



League of Women Voters  
of Collin County  
[www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org)

Nonpartisan

# Voters Guide

June 15, 2013, Runoff Election  
Collin College

**Early voting: June 3–11**

**Election Day: June 15 – Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

## About This Voters Guide

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

This guide lists candidates for Collin College Board of Trustees in a Runoff Election, as shown in the table of contents.

This *Voters Guide* is available online at [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org), along with a separate guide for the Plano City Council Runoff Election. Candidate responses for all runoff races are also available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), including an "On Your Ballot" feature that allows voters to enter an address and review races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates who appeared on the ballot for the May 11, 2013, Collin College Election. This *Voters Guide* reprints the responses from candidates who will appear on the ballot for the June 15, 2013, Runoff Election.

Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. Responses were limited to 600 characters. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents.

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## Qualifications for Voting

To vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, registered to vote, a resident of the county, and at least 18 years old on Election Day. You must not have been declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law. If you have been convicted of a felony, you may register to vote only after you have completed the punishment phase of your conviction, including any terms of incarceration, parole, supervision, or period of probation ordered by the court.

## Where to Vote

During **early voting June 3–11**, you may vote at any early voting location. Early voting is open to all voters, no excuses necessary. On **Election Day June 15**, you must vote in the precinct in which you reside. Your precinct is listed on your voter registration card.

For polling locations and sample ballots, visit [www.co.collin.tx.us/elections/index.jsp](http://www.co.collin.tx.us/elections/index.jsp) or call the Collin County Elections Office at 800-687-8546 (toll-free).

To enter your address and see all races for that address visit [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).



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

# Collin College Board of Trustees

## Description

6-year term, elected countywide. Must be a US citizen, at least 18 years of age, a qualified voter and a resident of Collin County. The Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the District President, establishes the vision for the future of the college, its mission and strategic direction. The Trustees establish college policy, providing rigorous fiscal oversight and leadership for the college’s continued growth and success in meeting the needs of its students and community.

## Questions

**Tuition:** How can the college keep tuition affordable for its students?

**Other Revenues:** Is the college’s non-tuition income adequate to fund its infrastructure and programs? Why or why not?

**Business:** How can the college prepare students to work in the current business and professional community and find jobs?

**Teachers:** How can the college attract and keep good teachers?

**Other Issues:** What are the most important issues you think will come before the college in the next few years? What are your views on these issues?

## Collin College Trustee, Place 4 Candidates (2):

### Adrian Rodriguez – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 4



#### Contact Information

**Campaign Phone:** (972) 517-5275

**Web Site:** [www.VoteAdrianCampaign.com](http://www.VoteAdrianCampaign.com)

**Email:** [adrian.rodriguez17@verizon.net](mailto:adrian.rodriguez17@verizon.net)

**Education:** Bachelor Of Music Education from Texas State University, 1975. Master of Science in Social Work, 1990

**Experience:** I have worked 29 years in education as a teacher, social worker and behavior specialist. I also worked in the insurance industry as a commercial property underwriter for seven years.

**Tuition:** Collin College already has the lowest tuition in the entire state at \$37 a credit hour. The current board and Collin College leadership has maintained fiscal responsibility through a very efficient system. The Collin College Foundation has excelled at raising funds for scholarships to offset tuition costs. We must continue the example of the leadership and grow it by, for example, looking at group rates for electricity or sharing services with other organizations. Another essential part of maintaining affordability is the funding brought in from contract training.

**Other Revenues:** The state legislature failed to accommodate the 20% growth in community college enrollment during the past two year budgeting process. In the current session, legislators are looking at a 6% decrease for the next two years. Despite these actions, and unlike other community colleges in Texas, Collin College continues to be very fiscally efficient, and this is due to the outstanding leadership we have with Dr. Cary Israel. Another essential part of maintaining affordability is the funding brought in from contract training.

**Business:** According to state legislators, over half of all jobs will require a college degree in the very near future. The college can utilize internship and mentoring programs with small and large businesses in the area to assist in developing pertinent job skills. This will allow students an opportunity to gain knowledge of the work involved and develop relationships with area businesses and corporations. Innovative programs and partnerships with area school districts that offer up to 50 credit hours to high school students, such as the Health Science Academy, are essential for the future.

**Teachers:** Collin College has already developed a reputation for having excellent instructors. Five of the past

**Adrian Rodriguez – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 4**

national “Professors of the Year” have been from Collin College. Excellent teachers will want to be at a college that has a positive reputation and nationally recognized for efficiency, community service and innovation. Creative use of technology and distance learning will also assist in attracting new teachers, as well as well thought out benefits.

**Other Issues:** University costs will continue to climb and this will make it very difficult for some to attend a four year institution. Collin College must remain viable in offering courses attractive to students while maintaining modest costs. Over 50,000 students have enrolled in Collin College this year. According to demographers, we will not be seeing growth in the 20% range for the next couple of years, however there will be some growth to manage. We must be more creative in programming to assist with retention and graduation rates. I see this as an economic imperative for the entire region.

**Jim Orr – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 4**



**Contact Information**

**Campaign Phone:** (214) 415-2381  
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**Education:** B.S. Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M, Attended on Presidential Academic Scholarship MBA - focus on Organizational Behavior, Washington State University **Experience:** I have spent much of my career in technology Business Development. Business Development requires strong understanding of your environment and an ability to work with very diverse personalities to deliver long term value.

**Tuition:** For Collin College to continue to provide excellent value, the College must carefully manage investment in infrastructure. Focus must be on quality instruction and core assets. As your Trustee, I will ensure that your funds are invested wisely and in support of instruction. By building partnerships industry, Collin College will serve residents of the county by providing educational opportunities for all ages and by providing educated and trained people ready to take on the careers needed in our changing society. These partnerships can minimize direct cost to the students.

**Other Revenues:** It is important to continue to work with the state legislature to be sure that they understand the value of community colleges in general and specifically Collin College. Our school should be rewarded for the sound decisions that have been made. Most importantly, Collin College must live within its means. Once the revenue for a period is determined, the funding is a set number. The challenge face a Trustee is to make the right choices with the funding that is available.

**Business:** Collin College has done an excellent job in bringing outside investment into our school. The receipt of a \$20 million NISGTC federal grant to prepare students for four critical IT disciplines is a great example of how to reach for the funding available to programs designed to meet the needs of industries with real jobs available today. As a member of the high tech community, I will expand our relationships with the key growth industries that continue to deliver high value employment opportunities.

**Teachers:** I have managed many diverse teams through the last few decades and the rules for motivation are the same, no matter the industry. Provide a stable work environment. Support continued growth for all of the professors in the form of intellectual stimulation and professional development. Support rigor in the classroom to allow the professors own their work. Provide competitive pay and benefits. Most of all, treat the professors with the respect and dignity that they deserve. They are the front line. Give them the tools they need and let them teach with pride.

**Other Issues:** The pace of change in education has a profound impact on how our students learn and interact with our instructors and administration. Collin College must keep pace with changing technology or risk becoming irrelevant. My experience will help guide Collin through this period of change. Instructional integrity is key. No one should expect A when the incentives are B. As an example, it is not possible to expect high rigor when the professors and administrations are rewarded for retention. As a Trustee, I will advocate for common sense policy that drives true value for Collin County.