



League of Women Voters
of Plano/Collin County
www.lwvcollin.org

Nonpartisan

Voters Guide

May 11, 2013, Local Election
Plano City Council & ISD

Early voting: April 29 – May 7

Election Day: May 11 – 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 Plano/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 Plano City Council and Plano Independent School District offices, as shown in the table of contents.

This *Voters Guide* is available online at www.lwvcollin.org, along with separate guides for City Council and/or ISD in Allen, Frisco and McKinney, and for Collin College. Candidate responses for all races are also available at 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 will appear on the ballot for the Plano Local Elections, even those who are uncontested. Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response received" is printed. Responses were limited to 600 characters.

Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This *Voters Guide* is organized by office, with candidates listed as they appear on the ballot.

Table of Contents

	<i>Pages</i>
Plano City Council Questions	2
Plano City Council Place 2	2
Plano City Council Place 4	2
Plano City Council Place 6 (Mayor)	3-4
Plano City Council Place 8	4-7
Plano Bond Election	7
Plano Local Option Election	7
Plano ISD Questions	8
Plano ISD Place 1	8-10
Plano ISD Place 2	10-12
Plano ISD Place 3	12-14
Plano ISD Place 6	15-17
Plano ISD Place 7	18-19

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 April 29 – May 7**, you may vote at any early voting location. Early voting is open to all voters, no excuses necessary. On **Election Day May 11**, 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 or call the Collin County Elections Office at 800-687-8546 (toll-free).

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.

Plano Mayor and City Council

Description

4-year term, elected city wide. Candidates for Places 1-4 must live in their respective districts. The City Council does strategic planning, approves annual budget, sets policy, enacts ordinances establishing municipal law, regulates zoning and development and appoints board and commission members.

Questions

Budget: What are your priorities for the city’s budget?

Growth: What challenges will the continuing growth of this city present, and how would you address them with respect to open space, commercial development and residential development, including affordable housing?

Homelessness: Homelessness, including teenagers and families with children, continues to be a problem. What should the city do to address this issue?

Water: Since the proposed state water plan emphasizes conserving water supplies, should this city do more to encourage conservation? If so, what specific measures would you support?

Transportation: Do you see traffic congestion as a problem in this city? If so, what would you recommend to improve it?

Health and Safety: What do you see as the primary health and safety concerns of this city and how would you address them?

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

Plano Council Member, Place No. 2, District No. 2 Candidates (1):

Ben Harris – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 2, District No. 2
No response received

Plano Council Member, Place No. 4, District No. 4 Candidates (1):

Lissa Smith – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 4, District No. 4
No response received

Plano Council Member, Place No. 6 (Mayor) Candidates (2):

Harry LaRosiliere – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 6 (Mayor)



Contact Information
Campaign Phone: (214) 923-2549
Web Site: www.harry4mayor.com
Email: harrylarosiliere@tx.rr.com

Education: Bachelors of Science, Geology - City College of New York **Experience:** Financial Advisor 19 years

Budget: 1.Grow revenues through a strong economic development strategy. 2.Maintain a low tax rate
3.Find ways to operate in an efficient manner.

Growth: The biggest challenge is the aging of our neighborhoods and our population.The best solution is to partner with residential and commercial property owners to encourage them to reinvest in their properties.

Homelessness: We must support the non profit and the faith based organizations the best we can. We should continue to strategically target businesses that hire skilled and non skilled workers above and beyond executives. That will help fill in our workforce.

Water: I feel the City of Plano has done a terrific job of encouraging conservation.

Transportation: Mobility in Plano is pretty good.

Health and Safety: The biggest safety concern is natural disasters. The Emergency Operation Center opened while I was on city council will help us through those situations.

Other Issues: The most important issues are maintaining a high quality of service that our citizens expect with pressures on our revenue. The citizens will have to ultimately decide if Plano should be excellent at everything or cut back on some services. The solution is to grow the local economy by bringing new jobs, by retaining the current businesses, and uplifting neighborhoods.

Fred Moses – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 6 (Mayor)



Contact Information
Campaign Phone: (972) 244-4097
Web Site: www.moses4mayor.com
Email: fred@tes.com
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJ9cdWIBoAE

Education: BS Degree – University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT AS Degree – Housatonic Community College, Bridgeport,CT **Experience:** Past Chairman of the Board – Plano Chamber of Commerce Past Chairman of the Board – Plano Economic Development Board Past Chairman of the Board – Plano Community Home State Board – Commissioner for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

Budget: My budget priorities will be to ensure we continue to deliver quality services at the best value proposition. I would ensure our first responders, which would include police; fire and emergency personnel, had the necessary training, equipment and personnel to keep our city safe. In addition, maintaining our necessary infrastructure, such as our roads, streets and water pipes is essential. Library services, environmental services and recreation services would also be priority items. The budget priorities would be about keeping our city safe and maintaining our high quality of life.

Growth: With the development of the cities surrounding Plano, we must be creative and innovative in our aim of continued growth. Plano is approaching single family housing capacity. The focus is shifting from

Fred Moses – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 6 (Mayor)

residential development to redevelopment and revitalization that provides the opportunity for different type of housing need. Empty commercial space can be incentive for redevelopment through strategic use of our Economic Development funds. The future of Collin Creek Mall is another major redevelopment opportunity that requires partnership with the Mall ownership and the City.

Homelessness: The city should continue to support programs like CityHouse and other groups in our area that address the needs of our community. As Mayor I would also encourage charitable endeavors through our civic and faith-based organizations.

Water: The city’s Stage 2 Water conservation program has been very effective and I would continue to support that program to meet our water resource needs though 2013. In 2014, a pipeline that is currently under construction will be finished and additional water capacity will be made available through the pumping of water from Lake Texoma to Lake Lavon.

Transportation: Plano is the ninth largest city in the state of Texas and any large city will have congestion problems. As our population grows, we will need to proactively address congestion as traffic patterns change and development occurs. We need to continue to study it, and have a process in place to anticipate potential problem areas.

Health and Safety: After studying violent crime and traffic fatality data, Forbes.com listed Plano as the safest city in their United State’s Safest Cities report for two years in a row. To maintain that, we need to continue to provide our first responders the training and resources they need to perform their duties. We also need to recruit additional health care facilities to move to our area to meet our changing health care needs.

Other Issues: Retail tax revenue has been declining due to competition from neighboring communities. We have to address this challenge innovatively to and keep our share of Plano shopping dollars. Expanding our business base strategically will be critical to offsetting this unpredictable revenue source while keeping property taxes low. We must address the needs of our aging population and our City’s aging infrastructure. Dormant or underutilized commercial areas should be revitalized with targeted investment. We must support PISD with a focus on the making sure our youth are workforce or college ready.

**Plano Council Member, Place No. 8
Candidates (3):**

Sally Magnuson – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 8



Contact Information

Campaign Phone: (972) 867-2666

Email: sallymagnuson@verizon.net

Education: Pearce Business School, Boston MA **Experience:** Municipal Marketing Manager for first BFI, which then became Allied Waste and is now Republic Waste

Budget: Police, Fire, Infrastructure repair and replacement, Economic Development

Growth: We have infrastructure in some areas of the city that is 40 to 50 years old. Unless we are able to update these systems, we will face potentially catastrophic failures. Recently, three water mains broke at approximately the same time. If we had been faced with a major fire, PFD could have been forced to deal with insufficient water pressure. We must address these needs in the near future. Additionally, we must find ways to rehabilitate aging neighborhoods and underutilized retail centers to address residential and commercial needs.

Homelessness: We should continue to support the Samaritan Inn, City House and Hope's Door, all of which address these needs. We should also remain open to exploration of future proposals/options and potential public/private partnerships to address critical needs.

Water: Plano is an area leader with water conservation and recycling programs and water saving landscape

Sally Magnuson – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 8

plans. We need to continue education efforts to reach residents who aren't participating in these programs. We should also continue efforts to work with the North Texas Munciple Water District to conserve and educate our citizens.

Transportation: Traffic congestion is time-specific. Our traffic department is constantly revising and adjusting our signals to mitigate congestion in specific areas. It would be impossible to build enough roads to address these issues. By managing curent resources and expoloring new ways of traffic management, we will continue to make improvements as conditions warrent.

Health and Safety: I don't see anything major at this time. The city health department is active in dealing with the potential threat of West Nile and closely monitors the situation. The city has an emergency plan in place to deal with a potential major epidemic or emergency. Continued cooperation with area hospitals, the Red Cross and county agencies are essential. Public safety is continually being assessed, evaluated and updated.

Other Issues: Public safety, economic development and aging infrastrucre. All are critical to our future development to maintain our current quality of life. We are the safest city in the country and must continue to be so. Our police and fire departments are highly certified and recognized nationally. They continually work to improve the levels of service they provide to all citizens, residential and commercial. Economic development is critical to our tax base. Repair and replacement of roads, water mains and sewers are essential. Council must support all critical areas of city services.

David Downs – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 8**Contact Information**

Campaign Phone: (214) 454-6022

Web Site: voteplano.com

Email: david@voteplano.com

Education: Bachelor of Science in Finance **Experience:** Board & Volunteer Service with City House, CASA, Collin County Healthcare Foundation, Collin College Education Foundation, Leadership Plano, Plano Youth Leadership, Parks and Recreation Board, Planning & Zoning Commission, HomeAid, CAC, Plano Chamber

Budget: Economic Development, Revitalization, Efficiencies in Service Delivery, Infrastructure

Growth: Our growth moving forward will essentially be all commercial or high density housing as part of a mixed use development. Our remaining open space must be retained for increasing our business tax base which allows us to maintain our low tax rates. We are fortunate to have a diversity of housing options in the city. In addition, our access to DART allows for commuters to have additional options for housing beyond that available in the community. The value of the land within our boundaries makes it very difficult for a builder to recognize sufficient margins in constructing low cost housing.

Homelessness: We are fortunate to live in a very caring community. Dozens of agencies and religious organizations exist in Plano to help those in need including the Homeless. As a memberof the Collin County Homeless Coalition and having participated in the annual count I've seen the unfortunate and listened to their plea for help. As a long time Board member of City House I've witnessed the sad stories of hundreds of children with no place to go. We must continue to support the efforts of these agencies and organizations as well as look for new ways to insure that families and children have advocates.

Water: I believe our water supply is indeed a significant issue and will likely become more pressing in the future as our population grows and the potential for warmer, drier weather persists. As part of new development we should encourage landscaping that is much more drought tolerant and requires less water on a regular basis. In addition, as part of our revitalization efforts, older sprinkler systems should be upgraded and include features which will monitor moisture to determine the need for watering. Our usage rates far exceed our neighboring communities and can be adjusted.

Transportation: Traffic will continue to be an issue for our community into the future. We are bounded on 4 sides by major highways and have 4 or 5 major north-south thoroughfares through our city. State laws

David Downs – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 8

essentially prohibit using a Traffic Analysis to determine the viability of a new development so additional cars will be added to our streets as we develop our remaining land and the areas around us grow. The staff is continually evaluating methods for increasing flow through the city while maintaining safety standards.

Expansion of bike routes and mass transit bus routes may offer some relief.

Health and Safety: Our community is aging and so is the age of its residents. We find that the median age of our population is increasing as those that moved here years ago continue to enjoy the quality of life offered by Plano. We are fortunate to have 4 excellent medical hospitals in the city to provide care and one of the nations best public safety departments. As technology continues its implementation into our everyday lives I hope we can find a way to improve our methods of response to those in need of care. I know the city's Safety Departments are continually exploring opportunities to improve service

Other Issues: I believe the city will face hard choices in areas related to redevelopment, regional transit and water usage. The difficulty for council is keeping in mind that although there are day to day pressures on specific issues, each member and the council as a whole should keep their eye on a vision for the future and work toward creating that vision through implementation of ordinances & policies that are the framework for success. If we keep our eyes focused on where we are rather than where we might be headed, we will likely miss opportunities to keep our city as THE place to live in North Texas

Cathy Fang – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 8



Contact Information

Campaign Phone: (972) 769-8588

Email: fcfang@hotmail.com

Education: MBA from North Texas State University in 1980. Major in Accounting. Soochow University in Taipei, Taiwan. - BBA, major in Economics. **Experience:** Received CPA Certificate in May 1982. After work as Tax Accountant for several years, own practice as CPA in Richardson, then relocate my practice to Plano for about 7 years.

Budget: Balance budget is the first priority. Balance does not mean not spent money at all. Have to watch where to spend the money. To me: 1. Safety - Police and Fire. 2. Economic Development - to build the future of Plano and attract/help business relocate and in Plano to increase quality job opportunity. 3. Road Maintenance and Traffic Systems.

Growth: Scarce of vacant land need be addressed. Commercial development/residential development need careful planning and attention. Balance between those two types construction is very important. As big cities' skylines including high-rise commercial buildings and multi-family high-rise condos, have to do it in a nice way. Plano can not ignore need of affordable housing, but I do not believe it is the city's sole responsibility to provide houses, I rather let federal government and private investors to provide those houses, city will coordinate and help match the buyers/investors/builders

Homelessness: City needs to coordinate meetings between area charitable organizations, churches to provide needing family housing, food, etc. on a temporary basis. In the long-term those people really need to learn skills can be used in the job market. City can coordinate job fairs, or give incentive to private sectors to provide training for them to enter the job market. City need look into combine effort with Texas workforce commission and federal agency to solve these issues.

Water: Conserving water supplies is a must, city need take some action, such as different levels of rate base on usage of billing to encourage conservation. Also need look into area lakes to evaluate the possibility of providing reasonable cost water to the citizens.

Transportation: Yes. In the last 30 years traffic in Plano has changed a lot. I will recommend considering of build new turnpikes and evaluate the area's highways, roads in the city. Encourage public transportation, car pool may be another option.

Health and Safety: Primary Health Concern - Affordable Health Insurance Policies, most self-employed people or small business owners can not afford to purchase health insurance for themselves and their family

Cathy Fang – Candidate for Plano Council Member, Place No. 8

members. Primary Safety Concern - Crime rate will increase as not only local, even outside Plano people will come to Plano to steal, etc. I would like to see a combine effort between city, State, federal government to provide an affordable health insurance to the citizens. Promote Neighborhood Crime Watch programs and Volunteers can help to prevent the safety problem to a certain degree.

Other Issues: Balance Budget vs increase of tax rates. Watch where to spend the money will be the focus in the near future. when expenses cut into the bones, replacement and spending is delay to a degree, can not avoid to increase tax for fund. I prefer to spend money wisely, not to against spending totally. I do not like to increase taxes. Under current economy, most citizen do feel money is tight these days, but if it is necessary to maintain the quality life of Plano, reasonable increase of tax is acceptable to me. I will be very careful to evaluate the situation before considering increase tax.

Plano Bond Election

PROPOSITION NO. 1

THE ISSUANCE OF \$43,813,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND THE LEVY OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF

PROPOSITION NO. 2

THE ISSUANCE OF \$27,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND THE LEVY OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF

PROPOSITION NO. 3

THE ISSUANCE OF \$12,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR RECREATION CENTER IMPROVEMENTS AND THE LEVY OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF

PROPOSITION NO. 4

THE ISSUANCE OF \$15,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO REVITALIZATION OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND THE LEVY OF A TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF

PROPOSITION NO. 5

THE REVOCATION OF OF \$14,192,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR A CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER


Plano Local Option Election

THE LEGAL SALE OF ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR OFF-PREMISE CONSUMPTION ONLY.

Plano ISD Trustees

<p>Description</p> <p>4-year term, elected district wide. Must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen, a qualified voter and a resident of the district. The Board of Trustees makes all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget, levy taxes and submit bond issues to finance construction projects.</p>
<p>Questions</p> <p>Finances: What has been the impact of reduced state funding on this school district? What solution do you propose?</p> <p>Vouchers: How would vouchers and/or an increase in charter schools affect this school district?</p> <p>Students: What is this district doing to meet the needs of students who are not college-bound? Should anything else be done and, if so, how could it be funded?</p> <p>Growth: What issues does the district have as a result of population growth, increased number of homeless children and/or changing demographics? How would you address them?</p> <p>Accountability: Do you favor the current system of state achievement tests? Why or why not? What changes would you recommend?</p> <p>Teachers: What is the best way to attract and retain good teachers?</p> <p>Other Issues: What are the most important issues you think will come before the school district in the next few years? What are your views on these issues?</p>

Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 1 Candidates (2):

<p>Tammy Richards – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 1</p>	
	<p>Contact Information Campaign Phone: (972) 375-2613 Web Site: www.tammyrichards.org Email: tammyrichardsmba@aol.com</p>
<p>Education: Harvard University MBA, Texas A&M University BS Industrial Engineering summa cum laude Experience: Plano ISD School Board President, former COO SMU School of Engineering, former Texas Instruments Vice President Educational Technology Division, former board chair Head Start, Huffman Elem SBIC, Plano ISD Graduation Committee, 25 years in Plano</p> <p>Finances: Plano ISD lost \$59 million dollars over the last two years. This caused the elimination of 234 teacher positions and 174 support positions. We were forced to request waivers to increase student to teacher ratios in 16 elementary schools. Our high school teachers were forced to increase their teaching load to as many as 165 students per day. As a district, we must continue to find cost reducing measures like the renegotiation of our electricity costs. As a community, we must continue to advocate to our legislators to restore education funding for all districts.</p> <p>Vouchers: Vouchers and an increase in charter schools would siphon money away from our public school system. A recent National Association of School Boards’ study showed that charter schools in Texas have proven to be less effective than Texas public schools. Private schools and charter schools operate with fewer mandates and controls than our public schools. Restoring local control to our public school districts with fewer mandates would allow innovation at the local level to respond to the unique needs of our community.</p> <p>Students: Plano ISD offers as many as 44 different career and technology courses to prepare students for employment directly out of high school. We offer floral design and fashion at Plano West, automotive repair at Plano Senior, and an award-winning culinary program at Plano East. With the advent of our new Plano ISD</p>	

Tammy Richards – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 1

Health Sciences Academy at Williams High School and Plano East, we will offer a number of certificate programs in partnership with Collin College, including certified nursing aide and emergency medical technician. Plano ISD leverages \$400,000 in federal Perkins funds targeted for CTE.

Growth: Plano ISD has little real estate remaining for single family housing, so our population is fairly stable. We are experiencing a pronounced increase in the number of students receiving free or reduced lunch. As our homes and apartments age, children with greater academic and social service needs move to our community. Only a dozen years ago, 10% of our students were low socio-economic; now almost one in three are. The district must recognize that the needs of our students are changing, resolve that we will provide the educational support needed, and then resource each school appropriately.

Accountability: The current system of 15 tests for high school students is excessive. At this time, the legislature is considering dropping the number of exams from 15 end-of-course exams to 5 and focusing primarily on freshman level courses. A counter proposal has been suggested to test in 7 subjects - English II and III, algebra I and II, geometry, biology, and U.S. History. I would consider this an appropriate compromise since it does reduce the total numbers of tests, but it continues to test students on upper level courses so that students will be prepared for college and career.

Teachers: Great principals are critical to attracting and retaining great teachers. We are currently working with other high-performing districts on a principal leadership model, ACT CoreWorks, that will be used in all schools to evaluate and improve instruction. Plano ISD also invests in its teachers with well-designed professional development. Each Plano ISD employee receives 30 hours of instruction per year in topics relevant to curriculum and the classroom. Finally, we must focus our limited financial resources to ensure that Plano ISD teachers receive competitive compensation.

Other Issues: First, reduced funding to education will impact our ability to serve students. Texas must prioritize education funding as an investment in our future. Second, an increasing number of students on free or reduced lunch will place new demands on our educational system. Students come to us with greater academic and social needs, and we must respond to guarantee their success. And third, we must ensure that our curriculum and our teaching methods remain relevant to modern students. We must combine the best of time-tested teaching methodologies with engaging, technology-enabled learning.

Tammy Hooker – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 1**Contact Information**

Campaign Phone: (214) 893-7634

Web Site: www.tammyhookerpisd.com

Email: tammy@tammyhookerpisd.com

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TammyHookerPISD/>

Education: BSBA Human Resources, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville AR.1987 **Experience:** Mom of two, Hunter (15) and Gigi (8). Active Junior Achievement volunteer. 26 years professional business experience building collaborative teams; creating company visions; engaging employees and reaching organizational and financial targets.

Finances: The most visible impact has been a reduction in our workforce, and loss of valuable teachers. As a result, we've experienced an increase in student/teacher ratio in some core courses. I propose project-based instruction as a solution. It offers flexibility, the opportunity to leverage technology, while minimizing barriers to entry. I am interested in working with our teachers and pro-actively seeking their creative solutions and instructional techniques. Additionally, I will seek to engage businesses in support of our Educational Foundation and business educational experiences.

Vouchers: As a businessperson I believe in competition- on a level playing field, and abiding by the same rulebook. I oppose any measure from Austin that diverts money from our public education in Plano ISD. Depending on how they are implemented, vouchers could divert our scarce resources, and charters do not always have the same State requirements as public schools. All things being equal, I would put our teachers, administrators and district up against any competitor. We would shine.

Students: I believe in educational diversity for each child. I am thrilled to see our Academies and 4 year IB programs in motion. Not only are they great for college bound students, but exceptional for our direct career

Tammy Hooker – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 1

bound students. Education is the great economic equalizer- regardless of when students choose to enter the job market. I've managed internship programs. They offer "just in time" educational experiences. I support more internship programs businesses. Possible legislative changes in the core course requirements could allow exploration of more technical and vocational electives.

Growth: We're a strong school district of many languages, economic circumstances and cultural histories. Our job is to deliver a solid education to a diverse population so each child can be successful and have a world of options upon graduation. From early childhood education, to the Plano Family Literacy Program, to our Academies, dual credit, AP and vocational programs, we offer a wide selection of curriculum choice. The key is parental involvement for all students. I will work to encourage family engagement through our schools, principals, PTA, and teachers.

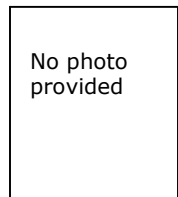
Accountability: Test volume has no correlation to performance. Every state outranking Texas in education has, at most, half the standardized tests. I went to Austin to speak up against the tests which are a curriculum time thief. I want to stay focused on the target- college/career ready graduates. Our PISD assessment process and post secondary measurement program are balanced assessments. I favor 5 End of Course Tests: English II, Reading and Writing, Algebra I, Biology, US History. We need the voice of the teacher and a balanced approach to student performance and competency development in our classrooms.

Teachers: I've spent many years developing recruiting and retention programs. Having a great reputation for a work environment attracts great recruits and retains high performing teachers. This begins with a shared philosophy and value system, coupled with a Principal and Administration team invested in growth and development. Investment in a strong teacher-mentoring program will foster growth in new teachers. Meaningful professional development opportunities are critical to supporting experienced teachers. I will seek out the best in our country to engage and further develop our Plano ISD teachers.

Other Issues: Issues eminent for our district include A) school funding B) the STAAR EOCs, C) paths to graduation, and D) campus safety. From our district's point of view, I am an advocate for local control in these areas. I am experienced enough to know that local control also means increased local involvement. Now is the time for our community to work together on solutions and engage experts. Our children's success is our lasting legacy. I want to build a collaborative Board, engage our entire community and the Legislature, and reach our student's goals together for one strong Plano ISD.

**Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 2
Candidates (4):**

Paul P. Kaminsky – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 2



Contact Information
Campaign Phone: (972) 424-7875
Web Site: mrkaminsky.com
Email: tiger1956@verizon.net

Education: MBA, BS Law Enforcement Administration, AAS Criminal Justice, numerous US Army leadership courses
Experience: Retired US Army Officer, eight years as a parent volunteer working in classrooms and seven years as a substitute teacher (Virginia and Texas).

Finances: The impact of reduced funding is the reduction of teachers, nurses, and aids. Fewer teachers mean larger class sizes and more demands placed on the remaining teachers. The solution is we must keep our property tax dollars here in Plano. There has been some legal success in keeping our tax dollars, however Texas will fight to keep its "Plano Cash Cow". Plano raises enough tax dollars each year to pay for our educational needs. No Plano tax dollars should be sent to Austin until we fully fund our own schools.

Vouchers: Charter schools and vouchers do hurt the public school system by taking tax dollars away from public education. When a school fails, charter schools and vouchers are a possible solution. It must be the goal of PISD to never allow a school to fail their students or parents.

Students: It seems Texas and PISD have a single goal of preparing our children for college despite the fact

Paul P. Kaminsky – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 2

that 45% - 50% of our graduates are not going to college. Those not going to college are literally on their own and to me, this is not acceptable. There needs to be an expanded vocational training program designed to place student into the trades upon graduation. There is no reason current funding could not accommodate two educational tracks; college and vocations.

Growth: Two resulting issues of growing populations, the number of homeless children, and our changing demographics are overcrowding and the expansion of special education programs. Both issues require extensive "proactive" budget planning in many areas such as construction projects, increases in staff, and transportation to name a few. The ultimate goal of this planning would be to ensure the teacher to student ratio is compatible with learning objectives.

Accountability: I am not big fan of state achievement tests, however they are a necessary metric used for determining how well schools and students are performing. I would like to see a district-wide review of every achievement test to see if they are relevant. If not, PISD should make the appropriate recommendations to the state for deleting or updating the test(s).

Teachers: The best way to attract and retain good teachers is with good pay, good benefits, and a good work environment.

Other Issues: The most important single issue coming before the district is adequately funding our schools. This is becoming more and more difficult as prices and taxes are rising with no end in sight. Also, the number of taxpayers is decreasing. This is creating a "perfect storm" which threatens the entire public education system. The district must find ways to keep our tax dollars in Plano using both political and legal action augmented by concerned parents and citizens.

Allison Johnston – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 2

Candidate has stepped down from the campaign, but name will appear on the ballot.

Carrolyn Moebius – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 2



Contact Information

Campaign Phone: (972) 333-9432

Web Site: carrolynmoebius.org

Email: carrmoe4pisd@gmail.com

Education: Bachelor of Arts from Trinity University Accounting Hours from University of Saint Thomas **Experience:** Plano ISD Trustee, Place 2, 2010 to present. 162+ Continuing education hours. Auditor at Ernst & Young and Doll, Karahal & Company. 5 years experience auditing school districts. Small Business Owner -15 yr PTA member and officer positions - 12 yrs

Finances: Funding decreased \$555 per WADA for 2011-13. Reductions included 223 teachers and 121 other positions, some curriculum choices, and favorite field trips... One proposal would be to visit the legislators with community representatives expressing our concerns with the lack of investment in public education and of preparing ALL kids for life (approximately 44% of Texas graduates do not attend college). We would ask for the legislators to grant additional golden pennies (money that would stay in our community) by allowing voters to decide if they want to invest more in their community's future.

Vouchers: Dollars per student received would decrease if the overall student population increased (home school and private school kids seeking vouchers). School Boards across Texas will have to consider increasing class sizes, reducing staff, reducing curriculum & extra-curricular choices, transportation and other special programs. Plano ISD is able to compete with any school. What would be important is for the State to hold the schools that receive the vouchers to the same standards of accountability as it does with the ISDs. How will the legislators know if they made a good investment otherwise?

Students: Presently, Plano ISD has many CTE course offerings. In 2013, in partnership with Collin College, the health science academy will open. A variety of health science certificates will be available for students to

Carrolyn Moebius – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 2

earn. Partnerships will provide students with hands-on clinical experiences. We should and DO look for additional avenues for students to succeed after their secondary education career regardless of it being college or job. I firmly believe in asking our businesses and higher education communities to invest in our kids, which only can result in a stronger, healthier community.

Growth: Depending on the family, the challenges are mobility, primary language not being English, poverty, parents who didn't graduate high school, and lack of parental involvement. PISD encourages these families to look into programs that would be beneficial. Also, I firmly believe in restoring funding for Pre K. Studies acknowledge that Pre K is worth the investment. As Senator Dan Patrick, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee stated, "Pre K is the biggest bang for the buck". We need more mentors for this group which will result in stronger community ties.

Accountability: For a whole district of over 55,000 kids to be potentially rated academically unacceptable based upon one campus's sub-population's assessment results is inappropriate. My concern lies with devising a system that compares over 1000 school district. Like school districts should be compared. The State should pursue academic growth as essential and revise the ranking and assessments to reflect that progress. Student mobility should be segregated based upon length of residency producing more meaningful results. To analyze the strength of an investment, many markers need to be considered.

Teachers: Teachers are the driving mechanism that empower our kids to succeed in the future. To attract and retain the best teachers, one must have an attractive pay scale and offer opportunities for interesting, engaging training and opportunities for sharing best practices throughout the district. A company thrives when employees are paid well, appreciated for their creative and collaborative abilities, and their desire to be life-long learners. What works in the business world, works in the education world.

Other Issues: Financing...As long as the Legislators do not invest in education, we will have to be more creative in delivering curriculum choices. We may not be able to offer everything we currently do at most campuses. We will need to drum up support with our local community as well as the whole state in having students, parents, residents, businesses, and not for profits demand from their legislators for more investment in education as well as other areas such as transportation and water. If Texas wants to remain a welcoming, strong business environment it will need to takes care of their investments.

Mark Hanna – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 2

No response received

**Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 3
Candidates (2):**

John Caldwell – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 3



Contact Information

Campaign Phone: (972) 491-0901

Web Site: www.johnnc4pisd.com

Email: johnrcaldwell@verizon.net

Education: 1984 Certified Public Accountant, 1983 New York University - Advanced Professional Certificate in Accounting, 1978 Georgia State University - MBA in Finance, 1973 Duke University in Durham NC - BA in Economics **Experience:** My 34 years at JCPenney Corporate has given me experience with large organizations as they go through good times and challenging times. PISD is challenged by reduced funding from Austin and by changing demographics.

Finances: In spring 2011, PISD had to fire about 350 employees including teachers, or about 5%. This action saved about \$18 million. The cuts were difficult because Plano is already efficient. In this school year,

John Caldwell – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 3

we are funding a \$19 million deficit from our surplus. The School Board needs to work with PISD administration to plan cost reductions if PISD loses the school funding lawsuit. The alternative to reducing costs is to raise the tax rate. PISD has a low rate compared with nearby districts. We can raise it by two cents and keep the money in Plano.

Vouchers: I believe both would be harmful to PISD. Because of the reduction in Austin's funding, many of PISD's classes have too many students, so PISD must get waivers to have larger than standard classes. If students leave PISD, our state funding will be cut, but most of our expenses will be flat. The number of teachers will stay the same, but they will have slightly fewer students. Utility costs would also be the same. For Texas to attract companies, we need strong Public schools.

Students: AVID (Achievement via Individual Determination) targets students with parents that did not attend college. AVID teaches them time management, leadership, and study skills. This fall, students will have a Health Sciences choice. They can graduate with a technical degree from Collin College in five different areas. Austin is debating what course work should be required to graduate. Austin decided a few years ago to require 4x4 (four years of math, etc). I recommend loosening 4x4 slightly. Some of the vocational students have difficulty taking their courses.

Growth: The number of lower income families is increasing. 12% of students received subsidized lunches in 2002, and 28% in 2012. We must continue to include all students by expanding existing programs: > AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) is for students whose parents did not attend college. It teaches study skills, time management and leadership. AVID is in all school levels. >The Mobile Learning Lab travels to lower income schools and their neighborhoods. A bilingual instructor shows the parents how to use PISD online programs such as Parent Portal, ESL, and budgeting.

Accountability: No. Students must take 15 end-of-course (EOC) exams. House Bill 5 by Jimmie Don Aycock calls for only five exams. Students would be able to count satisfactory performance on existing exams such as SAT and ACT toward graduation. Speaker Joe Straus said that the state has 'sacrificed classroom inspiration for rote memorization'. After researching the issue and talking with PISD administration, I agree with Aycock and Straus. The per student funding for Texas is in the bottom 10%. Our average SATs are in the bottom 10%. Austin should fund students instead of continually testing them.

Teachers: The Board should work with PISD to understand how the district attracts and retains teachers, and to make sure it is working. PISD should also keep teachers involved with new technology and growing professionally. PISD administration and their staff are ultimately responsible for attracting and retaining teachers because they have the specialized training and experience required. Boards should not micro-manage. The Board should work with PISD administration to ensure that our schools are fully funded and our student's needs and goals are being addressed.

Other Issues: #1 Austin has greatly reduced our funding. The 2010-2011 Budget had funding of \$101M, that is now \$58 million. The other way to increase revenue is to raise the tax rate. PISD has a low tax rate, compared with nearby districts. We can raise it by two cents and keep the money in Plano. #2 The number of low income families is increasing. 12% of students received subsidized lunches in 2002, compared with 28% now. We must continue to include all students by expanding existing programs, such as AVID and the Mobile Learning Lab.

Nancy C. Humphrey – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 3**Contact Information**

Campaign Phone: (214) 529-5524

Web Site: www.nancyhumphrey.org

Email: nancy@nancyhumphrey.org

Education: Bachelor of Science, Accounting Master of Science, Accounting University of North Texas, 1988 **Experience:** Currently serve as Vice President of the Plano ISD Board of Trustees; Chairman of the Audit Committee; chaired the Superintendent Search Subcommittee; member of Legislative Advisory Council of TASB; 17 years in public and industry accounting

Nancy C. Humphrey – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 3

Finances: Plano ISD funding was cut \$54 million in the last biennium. The district, which ranks among the lowest cost-per-student ratios in the state, made across-the-board cuts of 6% and in some departments, even more. The district laid off over 200 positions. The district has sought class-size waivers in non-Title I elementary schools in grades 2-5. Some programs were cut, such as Latin, field trips to Heritage Farmstead and Railway Museums and the Symphony. If funding is not restored, we will have to leverage fund balance to get through next biennium and make additional program cuts.

Vouchers: Vouchers, or any form of redistribution of local tax dollars that directs funds away from public education, continues to erode funding to the district and will force additional cuts or drive the need to find additional funding. As Plano has been in Ch. 41, over \$1 billion of local tax dollars have been diverted to state general fund since the inception of the program to provide revenue equalization to Ch. 42 districts. Charters are typically set up to serve a specific population and require approval from TEA and/or school board in Texas; changes are being discussed in 83rd leg session now.

Students: Plano ISD's mission is to provide excellent education to all students, so that they graduate to be college or career ready. PISD offers many programs such as Culinary Arts, Automotive Technology, Floral Design, Clinical Rotations, Vet Med Technician, and Landscape/Agriculture. In fall 2013, the new Health Sciences Academy will open at Williams HS (and PESH in 2015) and will provide courses for full range of students, both career and college bound. PISD is partnering with Collin College to offer dual-credit courses. Students can graduate with an Associates Certificate in one of 5 specialties.

Growth: The district has experienced an increase in the population of economically disadvantaged students, now representing approx. 28% of total enrollment. Solutions to effectively serve this population: Target resources for more personalized instruction; Engage parents to encourage a support system at home; find ways to bring parents into the school, whether in the evenings or on a Saturday to increase the student support mechanism. Work with apartments to provide after-school care and build community. Engage community/business to mentor children--come read in school; Join multiple schools' PTAs.

Accountability: Current stand. tests are only a snapshot of a student's performance and there are too many of them. If student fails one subject, it could hurt chances of graduation. STAAR does not measure growth. If a student came into PISD several grade levels behind and yet made more than a year's progress during the school year but did not achieve grade level competency, the result is punitive, as it only shows that the student failed. Too much emphasis is placed on the scores; school can receive poor rating due to failing of only one sub-pop. Measure growth! Limit # of tests! Adjust impact of sub-pops!

Teachers: Provide good work environment (good facilities & community.) Offer excellent professional development and learning communities. Provide competitive salaries. Provide mentor program to new teachers. Provide at/below-market excellent child care facility for teachers. Perform regular and fair performance evaluations that measure positive student outcomes over time, instructional expertise, classroom management, lesson preparedness, and professional growth. Provide professional growth opportunities. Support teachers at the administrative level. Encourage a strong PTA. Stipends for extra duty.

Other Issues: School Finance: Restore funding as it was taken away in the last biennium. LET DISTRICTS KEEP TAXES RAISED LOCALLY IN THEIR DISTRICT! Stop redistribution of wealth. Federal/State Mandates: Return local control to districts, especially high performing districts. Let districts determine their calendar, curriculum, and reduce the mandates from outside. Standardized Testing: Include growth measure; reduce impact of one sub-pop on a school's performance; reduce the number of tests that students must take. Pathways to graduation: Expand the courses that are endorsed by state graduation plan

Student Voters

Students may use either their parents' address or their college address for voter registration, whichever they consider to be their permanent address. Students cannot be registered at both places. The general rule of thumb is that wherever students claim residency is the place where they should be registered to vote. Students who will be away from their address on Election Day and during early voting may request ballots by mail.

Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 6 Candidates (3):

Patty Harris – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 6



Contact Information
Email: patriciarharris@gmail.com

Education: Certified TX Superintendent & Campus Principal; Masters of Science in Ed Technology & Ed Leadership; PDAS Appraiser; BBA-Human Resource Management; Certified TX Teacher: Secondary Math, Business, Special Education, ESL, & TEA Driver’s Ed **Experience:** 15 years-Business Industries: Transportation, Food Service, & Self-Employment in Human Resources, 5 offices; Computerized Payroll, Financial Records, & Database Management. 15 years-Secondary Classrooms (6th-12th; Math, Special Ed, Technology

Finances: It is a gut-wrenching decision to reduce any program which directly impacts students. The extra-curricular programs are the all-important ‘fun’ that keeps students coming to school, engaged, & motivated to continue their education. Let’s stop sending money to Pearson for all these high-stakes, expensive testing materials. There are plenty of highly-qualified people who can create a standardized test to demonstrate student mastery of material taught.

Vouchers: Charter schools do not have the same high-stakes testing standards required of public schools. They only divert funds from public education and the most at-risk students. Voters continue to ‘vote down’ vouchers. It should be a non-issue by now. From my experience, many students are receiving an inferior ‘education’ passed off as an alternative to our public school diplomas.

Students: Reaching out to the small business community, I am positive that we could create more internship opportunities for high school students to get real-world experience for vocational options. Mentor adults would be expected to pass the same fingerprint and federal background checks which school employees currently must pass.

Growth: While living in Plano, I’ve heard numerous times, that I don’t ‘know’ the history of Plano. I have discerned that this community used to be 97% Anglo and 3% Black. The majority of students came from educated, wealthy, 2-parent families, with lots of parent engagement. Now, you have to face the fact that you have more complex social issues to deal with, which increases the cost and burden to the school district. Good people have to continue ‘to do more’ with ‘less.’ That’s why ‘It takes a village to raise a child.’

Accountability: Texas schools need to break the shackles that Pearson Testing has on us. Stop sending Pearson money and another less expensive, equally effective, testing option will appear.

Teachers: Be more transparent on the hiring criteria. Be more helpful to walk-in inquiries to Human Resources at the administration building. You keep good people by reducing the stress and the paperwork. Have consistent discipline and consequences for students. Problem-solving issues at the lowest level possible. Build morale and school spirit on each campus.

Other Issues: ‘Maintaining Excellence’ is difficult, but the struggle is worth the effort. With changing demographics, all our students will not be college-bound. This power struggle, with the former administration and former trustees wanting to retain power over ALL school district decisions must stop. I’ve met many highly-qualified individuals who will make good decisions for the students we have now and those moving to Plano in the future. As a Plano ISD Trustee, I will bring my extensive education, varied industry experience, and 30+ years of evolving technology expertise to ‘Do what’s Best for Kids.’

You may bring this *Voters Guide* into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this *Voters Guide*, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (*Texas Election Code, Section 61.011*)

Marilyn Hinton – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 6**Contact Information****Campaign Phone:** (469) 752-8283**Web Site:** www.marilynhintonforpisd.com**Email:** marilyn.hinton@pisd.edu

Education: B.A. in Speech & Drama, Fisk University, Nashville, TN M.Ed, Howard University, Washington, DC **Experience:** full-time Plano ISD teacher, youth director for homeless shelter, full-time faculty at Brookhaven College teaching early childhood education classes, adjunct faculty and full-time counselor at Richland College

Finances: The impact of reduced funding means that we are unable to provide the support staff for those students needing additional academic tutoring. We had to increase our class size in the elementary schools. There were also cuts to field trips like the Plano Symphony Orchestra that is now funded by the PTA. Funding was cut from every department across the board.

Vouchers: An increase in charter schools would depend on whether those schools would be part of the public school system. There are many ways that charter schools might be funded in our district. If vouchers were used, it would depend on how much money each voucher was worth.

Students: Beyond a high school diploma, in almost every field, there needs to be additional training. All the technical and trade schools want students who have a basic knowledge of how to write and do mathematical equations. Our high schools need to prepare students for the rigorous studies needed to become licensed in the trade schools. There are many two-year certificate programs that students need to be prepared for as well.

Growth: Plano's changing demographics is a problem facing the nation as a whole. The changing demographics is very difficult to keep up with mainly because we have so many children who come in and out of our district frequently. Until we can find ways to better promote stability, we will continue to see low test scores. We have had some success with the mobile computer bus going to different apartment complexes. Our family services dept. has been very active with getting parents to become more involved in the schools.

Accountability: No, I do not favor the state standardized testing because they keep raising the bar before it is appropriate to do so. There should be a national test given every other year to measure growth and not to push the academics to unrealistic heights. The way tests are structured now only causes stress for teachers, students and parents.

Teachers: Teachers who are hired by the Plano school district are given a test which appears to be a pretty good indicator of highly qualified teachers. The way to keep them is to give them autonomy, a creative and nurturing environment and effective professional development.

Other Issues: One issue that will come before the school district is school safety. We will be challenged to find new ways to make our schools safe in a world of destructive people. Another issue will continue to be school finances. We will continue to work on equitable ways to fund our schools.

Yoram Solomon – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 6**Contact Information****Campaign Phone:** (469) 688-5120**Web Site:** www.yoramsolomon.org**Email:** solomon4pisd@romatix.com**YouTube:** http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oIu_z5uGjNw

Education: Ph.D. in Organization and Management, Capella University Master in Business Administration, UC Colorado Springs Law Degree (LLB), Tel-Aviv University ETECH, Electronics & Computers, Ort Singalowski Executive Marketing, Stanford University **Experience:** Board member, Alliance for Higher Education Board member, Texas Israel Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Pilot and Aerospace Education Officer, Civil Air Patrol General Manager, Consumer Electronics

Yoram Solomon – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 6

Connectivity, TI (\$100m) Founder & CEO, Solram

Finances: We have fewer teachers, student-teacher ratio increasing, teachers lost time to plan and spend 1x1 time with students, and are starting to burn out. We are also starting to cut essential programs. I don't think that continuing to teach the same way we did in the last several centuries could be accomplished under reduced state funding. I think we need a combination of using 21st century technologies to improve the quality of education and fit it within the exiting budget, while fighting to increase state funding for education as well as finding alternatives for education funding.

Vouchers: Both would divert funding from public education to private education that is not subject to the same performance criteria that public education is subject to, and it also gives failing public schools the legitimacy to fail. We should not accept failure in public schools by offering a private alternative, funded by taxpayer money. We should use taxpayer money to improve the weak public schools and not allow failure as an option. Sometimes merely having an alternative prevents us from trying hard enough to succeed.

Students: The formation of the PBL and Health Science academies are a good start. We need to continue and offer more vocational alternatives to our students throughout the district, funding it through diverting "non-vocational" funding into those schools, as students transfer to them. As early as possible, we need to help students identify their path, whether college, job-market, or to start small businesses, and help them be prepared for it. We should divert resources from 4x4 programs (now that the state is reducing the graduation plan) into life and career related programs.

Growth: The major issues are the added needs (whether financial or special ed. support for children with special needs). I am a proponent of individualized education, where children track their own progress at their own pace, and where teachers serve a role of progress facilitators more than knowledge-providers. Accepting individuality of students and customizing education to maximize the potential of each student will let each one be the best they can. We also need to focus assessments on improvement, and not only absolute level.

Accountability: No. The state's system forces "cookie cutter" education: same level for the entire state. PISD should create stronger students than the state minimum graduation plan mandates. Administer less state achievement tests and more local/district tests. Measure progress towards being more successful in entering college, the workforce, or starting businesses. Test learning skills rather than test knowledge. This generation will invent the things that do not exist now, so we need to focus on teaching them how to learn and invent, and not what we know.

Teachers: Create an environment in which they enjoy teaching, and pay them enough so they don't have to suffer for choosing this profession. They need to feel that they make a difference in children's lives, and 21st century tools (and new ways of teaching) would help them feel that. We need to give them back the time to plan their work (we took this away from them with budget cuts), and move them away from being at the brink of burnout. Finally, teachers (and all other employees) need autonomy to do their job, and not be micro-managed and have their ideas ignored.

Other Issues: The combination of the state reducing funding for education, and reducing the education standards. However, those challenges offer opportunities. We need to change the model of education here, as the old model doesn't work within the current budget. We need to replace the reduced standards with PISD standards, courses, and tests geared towards preparing students for specific colleges, entering the job market, or starting new businesses. We need to identify the individual strengths and passions of our student and help them toward greatness in those, rather than teach them towards mediocrity.

This Voters Guide and guides for Allen, Frisco, McKinney and Collin College are available on the League's website at www.lwvcollin.org and at www.VOTE411.org

Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 7 Candidates (2):

Missy Bender – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 7



Contact Information

Campaign Phone: (469) 688-8774

Web Site: www.missybender.org

Email: missyabender@verizon.net

Education: Bachelors of Business Administration (Marketing) from Southern Methodist University ('87), graduated cum laude **Experience:** - 7 years as Trustee for Plano ISD - 12 years in management consulting/strategic planning/information technology with IBM, Amdahl, and Champion International - 14 years in community volunteerism across Plano and Plano ISD

Finances: Plano ISD's loss of \$59 million in funding resulted in across-the-board budget cuts and, most noticeably, reduced staffing levels across the District. To continue to provide an excellent education with reduced funding we must find new revenue sources and identify the source(s) of potential cuts. I propose a four-step process. 1. Verify the strategic purpose of all programs and services offered. 2. Redistribute resources to meet existing and new program and service needs. 3. Create private/public partnerships. 4. Let the voters consider whether they want to pay more to have more.

Vouchers: I agree with Plano ISD's position to oppose vouchers because it takes money away from public schools. Vouchers reduce the school district's revenue by the value of the voucher. Effective charters can inspire traditional school systems to innovate and provide new educational options to students. Plano ISD must compete with various market forces, and that is one of the reasons why I supported the introduction of Academies into the Plano ISD system. In fact, there are some school systems in Texas that are actually partnering with charter operators to collaborate on new solutions.

Students: We currently provide 75 career and technology (CTE) courses for students in grades 7-12, and more than 11,000 students (or 20% of all students) are enrolled in one or more of these courses. I have successfully advocated with lawmakers to allow more of these classes to qualify for the state-required credits for graduation. To increase the number of options even further, we must continue to grow our collaborations with higher education partners like Collin College and develop new public/private partnerships to grow our educational options in an affordable fashion.

Growth: The total number of students enrolled is stable. However, residential density has affected where children live which impacts the district's ability to effectively manage its building capacities. In addition, the percentage of students who qualify for either a free or reduced-price lunch has increased from 10% to 28% over the last 10 years. The district should continue to use choice to manage capacity issues, connect community services with families in need, and introduce new learning opportunities to help teachers close the achievement gap for economically disadvantaged students.

Accountability: I support reducing the number of one-time, state-required high stakes tests for all students in grades 3-12 and have demonstrated this in my advocacy to legislators. In order to measure and improve learning throughout the school year, I also support Plano ISD's efforts to use locally administered assessments to give teachers the information to increase learning for each student. I believe that a community's measure of success should include the results from both of these assessments along with other measures that are important to the community and not just those found on a test.

Teachers: To attract great teachers Plano ISD will need to continue: • Recruiting from schools of education that prepare teachers to innovate and connect with students, and • Actively recruiting the best teachers from other school districts. To retain great teachers a great school district will provide: • an inspiring work environment, • advancement opportunities, • professional development opportunities, • an opportunity to share feedback, • freedom to innovate, and • specialty services that differentiate Plano from neighboring districts.

Other Issues: I see three significant challenges: 1) preparing students for their futures, rather than for our pasts, 2) educating a growing number of students identified as economically disadvantaged, and 3) managing our dwindling state funds and resources. Balancing all 3 of these challenges presents a significant challenge.

Missy Bender – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 7

I believe that we need experienced, proven thought leaders like me on the school board who are courageous and willing to continue moving this district forward and willing to find new funding mechanisms so that we can continue to thrive and not just survive.

Steven Kravit – Candidate for Plano ISD Board of Trustees, Place 7**Contact Information****Web Site:** kravit.com**Email:** steven@kravit.com

Experience: My 30+ years of domestic and international business experience in meeting payrolls, developing strategic plans, analyzing financial matters and managing hundreds of individuals while also serving on other volunteer boards will be an asset to PISD

Finances: With more than \$1.2 Billion dollars paid into Robin Hood, and reductions of \$59 Million in funding in the last biennium, Plano ISD voters need to express their concerns to the Texas Legislature but understand new funding is not available nor is it the answer. Nobody wants new taxes, particularly for existing service levels. A detailed analysis of the budget, line by line, should be an ongoing process. Cost containment and collaborative purchasing with like users could generate significant value.

Vouchers: Improving PISD schools so that students and parents may be confident they are receiving a high-quality education. This includes funding schools appropriately, having a strong but fair accountability system, providing all children with high-quality early education and much more.

Students: The opportunities for PLANO ISD to partner and deliver on our promise for our children at every level of education - gifted, on-level, learning-challenged and special needs, will take vision, business acumen, joint value creation and cooperation. With or without additional funds, we must prepare students for success by exploring and supporting the needs of all students, not just those that best influence our state rating. Looking at developing academies to focus on career technical/vocational paths, specialty robotic and scientific programs, and computer/IT focused courses would allow stude

Growth: The demographics of Plano ISD continue to change and with that comes a new local, regional and international view of the needs and opportunity expectations of our taxpayers. We must meet these expectations if we are to continue to be a Boldly Brilliant School District in an All-American City. Funding is a key issue for PISD to address these expectations. We are blessed to have a large corporate community to seek out partnerships for real-life experiences for students as they explore career goals, job-training for our special needs students and research opportunities.

Accountability: Four as the district is now supporting and was recently approved. School districts are already compelled to show student achievement through standardized testing and high school students have the opportunity to show their cumulative knowledge through the ultimate standardized tests, SAT and ACT.

Teachers: Teachers are underpaid and undervalued in our society. Teachers are our greatest assets and we should make sure we reward our best ones and keep them in the district. Allow them to share their gifts with other teachers. Beyond the money, teachers want to be included, be part of decision making process, and engage in change that effect our students

Other Issues: Beyond ensuring every student has the opportunity for an equitable and desirable education, indentifying funding and creating a financial path to independence from the swings of the legislative process is paramount. In the process of accomplishing both of these objectives, I intend to ensure a true cooperative and open communication and working relationship between PISD and our parents, our students, our teachers, our corporate partners and the City of Plano itself.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.