certainly IH35 is an urgent problem.

Question 5.

What should be the federal government's role in insuring basic health care for all citizens? (75 word limit)

I do not believe the federal government is responsible for providing all citizens with health care. There are areas of health care that the federal government needs to be involved. A need based prescription drug program for the elderly is important. Basic and preventive health care for children is a priority for the federal government. There may be a limited role in other areas on a need basis funded through the state government.

DISTRICT 14

Ron Paul - No Response

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MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 10

Position: 4 year term. Duties: Commissioner of Education and the 15 elected members of the State Board of Education oversee the public education system of Texas in accordance with the Texas Education Code.

Bob Schoolfield - No Response

Cynthia A. Thornton

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience that qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

I am a third generation Texan and public school teacher that has retired after 31 years of teaching experience. After acquiring a BA degree in Secondary Education and Social Studies, I obtained a Masters of Education in Curriculum & Instruction, Political Science and Economics. I have developed curriculum programs including the Advanced Placement United States Government and Economics. I am currently an Advanced Placement Government Reader of Princeton, New Jersey.

Question 2.

What is the unique role of the State Board of Education and is there sufficient justification for the maintenance of a State Board of Education? (75 word limit)

The basic role of the State Board of Education is to establish policies and provide leadership for the Texas public schools. There is a need for the Board to designate instructions of essential knowledge and skills required through a well-balanced curriculum, determine passing scores for performance and oversee the investment of the Permanent School Fund.

Question 3.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

The most pressing problem I will face as a new member of the State Board of Education will be for all the members to accept and understand my sincere approach of my common sense conservative values, my life long experience and knowledge of education and my strong positive commitment to see that all the children of Texas have access to quality education.

Question 4.

What are your views regarding public funding for private school vouchers? (75 word limit)

I would like to see a limited test program for vouchers in six to eight areas in Texas where public schools are not giving the children a first-rate education. If a failing public school will not change, I believe the parents should be able to try a different public school, or a charter school, or a private school with vouchers.

Question 5.

Do you think members of the State Board of Education should be elected or appointed? Explain your position. (75 word limit)

The State Board of Education should be elected by the voters within districts. The members of the Board should represent their constituents, and should be held accountable by their constituents. Government bureaucrats should not determine the members of the State Board of Education.

Brad Shields - No Response

Dolores Hillyer - No Response

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STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 25

Position: 4-year term. Duties: In Texas State Senate, represents Senatorial District 14, composed of most of TRavis County and part of Hayes County.

Jeff Wentworth - Unopposed

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Position: 2-year term. Must be U.S. citizen, 2-year resident of state and 1-year resident of district, 21 years of age. Duties: for each of 150 members of the House of Representatives, consideration of proposed laws and resolutions, consideration of proposed constitutional amendments. All revenue bills and all appropriation of funds for operation of state government must originate in the House.

DISTRICT 47

Terry Keel - Unopposed

DISTRICT 48

Jill Warren - No Response

Maria Gavilan Burbridge - No Response

Scott Loras

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience which qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

I have been an attorney for 14 years, a mediator for 8 years, and a small business owner, giving me a broad range of experience. I have a son in third grade and so a personal investment in seeing Texas education is among the best in the world. As a property owner and taxpayer, I am very serious about reducing and limiting taxes. Living in south Austin, I have daily personal experience with Austin traffic.

Question 2.

What is your position on Campaign Finance Reform, and what do you propose as a solution? (75 word limit)

The key to any campaign reform is full and immediate disclosure of political contributions and expenditures. I favor electronic filing of campaign reports and believe the Ethics Commission should make all campaign reports and filings available online. I am opposed to contribution limits as I believe these end up being nothing more than incumbent protection plans. I also favor limiting or eliminating post-election fundraising from Registered Lobbyists, though not from constituents.

Question 3.

What are your views regarding public funding for private school vouchers? (75 word limit)

Public funding for private schools vouchers must not be accompanied with any regulations on those schools. Private schools must be kept private, without government interference. Public funding for private schools vouchers must also not come at the expense of our public schools. All Texas children deserve a quality education. I believe an efficiently run school system, with proper accountability of those in charge of budgeting and spending, could allow for such implementation.

Question 4.

What changes, if any would you recommend to our annexation laws? (75 word limit)

I believe that no neighborhood or unincorporated area should be forced to join any municipality against its collective will or without a vote of the people of that area. The simple fact is that current annexation laws are a slap in the face of democracy. Cities for too long have been balancing their budgets through annexation. This must stop and Texas cities must learn to be more responsible with taxpayer dollars.

Question 5.

In 1970, some older industrial plants were exempted from air pollution permits (grandfathered). Do you support mandatory or voluntary permits for these plants, and do you support a time limit for obtaining permits? (75 word limit)

I believe that voluntary compliance and permitting is always the best approach. There clearly needs to be a reasonable timeline worked out with industries. This can be accomplished in combination with tax incentives that can be granted on a temporary basis to help companies get their plants and factories retrofitted to meet current standards. To create an arbitrary deadline could lead to industries leaving Texas or an unnecessary loss of jobs.

Robert R. Wyckoff - No Response

Joe R. Anderson - No Response

Al Stowell - No Response

DISTRICT 49

Gus Bloomquist

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience which qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

Served on Board of Directors of Texas Public Employees Associations (TPEA) and Texas Fathers for Equal Rights (TFER). Also served as local Chapter President of TPEA and TFER. Politically active, specializing in honesty, loyalty, modesty and courageous virtues. There are no virtues in values!

Question 2.

What is your position on Campaign Finance Reform, and what do you propose as a solution? (75 word limit)

I am against any campaign finance reform that would limit political speech by restricting contribution to candidates and encourage bureaucratic totalitarianism. However, I would encourage competition in the political process by discouraging ideological monopolization of our institution such as public schools, news media, and entertainment. There can never be a free expression of ideas in the public square.

Question 3.

What are your views regarding public funding for private school vouchers? (75 word limit)

I am opposed to any direct "federal" funding of public or private schools. I support state and local community-direct funding along with federal vouchers to encourage competition of ideas, religions, and philosophies. To support a single public school system (no private or parochial) funded directly by federal, state, and local governments only encourages a monopoly of ideas, religions, and philosophies! To truly separate "religion" and "state" you must separate the source, direct funding, ie. the state.

Question 4.

What changes, if any would you recommend to our annexation laws? (75 word limit)

I support the present annexation laws, subject to voter's approval.

Question 5.

In 1970, some older industrial plants were exempted from air pollution permits (grandfathered). Do you support mandatory or voluntary permits for these plants, and do you support a time limit for obtaining permits? (75 word limit)

I support voluntary permits for older industrial plants exempt from the present air pollution laws, subject to a show cause order that proves excessive high level of air pollutants harmful to the environment.

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3RD COURT OF APPEALS JUSTICE

Position: 6 year term. Must be 10-year practicing lawyer or judge, 35 years of age, Texas resident. Duties: research law and write opinions for civil and criminal matters, hear appeals from district and county courts.

PLACE 1

David Puryear

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I have experience as both a judge and prosecutor. My background includes eight years experience as justice of the peace and County Court judge in Travis County. I also have eight years experience as a Travis County prosecuting attorney and currently serve as Deputy Director of the Special Crimes Division for the Texas Attorney General's office. Undergraduate degree from Southwestern University. Law degree from Texas Tech School of Law.

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

I favor maintaining the current system of having Texas voters elect our judges.

Question 3.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Swift and certain justice requires a swift and careful judiciary. As a Travis County judge, I successfully handled in excess of 25,000 cases in a timely manner. I also reviewed all cases with a commitment to strictly applying the law. I will commit this same work ethic and judicial integrity on the Court of Appeals.

Question 4.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? Please explain. (75 word limit)

I strongly support judicial reforms which strengthen the integrity our state court system. I favor full campaign contribution disclosure, allowing judges to only receive campaign contributions during elections, and limiting judicial contribution amounts for individuals and for law firms.

PLACE 2

No Republican Party Candidate

PLACE 3

No Republican Party Candidate

PLACE 4

Lee Yeakel - Unopposed

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JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Position: 4-year term. Must be 4-year practicing lawyer or judge, 2-year Texas resident, 2-year district resident. Duties: "The district courts are comprised of both civil and criminal courts, each headed by an elected district judge. There are nine district judges and four appointed associate judges in the civil division of the district courts. In general, these civil courts are the primary trial courts in cases involving contracts, personal injury, divorces, taxes, and family related issues."

53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

John Drolla - No Response

98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No Republican Party Candidate

167TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No Republican Party Candidate

200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No Republican Party Candidate

345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No Republican Party Candidate

126TH DISTRICT COURT

Ernest C. Garcia

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

1984 received UT law degree. Over 15 years of legal experience in private practice, corporate practice and public service representing plaintiffs and defendants in trials and appeals in state and federal courts. Served almost eight years with the US Department of Justice. Selected in December 1998 by Governor Bush to serve as the Judge of the 126th Civil District Court. Have presided over 343 civil jury and non-jury trials and contested hearings.

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

Yes. I believe some type of merit screening or selection process could be used to come up with a group of interested persons from which one could be selected or appointed -- perhaps by some type of committee. However after this appointed person has served some time in office they should be subject to be retained or rejected by the voters in an election. The retention election would reinforce that judges are accountable to the public.

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the juvenile justice system? What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

I would encourage expansion of the Leadership Academy of the Gardner-Betts Juvenile Detention Center, and increased funding for intermediate juvenile correction facilities. I also advocate legislative action to allow the coordinated use of the Detention Center and the intermediate juvenile correction facilities to remove juvenile offenders from adverse environmental factors and provide both effective discipline and instruction before returning them to their schools and neighborhoods.

Question 4.

What can be done to solve the problem of overcrowded dockets in the district court? (75 word limit)

The number of civil family law cases continues to increase with little if any increase in court staff. If expanding the number of courts and staff is not currently a financial option then perhaps each of the courts could agree to share a slightly greater load in the family law area until such time as the state and county budget permit an increase in court staff and facilities.

Question 5.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? (75 word limit)

Since state court judges are required to stand for election, candidates unfortunately must solicit contributions to run effective campaigns. Because attorneys want the best person to get elected, they are the primary contributors to judicial candidates. If judges are unable to hear matters brought by trial attorneys who have contributed to their campaigns then attorneys will stop contributing, and candidates will not be able to run effective campaigns to get elected.

353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Demetri Anastasiadis**Question 1.**

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

Demetri Anastasiadis was born in Athens, Greece on 12/12/51, is married to Susan Werner and has a 14 year old daughter, Mary, enrolled at St. Michael's Academy. They are both Assistant Attorneys General in the Law Enforcement Defense Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office, where they defend state law enforcement agencies from suits brought by private parties, and have been since 1987. From 1981-1987, Demetri and Susan were assistant district attorneys in Oklahoma, having//

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

No. The alternative, used for example in Florida, is merit retention wherein the public votes whether to retain the judge, with no alternate candidate available for consideration. In the 22 years this system has been in effect there, not a single judge has ever been turned out of office. It is not likely that there are no bad judges in Florida as the reason that in 22 years, they have all been retained.

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the juvenile justice system? What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

It's been 100 years since an 11 year old Chicago boy's trial on larceny charges led to the nation's first juvenile court. Since then, the lack of parental involvement in the education and upbringing of their children has led to numerous violent tragedies. The answer lies in holding children and their parent accountable through required educational and counseling programs, and the certification of violent juveniles as adults.

Question 4.

What can be done to solve the problem of overcrowded dockets in the district court? (75 word limit)

Overcrowded dockets are the product of underperforming judges. What can be done is to elect judges that appreciate that justice delayed is justice denied and will put in the hours necessary to expeditiously move each case to which they are assigned by issuing prompt rulings and setting cases for trial.

Question 5.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? (75 word limit)

Yes. However, the judge should disclose to the litigants any contribution of \$100.00 or more and permit such litigants to request recusal/disqualification of the judge should they feel that the contribution may impair the judge's ability to render a fair verdict.

390TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Julie H. Kocurek**Question 1.**

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

Education and Certifications: Bachelor of Economics, University of Texas, 1987, Juris Doctorate, St. Mary's University, 1990. Board Certified Criminal Law, 1997. Criminal Justice experience: Assistant County Attorney and Assistant District Attorney. Assignments: Juvenile Division, Trial Division, Child Abuse Division, APD's TOPP Program, Drug Court and the Children's Advocacy Center. As 390th District Court Judge, I conduct daily felony dockets. I have presided over jury trials ranging from Cocaine Possession to Capital Murder.

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

Few states still have partisan elections to select judges. This process conflicts with a judge's oath. I have taken an oath to uphold the laws of this State. I must be fair and impartial. I am prohibited from expressing opinions on partisan issues. Given this reality, it makes little sense to run on any political platform. I support a change to a non-partisan system where candidates are selected by qualification, reputation, and ability.

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the juvenile justice system? What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

While a Juvenile Gang Prosecutor, I saw many of the same children re-offend. These juvenile offenders needed to learn discipline and respect for themselves and others. One program that has been effective in other jurisdictions, is a military style boot camp program. The discipline and training used in this type of sanction creates an improved sense of confidence and self worth for young offenders, that works where other programs have failed.

Question 4.

What can be done to solve the problem of overcrowded dockets in the district court? (75 word limit)

In the Criminal District Courts, the best remedy would be to create additional courts. This would expedite a more efficient administration of justice. I have already worked with other judges to reduce the overcrowding of dockets by transferring cases to my court.

Question 5.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? (75 word limit)

Ideally, judges should not hear cases involving contributors. It creates an appearance of impropriety. Under the present system, there is little alternative; lawyers who appear before judges are usually significant contributors. Disclosure laws make all contributions public, so that when a question arises, conduct may be challenged. Judges should rely upon the community they serve for campaign funding. We must elect ethical judges who will be fair and impartial no matter who appears before them.

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Position: 4 year term. Dutes: Represents the state and victims of crime in the prosecution of felony and juvenile offenses committed in Travis County. Represents the Department of Child Protective Services in civil suits affecting parental rights. State funded division of the office investigates and prosecutes crimes related to the operations of state government, motor fuel tax fraud, insurance fraud, and lottery fraud.

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Question 3.

What do you wish to accomplish if you are elected to this office? (75 word limit)

Question 4.

Describe the role of the Public Integrity Unit. In your opinion has the Public Integrity Unit functioned as intended? (75 word limit)

Shane Phelps - No Response

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TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF

Position: 4 year term. Duties: Enforces laws, protects life and property of Travis County residents, and provides safe, secure, and humane confinement of inmates. Provides patrol and criminal investigations. Special operations include boat patrol, crime prevention, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), dispatch, reserves, response team and the training academy. County's prison population is housed in three major facilities: Central Booking, Travis County Jail, and Travis County Correctional Complex in Del Valle.

Woody Edmiston

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Southwest Texas State University, former Chief of Police in Frankston, Texas, former Travis County Deputy Constable, Certified Texas Peace Officer for 31 years, awarded master's and instructor's certificates from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education (TCLEOSE), licensed Fraud Investigator involved in over 400 criminal, civil and insurance cases over the last two years.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Employee turnover, the Del Valle correctional facility, Central Booking organization, skyrocketing budget, improved employee benefits, oversight of capital projects, establishment of a merit system for promotions.

Question 3.

In light of the events of the past year, what is your position on contracting with private contractors to operate county correctional facilities. (75 word limit)

Contracting with private correctional facilities is not in itself a bad approach to incarceration, but the devil is in the details. When contracts are not properly put together, when the wrong firm is selected, when the contractor is not held accountable, you have a prescription for disaster. There must be proper oversight for any contract in the area of corrections - taxpayer's deserve no less.

Question 4.

What positive innovations would you consider to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the Travis County juvenile justice system? (75 word limit)

Many juveniles repeat bad behavior because they know they can get away with it. Early, effective punishment needs to be available in order to divert young people before they establish a life of habitual crime. An effective restitution program would provide that diversion. It must be staffed with deputies who protect the civilians working in the job sights in order to encourage participation.

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TRAVIS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR - COLLECTOR

Position: 4 year term. Duties: Tax office has three operational areas: voter registration, property tax collection, and motor vehicle titles and registration. In voter registration acts as agent of the secretary of state and is charged with maintaining records of all registered voters in Travis County. Collects current and delinquent property taxes for most Travis County taxing entities such as the City of Austin and AISD. Handles license registration, disabled parking permits, and vehicle titles.

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Question 3.

What can or should be done to increase the efficiency of this office? (75 word limit)

Nathan Zook - No Response

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COUNTY COURT AT LAW JUDGE NO. 5, UNEXPIRED TERM

Position: 4-year term. Must be 18 years of age. Requirement regarding residency and years as practicing lawyer or judge vary by county. Duties: "There are six county courts, each headed by an elected judge. The Criminal Division consists of four courts. These judges hear the most serious misdemeanor cases in Travis County (classes A and B). Cases in the county courts are brought before the judges by the county attorney's office. The Civil Division consists of two courts where the judges primarily hear civil cases in which the amount in controversy is between \$500 and \$100,000."

Grant Goodwin

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I received my doctorate of jurisprudence from St. Mary's School of Law. I have a B.A. from S.M.U. and an A.A. from Lon Morris College. I opened my criminal law practice in Travis County in 1993. I have significant trial experience and have tried many cases before Municipal, County, and District Courts. As a solo practitioner, I have balanced my trial schedule with the day-to-day operations of a small business owner.

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

I support the system as currently authorized by the Constitution of the State of Texas, preserving the power to select judges with the voters of this State. I would however, support the nonpartisan election of judges, if that change is approved by the voters of this State as required by law.

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the Travis County County juvenile justice system? What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

Although County Court #5 hears only criminal cases, it does not have jurisdiction over juvenile trials. However, enacting institutions such as the community court and community citizen's groups are positive steps toward identification and intervention of at-risk youth. For example, my neighborhood, Windsor Park, is part of a citizen's group with neighboring communities, churches, businesses, and A.P.D. to promote community involvement, enlist volunteers for neighborhood watches and graffiti clean-up, and to provide assistance where needed.

Question 4.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? Please explain. (75 word limit)

All Texas Judges are governed by the Code of Judicial Conduct and must comply with those rules to reduce even the appearance of impropriety. The Texas Constitution and the Code of Criminal Procedure also impose obligations to assure accountability, fairness, impartiality, and justice for all. I would follow those rules strictly and would recuse myself whenever mandated by those rules.

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COUNTY ATTORNEY, TRAVIS COUNTY

Position: 4 year term. Duties: Serves as the county's chief legal advisor and prosecuting attorney in the county courts. Provides representation for the state in misdemeanor cases and represents victims of family violence. Processes, collects, and accounts for bad checks, fees for protective orders, and enforcement fees on tax cases as well as reimbursement of college work-study funds.

No Republican Party Candidate

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Position: 4-year term. Must be 18 years of age, 12 month Texas resident, 6-month district resident. Duties: "As a group the commissioners and county judge are the chief policy-making and administrative branch of county government. Among their many functions, the court sets the pay schedule, approves personnel policies, sets tax rates, and determines fees for many county services. The county judge's office coordinates the court's agenda."

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience which qualify you for this office (75 word limit)

Question 2.

Recent annexation by the city will result in greater city/county geographic overlap. In what ways can you use your office to maximize efficient use of city/county tax dollars? Would you consider combining additional city/county functions? (75 word limit)

Question 3.

What is the role of Travis County in regional transportation planning? (75 word limit)

Question 4.

In 1997 the Texas Legislature gave the County Commissioners Courts tools for ground water management and sustainable development. Do you believe Travis County should use that authority? Please explain. (75 word limit)

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

No Republican Party Candidate

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

Todd Baxter - Unopposed

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TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE

Position: 4 year term. Serves as law enforcement agency for Travis County with county-wide jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters. Processes and executes civil process from various courts, including forcible entry and detainers, writs of possession, citations, and executions issued from the justice of the peace courts. Also processes and executes misdemeanor traffic and hot check warrants of arrest for Travis County justice of the peace courts as well as other municipalities and counties. Has a truancy program which contacts parents and initiates filings on juveniles who absent from school.

PRECINCT NO. 2

Jeff Hill - No Response

Bob Vann

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I am the Constable in Precinct 2 having been elected in 1996. I have a Master of Criminal Justice Degree and a Bachelor of Science Degree. I hold Master Peace Officer Certification -- the highest rating for a Texas peace officer. I have 15 years of law enforcement experience. I am currently President of The Central Texas Justices of the Peace and Constables Association and have just been named "Constable of the Year."

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Continuing the efficient, timely and community oriented service that our office has established since I was elected Constable and dealing with the rapid population growth that Precinct 2 has been experiencing that is creating an ever increasing work load for the Constable's Office. I have been dealing with this problem for the past three years and continually review and evaluate office policies and procedures to insure the most efficient and effective methods possible.

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

The Travis County Commissioners' Court has wholeheartedly supported the Constables Offices in the Absent Student Assistance Program for several years. This program is a model across the state in addressing truancy and the parent/guardian right to be informed about their student's school attendance. With the assistance of Pflugerville ISD I helped expand the program to their schools. The whole problem of school attendance is best addressed by more parental/guardian, community and school involvement.

PRECINCT 3

Drew McAngus

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

BA Degree: St. Edward's University, Criminal Justice; AA Degree: ACC; Advance/Instructor's Certificate: TCLOSE, 9 years with the Travis County Sheriff's Department, 5 years as Reserve Deputy Constable with Precinct 3, over 11 years as Licensed Private

Investigator by the State of Texas, United State's Navy, Instructor Texas A&M Police Academy, former instructor for APD, TCSO, and CAPCO.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

There are two pressing problems. The Office needs to stay focused on it's intended purpose, executing all the work generated from the JP Court, and to increase productivity executing civil and criminal warrants. Having a Constable that oversees and directs the day to day activities of the office and provides training for the employees addresses these problems.

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

The Constable's office needs to continue to support the ASAP program and help the parents and guardians to become more involved. This can be done through PTA meetings, educational programs, and student education.

Xavier Montalvo - No Response

PRECINCT NO. 4

No Republican Party Candidate

PRECINCT NO. 5

No Republican Party Candidate

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TRAVIS COUNTY AREA REPUBLICAN PARTY COUNTY CHAIR

Becky Motal - No Response

H.R "Mickey" Bentely

Question 1.

Give the following information about yourself: occupation, education, and relevant experience. (75 word limit)

Austin High graduate 1960, attended University of Texas, youngest member of Austin Sales & Marketing Executives 1963, small business owner (University Printing Co.) 1963, Entrepreneur, developer 1970's, shopping center owner 1970's & 80's, telephone consultant and owner 1988 to 97, real estate broker 1970's to present, pre-paid legal associate broker.

Question 2.

What work of yours **within your party** qualifies you to hold this office? (75 word limit)

H.R "Mickey" Bentely has a long history of volunteer work in the Republican Party. Parcial Listing: "Elect John Tower Committee" 1961 Goldwater campaign 1964 Reagan campaign 1976 Governor Bill Clements 1978, 1982, 1986 Reagan-Bush 1980, 1984 Bush-Quail 1988, 1992 Dole-Kemp 1996

Delegate to many county and state conventions Rick Perry campaign 1998 Governor Bush 1994, 1998 Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison 1993 Sen. Phil Gramm 1984, 1990, 1996 Opposed to Capital Metro's burdensome taxation.

Question 3.

What do you wish to accomplish if you are elected to this office? (75 word limit)

I'm a qualified effective, conservative who will do a outstanding job for T.C.R.P. Building a grass roots bottom-up party, not a top-down party. I pledge to recruit, train and support outstanding candidates. I'm a unifier, not a divider with strong lines of communication we will eliminate harmful confrontation and squabbling. With a strong get out the vote effort, we will achieve our goal of making T.C.R.P. the majority party. Together Everyone Achieves More T.E.A.M.

Alan Sager

Question 1.

Give the following information about yourself: occupation, education, and relevant experience. (75 word limit)

I am an educator, a lawyer, a businessman, a family man, and an active citizen. I operate a business employing more than 500 people in three states, and lecture in government at the University of Texas. For details, please visit our campaign website at tcrp.org. I received a BS in Engineering from Tufts University, a JD from the University of Michigan Law School, and an MA and Ph.D. in Political Science from Northwestern University.

Question 2.

What work of yours **within your party** qualifies you to hold this office? (75 word limit)

I have served as Executive Vice Chairman of the Travis County Republican Parts, as delegate to four state conventions, and as alternate to the 1992 national convention. I have worked many years to elect Republican candidates, and have been a candidate myself, as well as a political consultant, pollster and active participant. I started the first Travis County Republican Party Newspaper in 1986 and have raised more than 1/2 million dollars for Republican candidates.

Question 3.

What do you wish to accomplish if you are elected to this office? (75 word limit)

On my website at tcrp.org, I outline a detailed plan for the future to elect more Republicans in Travis County. This includes professionalizing the party by raising more funds, hiring an Executive Director, communicating more effectively, organizing the vote, securing the vote, and unifying the party. True reform and substantive change will come to Austin when we have a healthy two party system and Republicans seriously challenge the historical dominance of the Democrats.

Hank Davis Gonzalez**Question 1.**

Give the following information about yourself: occupation, education, and relevant experience. (75 word limit)

*61 years of age, native of Travis County *Former County Commissioner *Former APD Detective *US Army Veteran *Businessman & Entrepreneur *Served on Greater Austin/San Antonio Corridor Council *Former member Austin Transportation Study *Past President Travis County Housing Finance Corp. *Served on numerous Community and Civic Boards *Attended Austin High School and Durham Business College

Question 2.

What work of yours **within your party** qualifies you to hold this office? (75 word limit)

Travis County Republican Party Nominee for: Travis County Judge, General Election Nov. 3, 1998.

Question 3.

What do you wish to accomplish if you are elected to this office? (75 word limit)

My plan is to put the County Republican Party "Back on Track" in this new millennium and together we will build a fully functional Party Organization. We need a Party organization that is responsible to all groups and organizations that have made the Republican Party what it is today. Only then will we be able to build a solid future.

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY - TRAVIS COUNTY AREA

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Position: 2-year term. Duties: represents district in the United States Congress. Votes on laws that affect policy and budget at the federal level. Serves as advocate for citizens in the district.

DISTRICT 10

Lloyd Doggett

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience that qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

Prior service as Texas Supreme Court Justice and State Senator offers solid experience in striving for responsive, fair, efficient government. In five years working as Congressman, I have received top rankings from League of Conservation Voters and as "Deficit Hawk" by bipartisan Concord Coalition. As a lifelong Austinite, I understand our community, am committed to constructive change, willing to challenge any powerful interest threatening what we value. I seek to listen and balance conflicting concerns

Question 2.

What changes, if any would you propose to ensure Social Security's long-term solvency? What changes would you oppose? (75 word limit)

I voted to apply budget surpluses to saving Social Security first by paying down the federal debt, at least until enactment of longterm solvency guarantees. As House Social Security Subcommittee member, I oppose replacement of Social Security that recent study concluded benefits only those born after 2025. I favor supplementing Social Security with new individual investment accounts and incentives for employees both to invest earlier and to carry private pensions from job to job.

Question 3.

Soft money contributions are unlimited donations to the political parties from corporations, labor unions, and individuals. Should these contributions be regulated? If so, how? (75 word limit)

Prohibit them. Huge, unregulated "soft" money contributions give special interests a stranglehold on Congress. I have consistently voted against them and for mandating disclosure of contributions for phony advocacy groups promoting abusive hate ads. But so much more reform is needed to clean up this mess, overcome lobby roadblocks, and change the agenda of this "do little" Congress. Genuine bipartisan reform is essential; nothing less than the survival of our democracy is at stake.

Question 4.

Traffic congestion and safety are major concerns along IH-35 due to increased traffic caused by the NAFTA. In what ways can you use your position to help solve these problems? (75 word limit)

I secured federal authorization for SH130 bypass and supported over 60 percent increase in federal formula highway funding for Texas to expand much needed area roadways. But state bureaucracy still shortchanges Travis County on these federal tax dollars, responds slowly, and treats environment as an afterthought. Inter-city trucks should be directed off 135 to bypass. Pavement alone will not solve our problems. We also need efficient public transportation, more bikeways and walkways.

Question 5.

What should be the federal government's role in insuring basic health care for all citizens? (75 word limit)

Prevent managed care interference with doctor/patient relationship. Remove barriers to health care professionals offering best quality care. Stop prescription price discrimination against seniors. Permit those 55-65 to buy into Medicare. Fully implement Work Incentives Improvement Act of which I was a sponsor. Extend "CHIP" to address disgrace of so many uninsured children and their parents. Every American should have access to health insurance coverage at least as comprehensive as that for Congressmembers.

DISTRICT 14

Loy Sneary - No Response

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MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 10

Position: 4 year term. Duties: Commissioner of Education and the 15 elected members of the State Board of Education oversee the public education system of Texas in accordance with the Texas Education Code.

Donna Howard

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience that qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

I served on the Eanes I.S.D. School Board from 1996 until May 1999. I was certified as a Master School Trustee by the Texas Association of School Boards after completing a one-year leadership training program that involved working on educational issues with board members representing diverse school districts throughout Texas. I have testified before and monitored the State Board of Education for many years.

Question 2.

What is the unique role of the State Board of Education and is there sufficient justification for the maintenance of a State Board of Education? (75 word limit)

Since the 1995 re-write of the Texas Education Code, the State Board's duties have primarily included establishing curriculum and graduation requirements, establishing acceptable performance on assessments, approving charter schools, purchasing textbooks, and directing investment of the Permanent School Fund. A state board representing the diversity of Texas school districts ideally results in decisions that best meet the needs of all Texas children. Only two states operate without a state education board.

Question 3.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Continuing to increase standards of performance by strengthening the curriculum, hiring and retaining quality teachers, and ensuring meaningful assessments will be necessary to prepare students for our ever-changing world. Seeking input from teachers, students, parents, and business and community leaders will increase the effectiveness of these efforts. The PSF must be managed with the utmost integrity so that the public is assured every possible dollar will be spent on the education of our children.

Question 4.

What are your views regarding public funding for private school vouchers? (75 word limit)

I am opposed to using public funds to subsidize private schools. Voucher systems take money away from already underfunded public schools. Furthermore, private schools are under no obligation to admit all applicants and can refuse admittance to special needs students who may require greater resources. School choice already exists in public schools with magnet and charter schools and inter/intra district transfers.

Question 5.

Do you think members of the State Board of Education should be elected or appointed? Explain your position. (75 word limit)

The State Board has functioned as both an appointed and elected body. Only ten states have elected boards, and six of those are non-partisan. An elected board is more directly accountable to the public and, perhaps, more representative than an appointed body which often reflects homogeneous viewpoints. Whatever method, the Board should be working together to assure the best educational system for all children and not use its position for political posturing.

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STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 14

Position: 4 year term. Duties: In Texas State Senate, represents Senatorial District 14, composed of most of Travis County and part of Hayes County.

Gonzalo Barrientos - Unopposed

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Position: 2-year term. Must be U.S. citizen, 2-year resident of state and 1-year resident of district, 21 years of age. Duties: for each of 150 members of the House of Representatives, consideration of proposed laws and resolutions, consideration of proposed constitutional amendments. All revenue bills and all appropriation of funds for operation of state government must originate in the House.

DISTRICT 47

No Democratic Party Candidate

DISTRICT 48

Mandy Dealey

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience which qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

Public Service: President of the Austin Area Mental Health Association, Vice-President for Public Policy of the Mental Health Association in Texas, Executive Director of Leadership Texas, President of the Texas Lyceum Association, Texas Director of the Foundation for Women's Resources, President of Planned Parenthood of Austin, and Vice-Chair of the Austin/Travis County Indigent Health Care Task Force. Education: BA from UT and completing an MPA from the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Question 2.

What is your position on Campaign Finance Reform, and what do you propose as a solution? (75 word limit)

The current Texas system allows challengers to raise the funds necessary to have a chance against entrenched incumbents. Any contribution limits would need to be high enough to allow challengers to mount a real campaign against incumbents, offset the advantage of wealthy candidates who can fund their own campaigns and be indexed to inflation.

Question 3.

What are your views regarding public funding for private school vouchers? (75 word limit)

I am opposed to public funding for private school vouchers for two primary reasons. First, I do not think that public funds, tax dollars, should be used to support private ventures. It is very difficult to provide the accountability that is available in the public sector. The second reason is that the use of vouchers takes away money that is badly needed in the public schools system.

Question 4.

What changes, if any would you recommend to our annexation laws? (75 word limit)

In the last session of the legislature, substantial changes were made in the power of cities to annex. Areas to be annexed gained substantial rights in notification and guarantees of service. Cities need to be able to annex adjacent areas in order to protect the city's tax base and provide services to their citizens. I do not favor further changes in the state's annexation laws.

Question 5.

In 1970, some older industrial plants were exempted from air pollution permits (grandfathered). Do you support mandatory or voluntary permits for these plants, and do you support a time limit for obtaining permits? (75 word limit)

Texas should expect to have clean air. I support a reasonable timetable for phasing out or retrofitting older plants that contribute

significantly to air pollution. We should mandate that these plants either improve their emissions or be replaced by plants that meet current standards.

Ann Kitchen

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience which qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

As a healthcare expert, I've worked with legislators to help write and pass legislation making healthcare more accessible for thousands of Texans. I've served as an Assistant Attorney General in Consumer Protection, and was appointed by Gov. Richards to the Statewide Health Coordinating Council. Currently, I manage a PricewaterhouseCoopers healthcare group. Over 25 years, I've served the boards of the Sierra Club, Rape Crisis Center, and Austin Women's Political Caucus, among others.

Question 2.

What is your position on Campaign Finance Reform, and what do you propose as a solution? (75 word limit)

We must end the perception that our government is influenced by political contributions. I support full disclosure for contributions over a reasonable amount, listing employer and occupation, filed in an electronic format. The Ethics Commission must be given real authority. Reasonable contribution limits are needed to prevent the appearance that public officials owe their contributors. Loopholes such as allowing out of state PACs to contribute without filing reports must be closed.

Question 3.

What are your views regarding public funding for private school vouchers? (75 word limit)

I do not support using public tax dollars to support private schools. A voucher program would siphon hundreds of millions in public tax dollars out of our neighborhood public schools. This would create budget shortfalls at public schools, leaving our school boards to raise taxes on local businesses and citizens. Vouchers would not cover the entire tuition, eliminating many students from having a real choice. We can and must strengthen our public school system.

Question 4.

What changes, if any would you recommend to our annexation laws? (75 word limit)

I would not recommend any changes to current annexation laws at this time. New legislation passed last session needs to be given a chance to work. I do support protecting the right of cities to annex, especially areas in which the city has financially supported development and infrastructure. Annexation can help manage growth and protect the long-term financial health of the community, thereby protecting citizens' quality of life.

Question 5.

In 1970, some older industrial plants were exempted from air pollution permits (grandfathered). Do you support mandatory or voluntary permits for these plants, and do you support a time limit for obtaining permits? (75 word limit)

I support mandatory permitting for grandfathered industrial plants. Texas ranks first among all states for total toxic pollutants released to air, land, and water. Over eight million Texans live in areas failing federal air standards. Houston has the worst smog in the nation, and Austin is nearing nonattainment. Voluntary reduction efforts, though helpful, will not solve these problems. I support a time limit for permitting all plants to protect the health and safety of Texans.

DISTRICT 49

Elliott Naishtat

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience which qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

My experience includes five terms in the Texas House, passing over 150 bills, including the Braille Literacy, Landlord-Tenant

Security Devices, Indoor Air Quality, Nursing Home Reform, and Newborn Hearing Screening acts. I serve as chair of the Human Services Committee and a member of the Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee. My training includes a Masters in Social Work and J.D. from the University of Texas.

Question 2.

What is your position on Campaign Finance Reform, and what do you propose as a solution? (75 word limit)

To institute meaningful campaign finance reform, we must establish limits on the amount an individual may contribute to a campaign and the amount that PACs can contribute. We should set an aggregate limit on the total amount of PAC contributions a candidate can accept and develop a program to provide public funding to qualifying candidates. We should require candidates to report the principal occupation and employer of contributors who donate \$250 or more.

Question 3.

What are your views regarding public funding for private school vouchers? (75 word limit)

I am opposed to public funding for private school vouchers and believe we should put all available resources into upgrading and improving our public school system. We should not divert scarce public funds to private schools when our public schools, especially those in disadvantaged areas of the state, need immediate and ongoing additional assistance.

Question 4.

What changes, if any would you recommend to our annexation laws? (75 word limit)

Last session, the Legislature changed the state's annexation laws, giving nts of affected areas and utility districts the opportunity to negotiate and arbitrate terms of annexation. The law requires municipalities to formulate a plan three years in advance of annexation, specifying the services residents would receive. Full city services must be provided within 2 1/2 years of annexation. We should give the new law time to be tested and make changes if problems develop.

Question 5.

In 1970, some older industrial plants were exempted from air pollution permits (grandfathered). Do you support mandatory or voluntary permits for these plants, and do you support a time limit for obtaining permits? (75 word limit)

I support mandatory permits for older industrial plants that were exempted from air pollution permits in 1970. I also support imposing a time limit for obtaining such permits. Last session, the Legislature passed a bill that covers large facilities which emit pollutants, but the emission reduction permits are voluntary and are not subject to contested case hearings. To meaningfully protect our air quality, we need timely, mandatory permitting.

DISTRICT 50

Dawanna Dukes

Question 1.

Please describe your training and experience which qualify you for this office. (75 word limit)

During my three terms in the Texas House, I have relied on my life experiences growing up as a third generation resident of District 50 for continued insight and community input. My professional experience as a community justice facilities planner, small business owner, safety/loss control specialist, small minority/women business consultant, and a B.S. in Psychology from Texas A&M have prepared me for the diverse concerns a legislator must consider for the entire state's welfare.

Question 2.

What is your position on Campaign Finance Reform, and what do you propose as a solution? (75 word limit)

While in the Texas House, I have consistently supported reforms designed to open the campaign finance system to public scrutiny and I continue to support even more complete disclosure requirements. We must also focus on cleaning up the way we finance campaigns in Texas. Options in which I am particularly interested include limiting certain types of contributions, providing public funding for campaigns, or a combination of both.

Question 3.

What are your views regarding public funding for private school vouchers? (75 word limit)

I have voted consistently against vouchers. I unequivocally oppose - both in principle and in practice - any type of voucher system that diverts funds from the public school system to private schools. These plans drain resources essential to guaranteeing a quality public education for all students. Public tax dollars should be spent at schools that accept the entire public, and should not be used to fund schools that admit students selectively.

Question 4.

What changes, if any would you recommend to our annexation laws? (75 word limit)

Annexation laws must encourage true citizen input in the process. This includes ample notice of a city's intent to annex a particular area and a real public hearing process that ensures maximum input from affected residents. I will continue to support any changes that would further this goal.

Question 5.

In 1970, some older industrial plants were exempted from air pollution permits (grandfathered). Do you support mandatory or voluntary permits for these plants, and do you support a time limit for obtaining permits? (75 word limit)

As a member of the House Committee on Environmental Regulation, I fought to close the legal loopholes allowing these "grandfathered" industrial facilities to continue polluting. I support - and am willing to fight for - mandatory permitting of these polluters by a date certain. These plants have had nearly 30 years to comply voluntarily with state and federal air emissions standards after their original exemption. Texas should not coddle these polluters any longer.

Stella Roland - No Response

DISTRICT 51

Glen Maxey - Unopposed

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3RD APPEALS COURT JUSTICE

Position: 6 year term. Must be 10-year practicing lawyer or judge, 35 years of age, Texas resident. Duties: research law and write opinions for civil and criminal matters, hear appeals from district and county courts.

PLACE 1

Woodie Jones

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

Grew up in Austin. Graduated UT (BA 1972, cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) and UT Law School (JD 1975). Practiced law for thirteen years. Elected to 3rd Court of Appeals in 1988. Received LL.M. degree from University of Virginia Law School in 1995. Travis County Bar Association survey (November 1999, sent to 7,000 attorneys) evaluating performance and qualification of all 36 judges in Travis County ranked me as the top-rated judge in the county.

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

Yes. Partisan politics and the judiciary do not mix. Judges do not have a "constituency," but are bound to administer justice impartially to all citizens. Being forced to run as a Democrat or Republican gives the appearance of a constituency and, thus, of partiality. Moreover, electing judges inherently forces judicial candidates to seek campaign contributions from the same lawyers who will be appearing before them, again creating at least the appearance of partiality.

Question 3.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

One of our most pressing problems is keeping up with the growing number of appeals. No new judges have been added to the fourteen Texas courts of appeals since 1981, yet the caseload has grown tremendously since then. Additional staff can help, but modest salaries (legislatively set) make it difficult to lure top attorneys away from lucrative private practice. Without additional judges or funds, the courts can only try to work even harder.

Question 4.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? Please explain. (75 word limit)

Ideally, no, because of the possible appearance of partiality. As a practical matter, however, that course is not feasible. In many, if not most, judicial races, the only people with enough interest and knowledge about candidates to make significant financial contributions are attorneys. A highly qualified incumbent judge may receive contributions from the overwhelming majority of local attorneys. If that judge could not hear cases involving his contributors, he could not perform his job.

PLACE 2

Mack Kidd - Unopposed

PLACE 3

Bea Ann Smith - Unopposed

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JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Position: 4-year term. Must be 4-year practicing lawyer or judge, 2-year Texas resident, 2-year district resident. Duties: "The district courts are comprised of both civil and criminal courts, each headed by an elected district judge. There are nine district judges and four appointed associate judges in the civil division of the district courts. In general, these civil courts are the primary trial courts in cases involving contracts, personal injury, divorces, taxes, and family related issues."

53RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Scott Jenkins

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I graduated from UT Law School in 1978. I've been in private practice for 15 years and a certified mediator for 5 years. I've worked as Assistant Attorney General, Assistant City Attorney and briefing attorney for U.S. District Judge Jack Roberts. During Law School, I worked as legislative aide to State Senator Max Sherman. I served on the State Bar Grievance Committee (hearing panel chairman) which hears and decides complaints against lawyers for unethical conduct.

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

I continue to favor electing our state judges, but I have concerns about it. I certainly think that our campaign finance laws should be strictly enforced, and possibly reformed. All of the proposed changes that I have reviewed have problems. An extensive examination of how to reform our judicial selection process must be undertaken.

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the juvenile justice system? What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

We have an extremely successful mentoring program in place which has worked for those children who are provided with one. Unfortunately, most children who could benefit from this program are not provided a mentor. It needs to be expanded. We also need to work more closely with educators to expand school-based programs designed to remove obstacles to staying in school; such as abuse, need for remedial help, and inadequate physical and mental health services.

Question 4.

What can be done to solve the problem of overcrowded dockets in the district court? (75 word limit)

Our Central Docket System actually allows for most cases to be heard more quickly than other comparable counties. I strongly advocate the use of mediation to resolve disputes.

Question 5.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? (75 word limit)

Judges should not hear cases involving parties who contributed to their campaign, but it is permissible for them to hear cases in which the lawyers representing the parties have contributed to their campaign. Successful judicial candidates almost always receive financial support from all segments of the legal community, and it would be almost impossible for them to never hear a case in which such lawyers were involved.

Susan Haney

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I graduated from the UT Law School in 1987 with Honors. My practice has been devoted to litigating difficult legal issues, representing both plaintiffs and defendants. I am a partner in the firm of von Kreisler & Swanson, having represented small businesses and individuals in business, consumer and employment-related litigation. I have served on the State Bar Consumer Law Council since 1993. I have volunteered extensive legal services for VLS and CAALP.

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

I would support the election of judges by a nonpartisan system. In the past, we have lost many outstanding judges through the election process simply because the political popularity has shifted from one party to the other, with reference to the qualifications of the judicial candidates. Continued use of the electoral process to choose our judges is necessary to preserve the public's right to remove a judge for improper conduct.

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the juvenile justice system? What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

My past work with at-risk teens has shown a need for a support system for families under economic or emotional stress. I would support parenting classes that deal with behavior control issues, especially for single parents, and a system for referrals for housing, legal, financial and psychological counseling and alcohol and drug abuse counseling to alleviate familial stress. Many families need these outside resources in raising healthy children.

Question 4.

What can be done to solve the problem of overcrowded dockets in the district court? (75 word limit)

Great inroads have already been made in the overcrowded docket problem through the use of a duty judge system and family law masters. The best deterrent to an overcrowded system are strong, decisive judges on the bench who keep control over the use of time in their courtroom by limiting lawyers to their time announcements and by ruling on the issues once each side has argued, without allowing extended discussion.

Question 5.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? (75 word limit)

In the ideal world, the answer to this is "no." But history shows that the majority of contributors to judicial campaigns are attorneys, not the average voter. If judges could not hear cases involving contributors, most contributions to judicial candidates would end. The State Bar of Texas has recently completed a survey that indicates that a majority of judges and attorneys believe that campaign contributions significantly affect decisions in the courtroom. That's a serious problem.

98TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

W. Jeanne Meurer - Unopposed

126TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Darlene Byrne

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

During my thirteen year legal career, I have had primary responsibility for an estimated 700 contested civil matters of all types (e.g. commercial, civil rights, condemnation, fraud, employment), for plaintiffs and defendants. I have worked as a Travis County assistant attorney and as a private attorney. I have handled matters at all levels -- administrative agencies, the courtroom, and appellate courts. I graduated from the University of Houston Law Center, with high honors.

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

Reform is necessary. Although there appears to be no perfect system that is yet statistically and comparatively proven, I believe that the people should continue to have a vote in who sits on the bench. Non-partisan elections or retention elections appear to be possible viable methods of election reform. More importantly, reform need to occur in how judicial campaigns are financed.

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the juvenile justice system? What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

The bench should partner with families, other community leaders, and the schools to address how to keep kids in school, keep kids healthy and safe. Activism from the bench, such as was shown by Judge McCown, regarding child abuse and an underfunded CPS program is but one way for the bench to address juvenile issues with the credibility to result in solutions to the problems.

Question 4.

What can be done to solve the problem of overcrowded dockets in the district court? (75 word limit)

The continuation of mediation weeks should be supported in order to trim the docket. My suggestion is to provide extended or alternative court hours. The establishment of specialized courts should increase efficiencies, such as in the area of family law and protective orders. An increase in the number of Travis County District Courts is still necessary or alternatively, increase the jurisdictional authority of our existing county courts at law.

Question 5.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? (75 word limit)

The ideal answer is no, however, presently that is not totally realistic. The expense of mounting a modern partisan campaign creates significant financial pressure that the current contribution limits do not alleviate. A perception of impropriety can arise when individual donors to judicial campaigns appear before the bench. I believe some form of public finance of judicial elections should be considered in order to avoid such perceived impropriety.

167TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Mike Lynch - Unopposed

200TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Paul Davis - Unopposed

345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Scott McCown - Unopposed

353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Margaret Cooper

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I have served as Judge of the 353rd District Court since 1993. Prior to my election, I practice for fourteen years in civil trial and administrative law, and am board-certified in administrative law. I am a past president of the Travis County Women Lawyers Association and serve on the board of the Lawyer Referral Service. I present frequently at continuing legal education seminars and am a member of the State Bar College.

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

As a judicial candidate, I can express no opinion in favor of or opposition to legislative proposals that might come eventually to the

courts for decision. I can support change, if any, that the legislature makes to the existing system and observe the law. I have been a proponent of the election of judges in the past.

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the juvenile justice system? What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

Travis County has developed several programs, many of which impact the juvenile recidivism rate. Juvenile crime is down, and a majority of current referrals are for misdemeanors. Probation officers located in schools, citizen volunteers trained to conduct victim/offender mediations, neighborhood conference committees, the JOSATS Network, and the Leadership Academy are examples of efforts to impact juvenile offenders. The Juvenile Board encourages similar innovations recommended by professional staff to improve our approach to juvenile crime.

Question 4.

What can be done to solve the problem of overcrowded dockets in the district court? (75 word limit)

Travis County's central docket system is the most efficient tool that insures the timely disposition of our caseload. In addition, many family law cases are referred to our associate judges for a more timely accommodation of time-sensitive issues. We continue to encourage alternate dispute resolution and require mediation for all jury cases and certain non-jury cases. These efforts continue to be effective in reducing the number of cases filed that must be tried.

Question 5.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? (75 word limit)

Given our present system, the financial realities of a county-wide campaign and the enormous cost of television necessary to reach eligible voters, there is little alternative. The reality is that lawyers contribute more than other sectors of our community to all political races. Generally, lawyers representing both plaintiffs and defendants contribute, and my experience is that favoritism is not expected, but a fair and impartial application of the law to the facts.

390TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Karrie Key

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

17 years of legal experience: B.A. and M.A., UT Austin; J.D. University of Houston, 1983; Board Certified, Criminal Law, 1990; Briefing Attorney, Judge Sam Houston Clinton, Criminal Appeals; Prosecutor, six and 1/2 years--Travis & Harris Counties; Defense Attorney--Harris County; Chief, Fraud Unit, Texas Department of Insurance; Attorney, Ivy, Crews, Elliott P.C.; Judge, City of Austin, 1995 to present (Duties: reviewing criminal charges, from DWI to murder; issuing protective orders in domestic violence cases.)

Question 2.

Do you support changes in the way judges are selected? Please explain. (75 word limit)

Yes. For judges, optimally, politics should not be as important as qualifications. To date, however, any governor's appointments to district benches are made, in large part, on the basis of political affiliation. Allowing only an appointment process removes the public's voice, so crucial to our system of checks and balances. What we really need to reform is how judicial campaigns are financed.

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the juvenile justice system? What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

We must take larger steps toward detecting and seeking to prevent abuse, so often the cause of juvenile crime. Moreover, from first grade on, children at risk should receive education in conflict and anger management. Emotional intelligence can be learned. Because adult drug courts have been successful, I urge establishment of a juvenile drug court; many juvenile crimes have their roots in addiction. Of course, any plan for juvenile rehabilitation must include the family.

Question 4.

What can be done to solve the problem of overcrowded dockets in the district court? (75 word limit)

I suggest relatively inexpensive ways: Holding Saturday courts; allowing greater use of mediation to resolve disputes; creating more neighborhood dispute resolution centers; raising the jurisdiction limits of county courts; enforcing mandatory discovery rules; and reducing court costs for those who settle cases early in the process.

Question 5.

Should judges hear cases involving contributors to their campaigns? (75 word limit)

Judges often hear cases involving contributors; current contribution limits do not eliminate the appearance of impropriety. I support reform of judicial elections; to reduce the cost of campaigning, perhaps a system whereby judges raise a specific number of small contributions to qualify for donated media such as TV--which would help communicate candidate's qualifications to all voters. Until we reform campaign financing, the legal system and our sense of democracy will feel a negative effect.

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Position: 4 year term. Dutes: Represents the state and victims of crime in the prosecution of felony and juvenile offenses committed in Travis County. Represents the Department of Child Protective Services in civil suits affecting parental rights. State funded division of the office investigates and prosecutes crimes related to the operations of state government, motor fuel tax fraud, insurance fraud, and lottery fraud.

Ronald Dale Earle

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I have BA (1964) and JD (1967) degrees from UT. I have served on the staff of Governor John Connally, as presiding judge of the Austin Municipal Court, as head of the Texas Judicial Council, as a member of the Texas House of Representatives, and for 23 years as district attorney. I have been married for 22 years and help raise three children, all of whom live in Austin.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

The single most pressing problem from which all others stem is decay of the institutions of community, which leads to abuse and neglect of children, which in turn leads to crime and other dysfunction. The combination of tough prosecution and smart prevention I employ in order to rebuild the institutions of community has resulted in, among other things, a reduction in juvenile crime by 34% since 1996 and the murder rate by 49% since 1991.

Question 3.

What do you wish to accomplish if you are elected to this office? (75 word limit)

Austin stands at the cusp of a new way of life brought to us by virtue of our unparalleled prosperity, and it can bring us together or drive us apart. I want to use crime as an opportunity to reweave the fabric of community by sharing the power of the criminal justice system with the community. That way we make Austin a still more peaceful, prosperous, and interesting place for our children and grandchildren.

Question 4.

Describe the role of the Public Integrity Unit. In your opinion has the Public Integrity Unit functioned as intended? (75 word limit)

I established The Public Integrity Unit in 1978 to be a watchdog for state government. The expansion of the unit and its role to include statewide jurisdiction over major insurance fraud, motor fuels tax fraud, and environmental crimes is a testament to the unit's success and the confidence of the public that it enjoys. For relatively little cost, it has exceeded expectations and immeasurably improved government ethics and efficiency through prosecution, consultation, and education.

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COUNTY ATTORNEY, TRAVIS COUNTY

Ken Oden - Unopposed

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TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF

Position: 4 year term. Duties: Enforces laws, protects life and property of Travis County residents, and provides safe, secure, and humane confinement of inmates. Provides patrol and criminal investigations. Special operations include boat patrol, crime prevention, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), dispatch, reserves, response team and the training academy. County's prison population is housed in three major facilities: Central Booking, Travis County Jail, and Travis County Correctional Complex in Del Valle.

Margo L. Frasier

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

Since 1997, I have been Sheriff. I bring 25 years of experience in all aspects of criminal justice including 10 years with TCSO. Education includes Bachelors in Criminology, 30 hours towards Masters in Criminal Justice Management, and Juris Doctor. I hold jail and peace office certifications. I am a graduate of the National Sheriffs' Institute. The Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas selected me the Administrator of the Year in both 1997 and 1998.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Growth; whether it be the jail population or the number of calls for service. I proposed the plan which is being implemented to expand the jail facilities for hardened inmates. I am working on a plan (to be presented this year) to divert Class C offenders with substance abuse problems from the jail. We are dealing with increased call load by further implementing community policing, realigning districts, and seeking additional deputies through grants and funding.

Question 3.

In light of the events of the past year, what is your position on contracting with private contractors to operate county correctional facilities. (75 word limit)

Operation of county correctional facilities should be by the Sheriff as the laws of Texas provide. Private contractors are in it to make a profit by cutting corners and paying low salaries to the staff. There is truth in the statement "you get what you pay for" when it comes to staff. the key is to pay well enough to recruit professional staff and then hold them accountable for their actions; which I do.

Question 4.

What positive innovations would you consider to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the Travis County juvenile justice system? (75 word limit)

The key is to keep them out of the system in the first place by working with the families and schools which is why I have doubled the number of deputies in the schools. Once they are in the system, there needs to be a better partnership between the juvenile system and law enforcement so that law enforcement can mentor these juveniles in their neighborhoods and schools to help them stay on the right path.

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TRAVIS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR - COLLECTOR

Position: 4 year term. Duties: Tax office has three operational areas: voter registration, property tax collection, and motor vehicle titles and registration. In voter registration acts as agent of the secretary of state and is charged with maintaining records of all registered voters in Travis County. Collects current and delinquent property taxes for most Travis County taxing entities such as the City of Austin and AISD. Handles license registration, disabled parking permits, and vehicle titles.

Nelda Wells Spears

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

B.A. Degree in English, M.A. Degree in Communications. Certified by Texas Board of Tax Professional Examiners as Registered Texas Assessor-Collector. Twelve years experience in ad valorem tax collections, voter registration under the Texas Election Code, Texas vehicle registration and titling.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Keeping up with demand for service from a rapidly growing population and providing technological solutions to benefit all citizens. I will continue to work with other government agencies and officials to bring new and emerging technologies to the Tax Office. I will work to make more information available online and to provide better access for all citizens. I will monitor demographic trends to ensure that service delivery is adequate to meet citizen needs.

Question 3.

What can or should be done to increase the efficiency of this office? (75 word limit)

The Travis County Tax Office is one of the most efficient in the country. The office is used by others as a model for efficiency in government. We are continually seeking out opportunities for improvement. We are now in process of opening a new website where people can find out the location of their polling places. We will be working toward a check-by-phone system and other improvements in service delivery to the public.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Position: 4-year term. Must be 18 years of age, 12 month Texas resident, 6-month district resident. Duties: "As a group the commissioners and county judge are the chief policy-making and administrative branch of county government. Among their many functions, the court sets the pay schedule, approves personnel policies, sets tax rates, and determines fees for many county services. The county judge's office coordinates the court's agenda."

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

Ron Davis - Unopposed

COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

No Democratic Party Candidate

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TRAVIS COUNTY CONSTABLE

Position: 4 year term. Serves as law enforcement agency for Travis County with county-wide jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters. Processes and executes civil process from various courts, including forcible entry and detainers, writs of possession, citations, and executions issued from the justice of the peace courts. Also processes and executes misdemeanor traffic and hot check warrants of arrest for Travis County justice of the peace courts as well as other municipalities and counties. Has a truancy program which contacts parents and initiates filings on juveniles who are absent from school.

PRECINCT NO. 1

Michael A. Carter

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I am an Austin Police Officer. For the past 24 years I have dedicated myself to law enforcement. In APD Community Services I worked in Precinct One to reduce crime. I have trained residents of Precinct One in community oriented programs i.e., Crime Prevention, Substance Abuse, Juvenile related crimes, Family Violence, Child Abuse, Juvenile Delinquency Prevention, Vice/Street Narcotics and related issues. I have 2000 hours in law enforcement training.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

I think the issues are educating the community about the duties of the Office, increasing funding for more personnel and working with other law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of our residents. I will ensure greater efficiency in serving citations and the civil process. The deputies will execute warrants timely and safely. I want to expand the duties to include partnerships schools and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies to reduce crime, truancy and//

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

I think we should work more cooperatively with the parents by providing targeted education about the importance of school, make workshops available in the schools for guardians who are having problems with their children and ensure that all law enforcement officials are questioning youth when they encounter them out of school during the day. I would like to see a brochure that lists resources for the parents to assist them in identifying agencies or organizations//

Luke Mercer

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

Travis County Constable since April 9, 1998 Licensed Peace Officer, 1976 Basic Intermediate and Advanced TCLEOSE Certifications 42 Certified Courses by Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and Officer Standards and Education, Travis County Sheriff's Office and/or Travis County Knowledge of principles and practices of general administration and management Of the local and state government code Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with government Officials, employees and the public

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Presently, the most pressing problem facing this office is truancy and student absenteeism. The Precinct One Constable's department will continue the operation of the Absent Student Assistance Program (ASAP) which has been in force since 1998. Coupled with this program we are working with the Weed and Seed program, a community oriented policing program whereby law enforcement agencies come together and address the problems of the community

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

I am in support of the ASAP project because of the information and knowledge this program brings to the parents and guardians of students that are attending school in order that we can work together to keep them in school. With this program, I think we can give guardians the knowledge and understanding that can keep them updated on their child, thereby keeping them involved.

Flynn A. Lee

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I have 17 years of law enforcement experience- Chief Deputy in Constable Precinct 1, City of Austin Park Police and Marshall's Office, Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Texas Commission of Human Rights Investigator, Dell Computer Corp. Fraud Investigator. Board Member- Travis Co. East Rural/Manor Center, Maplewood Elementary School-Campus Advisory Committee and Appointed by County Judge to Capitol Area Development Board Youth Council.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

The pressing problems facing this office are improving the image and visibility of the constable's office by being an effective leader which will regain respect and credibility for the office; improve customer service to the taxpayers; increase revenue opportunities; improve safety and training for employees and provide them with the resources to get the job done; and improve community involvement and encourage monitoring programs for the youth in the precinct.

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

First we must encourage active participation by the parent/guardian in our children's education. It is necessary that the student's family is aware of his or her attendance record. Secondly, through Travis County's ASAP resources and manpower should be placed in the areas where attendance is low. Third, 100% support from the administrators and staff at the individual schools is necessary in order to make this program effective.

PRECINCT NO. 2

Kevin Ward

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I have served in emergency services since 1989. Progressive work experience and education to include graduation from sheriff, firefighter and EMT academies to obtain state certifications with continuing education in all related fields. I have served our community as a peace officer, firefighter, and fire department operations manager. Active in the community with support and leadership groups, volunteer community service functions for the less fortunate, and volunteer emergency services in precinct two.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

I believe it is the tremendous growth rate of Austin and Precinct two. Associated with this type of growth are many problems. However, individual community issues such as crime, emergency preparedness, and safety must involve communication between a community and government agencies to create proactive solutions to foreseeable problems. My goal to address growth problems, will involve a close community and business interaction on a daily basis.

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

Development of communication and counseling links between parents, schools, and students. In order to obtain proper counseling for a student or parent, than we must recognize other causes that effect a positive learning experience for a student. Also we must provide proper education to all support staff to assist in recognizing other contributing problems and an avenue for reporting observations.

PRECINCT NO. 3**Kevin Miskell****Question 1.**

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I have been the Constable of Precinct 3 for over 11 years. Prior to being elected in 1988, I was a deputy constable with Travis County. I am licensed Texas Peace Officer holding an advanced certification level. As an example of my experience and expertise, I am an instructor with the Austin Police Department's Landlord Training Program that helps to teach landlords how to keep criminal activity out of rental properties in Austin.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

The most pressing problem for my office as well as other county offices is the enormous growth of Travis County. This growth in population creates a companion increase in demand for services. I am currently working with the Travis County Planning and Budget office to propose methods with which the 5 Constables of Travis County could better work together toward ending duplication of services and stretching our scarce resources even further.

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

We must continue ASAP, the Absent Student Assistance Program. The mission of this program is to inform parents whenever a school reports that their child has missed school or class. My office is also currently working with Crockett High School and the Justice of the Peace to hold Court on school attendance cases at Crockett. Creative methods like this will help reinforce the message to kids that education is important and skipping school is serious

PRECINCT NO. 4**Joe Hardin - No Response**

Maria L. Canchola

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

Attended The University of Texas 1971-73, Certified Texas Peace Officer Southwest Texas Law Enforcement Academy, October 1977. Eleven years law enforcement: Park Police; senior lead Deputy, Juvenile Warrant Unit; Warrant Officer, Family Violence/Child Support Unit; Deputy Constable, Precinct 5 for the past 7 years (Currently on leave of absence).

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Regaining the public's trust by my commitment to a constable's office that has integrity, that is run effectively, and that is accountable to the public. Restoring morale to its employees with good comprehensive office policies and procedures, and adhering to them and by a strong chain of command.

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

We must pro-actively work to bring the parent/guardian n authority into active participation with their children's school. There must be interaction between parent, teachers, counselors and school personnel to the point where the parents are as well known to the school as are the students.

Rocky Medrano**Question 1.**

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

A. I have been a Texas Police Officer for over 28 years. I am a retired Texas State Trooper with 22 years of experience and a Travis County Constable for over six years. 1. Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from Central Texas College. 2. Bachelor of Science from Southwest Texas State University. 3. License Texas Police Instructor 4. License Texas Police Firearms Instructor B. Baseball Coach for 24 years and public servant.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

Lack of personnel to adequately execute the truancy program. At the present time our precinct handles more than half of all students reported as unexcused absences from AISD and DVISD in Travis County. Another major problem is that AISD schools fail to participate in a regular manner. Next budget will show requests with proof of needs to Commissioner's Court. AISD Superintendent will also request budget increase to adequately address truancy issues.

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

Our schools will have to identify "at risk" students that are falling by the way-side and dropping out of school. Because the schools are not addressing the truancy issue in a regular manner, the parents of students are not aware of their child not attending school until it is too late to remedy the problem and the student drops out. Our legislature needs to give us the tools through the law to adequately address and//

PRECINCT NO. 5**Bruce Elfant**

Question 1.

What are your qualifications for this office? Include education, occupation, training, and experience. (75 word limit)

I am a licensed Texas Peace Officer with more than 600 hours of required training and degrees in Communication and Criminal Justice. I have worked in the Precinct 5 Constable's office for 13 years and have served as Constable for 2 terms. As Constable, I supervise an office of 50+ employees with a budget of \$2 million. In 1997 my colleagues selected me as Texas Constable of the Year.

Question 2.

What are the most pressing problems you will face in this office, and how will you propose to handle those issues? (75 word limit)

The ability to effectively handle increasing caseloads is a challenge for my office and the courts. Many court cases become necessary because prior efforts to enforce court orders or contracts were ineffective. I helped initiate use of the Dispute Resolution Center to resolve court matters and am working to improve the child support system that would reduce the need for many enforcement actions. I will pursue strategies to resolve matters without costly and lengthy litigation.

Question 3.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

In 1995 I helped implement the Absent Students Assistance Program (ASAP) that is intended to help families identify and resolve problems that lead to students dropping out of school. Through ASAP we work with parents to help them obtain whatever help they need to help them be more effective parents. As a member of the AISD Dropout Prevention Task Force, I am working to improve communication between schools and parents.

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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT NO. 5, UNEXPIRED TERM

Position: Four year term. Must be 18 years of age, 12-month Texas resident, 6-month district resident. Duties: "Justices of the peace handle both civil and criminal cases, including small claims court, justice court, and administrative hearings. In practical tethese are lawsuits over debts, evictions, car accidents, unlawful towing, and property. Their criminal workload involves disposing of all class C criminal misdemeanor complaints, such as traffic citations, issuance of bad checks and others. These cases involve payment. setting contested cases for trial, and pre-trial hearings with the county prosecutor. Precinct 5 is the only JP court which handles felonies as well as A and B misdemeanors. Other duties include presiding over peace bond hearings, reviewing applications for mental health or chemically dependent commitments, conducting compulsory school attendance trials, giving warnings to juveniles required by law..."

Question 1.

What training and experience do you have which qualify you for this position? (75 work limit)

Question 2.

Do you think the minimum requirements for this position are sufficient for carrying out the duties of the office of Justice of the Peace? Please explain. (75 word limit)

Question 3.

What would you do to reduce the recidivism rate of juveniles that come through the Travis County juvenile justice system: What positive innovations would you consider? (75 word limit)

Question 4.

What more can be done to support the parental/guardian authority to ensure school attendance? (75 word limit)

Herb Evans - Unopposed

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TRAVIS COUNTY AREA DEMOCRATIC PARTY COUNTY CHAIR

Scott Ozmun

Question 1.

Give the following information about yourself: occupation, education, and relevant experience. (75 word limit)

I am a civil trial attorney with Whitehurst, Harkness, Ozmun & Archuleta. I graduated from Georgetown University and then UT Law School. After graduating from law school, I was a briefing attorney for the Supreme Court of Texas. I have been involved in ensuring that the poor have access to justice. I have been on the Boards of Directors (and President) of both Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas and Legal Aid of Central Texas.

Question 2.

What work of yours **within your party** qualifies you to hold this office? (75 word limit)

I became involved in the Travis County Democratic Party when I was in law school. I have been a sustaining member of the TCDP for the past 15 years. I have helped numerous Democratic candidates in various campaigns since the early 80's. More recently, I have been raising money for TCDP by recruiting additional sustaining and finance council members. I also obtained sponsorships for the Filing Day Dinner.

Question 3.

What do you wish to accomplish if you are elected to this office? (75 word limit)

I would like to build on our fundraising base and increase the number of sustaining and finance council members. I would also like to see the Party increase our grass roots efforts. I would also like to see the Party recruit new members from newcomers to Travis County, who need to be informed that the quality of life that brought them to Travis County is largely as a result of Democratic public officials.

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LIBERTARIAN PARTY- TRAVIS COUNTY CANDIDATES

(See Statewide Candidates in this Voters Guide for a description of the Libertarian Party Convention and candidate selection process.)

The following Libertarian Party members have announced their candidacies for the respective offices:

Travis County Sheriff--**Darrin Roush**

Justice of the Peace, Place 5--**Jim Bednar**

Constable, Pct. 2--**Elayne Hunt**

Constable, Pct. 5--**James M. Branum**

Tax Assessor-Collector--**Jerry Chandler**

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THE REFORM PARTY OF TEXAS

The Nomination Process: Currently, the nomination process differs from that of the Republican and Democrat Parties. The Reform Party will nominate all candidates through county, district, state, and national conventions. To take part in the Reform Party nomination process, a registered voter should participate in the local Reform Party precinct conventions and **not** vote in the Republican or Democrat primaries. Participating in the primaries affiliates the voter to that party. A registered voter can only become a member of one political party. The Reform Party's precinct conventions will be held at the same locations as the Republican and Democrat primaries. The time, however, is somewhat different. The precinct conventions will commence at 7:00 pm at the voting locations throughout your area.

The Presidential Nomination Process: To vote in the Reform Party Presidential Primary a ballot must be obtained. Ballots will be sent to members of the Reform Party who affiliate through the precinct convention process and voters who sign the Reform Party ballot access petition. Registered voters may also contact the State Party and request a ballot.

The Reform Party Ballot Access Petition: The Reform Party of Texas will be petitioning from March 14th through May 31st for ballot access. Currently, the Reform Party does not have standing under state law to have candidates listed on the ballot. All registered voters who have **not** participated in another political party's primaries or precinct conventions can sign the petition. The Reform Party of Texas needs approximately 40,000 signatures statewide for ballot access.

More Information: For more information about the Reform Party contact: Bryan Martin, Travis County Chairman (512) 338-9834 **or** bryan@texasreform.org **or** <http://texas.reformparty.org>; Lee Pepper, Texas Chairman 1-888-488-8038 **or** chair@texas.reformparty.org **or** <http://texas.reformparty.org> **or** Paul Truax, Regional Reform Party USA Representative 1-888-488-8038 **or** ptruax@compuassist.net **or** <http://www.reformparty.org/>

Local Reform Party Nomination Seekers:

Texas House of Representatives District 48: **Linda Curtis**

Texas House of Representatives District 50: **Gilbert Rivera**

Texas Senate District 14: **Martha J. Byram**

US House of Representatives District 21: **Stephen Wyman**