



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF COLLIN COUNTY
www.lwvcollin.org

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

November 8, 2016

General Election

Texas Representative District 67

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, 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, 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 67

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?

Ray Brewer (Libertarian Party) – No response received

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.

Scott Coleman (Democratic Party)



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Education: B.A. Political Science, Texas Tech 2002; B.A. German, Texas Tech 2002; Masters in Business Administration (M.B.A.), Texas Tech, 2005; Jurisdoctorate (J.D.), Texas Tech, 2005; Masters in Educational Leadership (M.Ed.), SMU , 2011

Experience: I have a background in business, law and education. I believe in pragmatism and compromise to solve problems, with a focus on education for the sake of our future economy and grandchildren.

Education: I believe it is a terrible travesty that education has been defunded for the past two legislative sessions. Although the population of Texas has steadily grown, the legislature has given schools more mandates and standardized testing, and fewer resources with which to help children. The current funding scheme for education financing is also inequitable, where wealthier districts have been able to stymie some of the cuts with their own funding. Plano, a wealthy and successful district, should support more funding for all schools so local school taxes may go down instead of up.

Water: In the 20th century, many state and federal programs were implemented to ensure water capacity for future Texans. We need a similar movement today to make sure Texans have enough water that is safe to use and drink. The Texas government should partner with the federal government, businesses, and local entities to make our water supply sustainable. This will have to include saving rainwater better as well as giving incentives for not wasting water.

Energy/Environment: I believe that the development of new energy sources is the best way to address two challenges: gain more energy at a cheaper price, and do so in a way that impacts our environment far less than current energy sources do. It also gives Texas a third opportunity: by investing in more wind, water and solar energy (which companies in Texas have already started doing) we can diversify further away from oil so that shocks to the oil price do not impact our budget.

Economy: Average middle class Texans must understand what the current legislature has done to our economy. They have racked up tremendous debt, and by cutting taxes to their donors, Texas families are now carrying more of the tax burden than ever before. An example of this practice is in higher education.

40 years ago, the state contributed around 50% of a student's tuition. Now it is under 20%. It does no good to the economy or our future for Texas residents to "price-out" most Texans from higher education. This same principle applies to K-12 education, roads, and infrastructure.

Health Care: In the past decade, the Texas government did something extremely odd. They rejected billions of dollars of federal money that would have gone to helping Texans stay healthy and get treated if sick. This was not only a moral wrong, but it literally sent billions of tax money to Washington and rejected it when Washington offered to send it back. The result has been higher health care costs and a greater share of tax money treating sick Texans. This could very easily be remedied by following other states in making health care more accessible and affordable.

Safety: Crime as a general statistic is low compared to decades past. But this is because we have supported 1) our police officers and 2) our communities. In district 67, we have police departments who make a great effort, and succeed, in being present and engaged in the community. They have built trust and friendship with residents, and they are a model for how law enforcement should be.

Other Issues: Education and jobs will be my two main priorities, and they are interconnected. The current members of the Texas legislature seem to believe that the Texas economy will stay strong in the next generation even if they cut education and shortchange students out of the same opportunities that they had when they grew up. This is wrong and wrongheaded. A dollar spent in education multiplies through the economy by increasing jobs and tax bases. A dollar cut to education cuts money out of the economy in the future. I will fight any measure that cuts education again.

Jeff Leach (Republican Party)



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Education: BA - Baylor University Juris
Doctorate - SMU Law School

Experience: Texas House of
Representatives (2013 - _____) Attorney
(2009 - _____)

Education: Just as important as "how much" we are spending on public education is "how" the money is spent. Our tax dollars must be directed to our children's classrooms – where they do the most good. As parents, we must re-establish the control of our education system at the local level – with parents, teachers and administrators working together to provide the best solutions for our communities.

Water: With the rate of growth expected in Texas in the coming years, we must continue to invest in our state's critical infrastructure – including water resource development and transportation – to meet the demands of and to serve the Texans of today and the future Texans of tomorrow. Transportation and natural resource infrastructure are core functions of government that must be addressed head-on with bold, fiscally conservative solutions.

Energy/Environment: We should keep doing what we have been doing in Texas for the past 10+ years --- investing in the development of energy resources while protecting the environment. We can do both - and we've proven that in Texas.

Economy: Taxes should be lowered so that hardworking taxpayers can keep more of what they earn in their own pocket – where it does the most good. In my two terms in the Texas House of Representatives, I have been on the front lines in this fight. In 2015, I proudly co-authored legislation providing the largest tax cut in Texas history – giving Texas business and property owners nearly \$4 billion in tax relief. I will also continue to work hard to remove unnecessary regulations in order for businesses to grow and create new jobs, while

reducing the size and scope of government to create more econ

Health Care: Otherwise known as the "Affordable Care Act" - Obamacare was supposed to make healthcare more affordable and accessible. As we have seen in recent months and years, it has done neither - and has actually had the opposite affect. To be clear, we should start with repealing and replacing Obamacare. Instead, we must look not to the government, but should focus on free-market solutions to increase competition, to make quality healthcare more accessible, to expand coverage for those most in need, and to make healthcare more affordable for all.

Safety: Our neighborhoods must be safe and I have been very proud over the past few years to support and advocate for tough laws that keep dangerous criminals off of our streets. Specifically, during the 84th Legislative Session I passed landmark legislation cracking down on sexual offenders in our communities. As I have always done, I will continue to advocate for smart and strong criminal justice policies in Texas.

Other Issues: My conservative convictions are deeply rooted. As a strong and committed constitutional conservative, I am continually dedicated to reducing the size and scope of government and lowering taxes to create more economic freedom for individuals, families and businesses in Texas, while at the same time working to meet the essential demands of a rapidly growing state. My fight for these things - and my fight for faith, family and freedom and security - will continue as long as I am blessed to serve in the Texas House of Representatives.

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.