



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF COLLIN COUNTY  
[www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org)

Nonpartisan

# VOTERS GUIDE

November 8, 2016

General Election

Texas Representative District 66

Early voting: October 24 – November 4

Election Day Polls: November 8 – 7 am to 7 pm

## 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 is available online at [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org), along with guides for other offices that include all or part of Collin County.

Candidate responses for all races are also available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), where you

can enter an address and view a personalized ballot with races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates for each office, whether or not the race is contested. Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response received" is printed. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This *Voters Guide* is organized by office sought, with candidates listed in alphabetical order, regardless of their political party.

## Texas Representative District 66

*2-year term. Must be 21 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Texas House of Representatives.*

### QUESTIONS

**Education:** What changes, if any, should be made to the ways public education is financed in Texas?

**Water:** What should be done, if anything, to ensure sufficient capacity and safety of water in Texas?

**Energy/Environment:** How would you balance the development of energy sources with environmental concerns?

**Economy:** What policies do you support to help Texas residents improve their economic positions?

**Health Care:** What changes, if any, are needed for affordable health care for Texas residents?

**Safety:** What legislation is needed, if any, to reduce violence and crime?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

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.

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## Shawn Jones (Libertarian Party)

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**Website/Facebook/YouTube:**

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**Education:** None provided

**Experience:** None provided

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**Education:** As a parent I have become increasingly concerned with not only how are children are being taught but what they are being taught. The bloated bureaucracy down in Austin has simultaneously lowered our educational standards while bloating the budget so badly that we are constantly in the negative. The private sector does a superior job of producing top shelf thinkers for a lower per student price. We need to remove the STAAR test and all the secrecy and anxiety that comes with it and focus on teaching the children how to think.

**Water:** Water is our most precious resource. It is the building block of all life. I believe that clean drinking water and our access to it is one of our most precious rights. As a community we have an obligation to do what we can to insure this not just now but for future generations. I believe that the collection of rain water by the individual as well as the community would be a great start. This gives the individual the ability to participate in the conservation process. Hopefully inspiring future generations to take an active role in conservation.

**Energy/Environment:** Here in Texas we have been blessed with a wealth of fossil fuel resources and industries. It has helped us to maintain the strong sovereign state we are. As times have changed and new science has become available it is paramount that we diversify our resource pool. I believe that

giving these staple industries an incentive to explore new alternatives as well as encouraging new industries to come to our state is the best way to balance our energy needs while continuing to grow our strong economy in new directions.

**Economy:** I believe that repealing hemp prohibition will lower the burden on the courts and tax payers. At the same time we can usher in a new economic era in Texas by encouraging hemp oil, bio plastics, textiles and building products. Texas has the perfect climate for the growth, processing and productions of hundreds of hemp based products. This will create a wave of new jobs and laying the ground work for a more environmentally healthy Texas.

**Health Care:** No response received.

**Safety:** No response received.

**Other Issues:** I believe that clean food and water are some of our most pressing issues. By giving people good, safe, clean food and water leads to the ability to make better choices in life. I believe our food needs quality labels so that we can make an informed decision about what's best for our bodies. I believe that water fluoridation is not necessary especially with the advancement in dental technology. I am dedicated to leaving this world better than I found it not only for my son's generation but for generations to come. A healthy body helps create a healthy mind and spirit.

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**Gnanse Nelson (Democratic Party)**

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**Education:** BA, History & Political Science, LSU  
**Experience:** PTA Board Member Substitute Teacher HOA President Old Town Merchants Assn. Comm Chair Garden Club President

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**Education:** TX currently ranks 38th nationally in spending per student. Instead on cutting funding, we MUST work to increase funding for public education in TX.

**Water:** According to the TX Water Development Board, "there is enough water underground to supply TX for the next 176 years but it's too brackish for drinking." The solution? Desalination. This once costly process is growing more affordable every day. The state's first permanent seawater desalination plant opened on South Padre Island in 2014 and several more are in operation. Expanding these efforts will ensure safe water and sufficient capacity for years to come, even with a growing population.

**Energy/Environment:** TX is the largest energy consuming state in America and will require even more energy as the population grows. Increasing production of wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy, as well

as cutting carbon emissions will greatly offset the negative environmental impact of current energy production methods. Furthermore, we don't have to reinvent the wheel. For insight, we need only look to the California Renewable Energy Resources Act, which sets out the most ambitious renewable portfolio standard in the nation.

**Economy:** No response received.

**Health Care:** No response received.

**Safety:** No response received.

**Other Issues:** I firmly believe that the biggest issue currently facing TX, and the nation, is partisan politics and the refusal of both sides to work together. If elected, I plan, on Day One, to begin building inclusive coalitions across party lines, working together for the common good. Only when we come together, can we resolve any of the issues facing our state today.

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**Matt Shaheen (Republican Party) – No response received**

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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*)

**Your vote is your voice. Be heard.**