



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

November 8, 2016

General Election

U.S. Representative District 3

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.

U.S. Representative District 3

2-year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of Texas. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the U.S. House of Representatives.

QUESTIONS

Immigration: What changes, if any, would you propose to the current immigration policy? Why?

Foreign Intervention: Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?

Economy: What federal policies do you support to maintain a healthy national economy and enable the public to improve their economic positions?

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

Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid: What changes, if any, would you support to the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs? Why?

Elections: The Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder* struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act. What changes, if any, do you support to protect voting rights?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, 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.

Adam Bell (Democratic Party)



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Education: A.S. Johnson & Wales University
B.S. Johnson & Wales University

Experience: I am the owner/ operator of CLR National Title & Appraisal. The daily and long-term success, of my small-business, depends on my fiscal responsibility, my ability to hire the right people, and how well I care for my clients.

Immigration: Our current immigration policy is based upon the following principles: the reunification of families, admitting immigrants with skills that are valuable to the U.S. economy, protecting refugees, and promoting diversity. The immediate challenge we are facing is finding a realistic solution to illegal immigration. I support a path to citizenship that includes comprehensive background checks and employment requirements for illegal aliens and ending the hopeless loop of bureaucracy that continually baits illegal immigrants with the empty promise of citizenship tomorrow.

Foreign Intervention: Without question, our military should intervene if there is an immediate threat to the U.S and/or if there is a threat to or at the request of a U.S. ally in need. Any intervention beyond that should be the subject of vigorous debate and ultimate consensus of our legislature.

Economy: Education is the key, but the minimum wage should be raised. At the very least it should be raised to match the rate of inflation annually along with regional cost of living adjustments. Along with amending Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act to prevent the sub-minimum wage exploitation of disabled workers in our country. I would also support measures that would reduce the tuition burden of students attending public institutions of higher learning and I would look to partner with private industry to develop scholarships and vocational training to elevate our workforce.

Safety: In 1994, amid a rash of notorious instances of violent crime, the "Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act" was signed into law. The vision of the law was realized, violent crime totals have steadily decreased since 1994. However, some of the un-intended consequences of the act, included prison overcrowding and reliance on plea agreements to alleviate a burdened legal system. Hindsight

indicates that further legislation of crime isn't a solution. Crime is already against the law. Legislation should be focused on early and ongoing education, including tolerance and dispute resolution.

Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid: If we continue to poorly manage the trust fund through overspending and lack of investment options, Social Security will crumble. I propose a new approach to the investment strategy of the Social Security Trust which includes a diversification of assets, as well as a reduction of operational costs. Successful Medicare ACOs should be modeled and expanded to ensure that quality health care is rewarded and costs fall. I also support the expansion of Medicaid coverage to ensure the poorest are protected.

Elections: The 15th amendment to the Constitution states that the "right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." If a state is bastardizing the Constitution to deny a person's right to vote, Federal intervention should be guaranteed. I support the reinstatement of Sections 4(b) and 5 of the Voting Rights Act. There are many things I think the states should bear responsibility for, but infringing on civil liberties should not be tolerated.

Other Issues: Campaign finance reform has been brought to the forefront of American politics and will undoubtedly become an issue for Congress to address. I would support reform that would allow a qualified candidate to run for public office without being influenced by a small number of wealthy donors. A public servant cannot effectively represent his constituents when he or she is pandering to the whims of wealthy individuals or businesses in order to maintain campaign contributions. Congress is in need of true citizen servants that are motivated by progress and not by re-election.

Paul Blair (Green Party)



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Education: BA History - Texas A & M University
Experience: 59 years living in the United States of America

Immigration: The United States bears a large responsibility for the number of political and economic refugees trying to relocate here. We should make it easier for such refugees to obtain permanent residency, leading to eventual citizenship. Anyone wishing to emigrate to the United States should have the opportunity to do so, under a quick, intelligent and compassionate vetting process. We can never have too much help in positively addressing our numerous concerns.

Foreign Intervention: The United States of America should only intervene in foreign conflict in the most extreme circumstances, and should use force as the last option, not the first. The military's first priority should be defense of our states and territories, not our economic or political interests. We should, of course, engage diplomatically in all conflict which threatens human life and civilization anywhere in the world. You make many more friends with a hug, than a club. We need to close all military bases based in foreign countries. Imagine the money that we would have to solve many major problems.

Economy: The federal government has the responsibility to maintain an even playing field when it comes to trade, labor and environmental issues. Capitalism, as a viable economic system, works great in theory, but fails miserably in its current application. Big business has proven that selfishness and greed under capitalistic application, leads to wealth inequality, the moving of manufacturing jobs to other countries and the destruction of our environment. Business must be regulated because it cannot be trusted to regulate itself. That is the reality no matter how much it bothers the elite.

Safety: End the drug war! End the war and you end the violence which arises from the black market surrounding it. Divert all of the money spent on defense and military aggression and use it to rebuild infrastructure and cities in an environmentally friendly way. Most of our cities grew haphazardly and the result is nonviable inner cities, crime and despair. We possess the technological and

scientific expertise to create habitats which exist within the natural world, utilizing renewable energy and agriculture systems which can easily provide food for all. We only need the will to do it!

Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America". No one in this country should be deprived of food, water and shelter. The fact that military spending takes priority over the other items in this preamble to our Constitution, is a national disgrace and should be immediately rectified. Spend on life not killing!

Elections: Laws which makes it harder to vote in elections should be eliminated. Laws which bars citizens from voting in elections should be eliminated. All U.S. citizens should be automatically registered to vote upon obtaining eighteen years of age. All registered voters should be allowed to fully participate in national elections. States and municipalities should retain the right to set residency requirements for state and local elections. Gerrymandering should be eliminated and districts redrawn by an uninterested party on a geographical not political basis. Eliminate the Electoral College.

Other Issues: We have to improve our environment. Any decision which pits economics over the health of our planet is destructive and will eventually doom our species. Monetary influence must be removed from our political process. I would eliminate the Electoral College and restore governing to the majority voice. If we could find one hundred citizens, free of prejudice and partisanship, to rewrite our constitution, we should. It has been two-hundred-twenty-eight years since it's adoption and our oligarchy republic is no longer functioning in the interest of the vast majority of its citizens.

Scott Jameson (Libertarian Party)



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Education: BBA Baylor University, Finance, Economics, minor in Real Estate MBA UT Arlington, MIS concentration MS UT Dallas, E-Commerce concentration Richardson High School National Merit Scholar

Experience: Realtor, independent computer consultant, various large corporation jobs. LP candidate for various offices over ten years.

Immigration: Building walls should be done to protect us from potential natural disasters, not as a political weapon to wield in the face of failed social and financial policies. Stop mailing billions of dollars a year all over the world to any criminal, terrorist, or undocumented person that submits an IRS refund check request. Invite undocumented workers to file for worker visas - without fear of immediate, "administrative" deportation or other police state action. Finally, being granted or denied citizenship should take no more than one year.

Foreign Intervention: If one or more U.S. citizens are in clear and present danger of being harmed, detained or killed would be a starting point. Otherwise, we are just fueling the flames of hell to feed our blood and taxes to the dogs of war. We should not invade countries under the premise that we are going to force democracy on them. We need to emphasize diplomacy, law, and cooperation in international relations and dispute resolution. Further, we must rein in executive military action, recognizing that war powers reside solely in the legislative branch.

Economy: I quote the Libertarian Party platform "Libertarians want all members of society to have abundant opportunities to achieve economic success. A free and competitive market allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. All efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society."

Safety: Many states need better laws against human trafficking. We need national leadership for solid enforcement and more public awareness. I don't think many people think about the problem of human trafficking and the related violence and crime. Besides the obvious human tragedy, trafficking is also

strongly linked to illegal gun ownership, identity theft and financial fraud. I would push for a standard secure system for victims to be able to quietly reach law enforcement. This has been successful in several states. We also need much better mental health resources for our veterans and the public.

Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid: For decades, we've had U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators tell us we need to work longer with less benefits for the common good. Are we a lazy people who need to be whipped and taxed into our graves for the privilege of thanking our masters for a few pennies on the dollar in our retirement? If the average American wage earner invested the same amount in stink-rate T bills over 40 years they give to the feds as FICA, that American worker would retire with a million dollars in savings. The way our retirement Trust Fund is currently handled is treasonous. Where is my million dollars?

Elections: If the States aren't doing anything wrong regarding voting rights and election procedures, then they shouldn't mind having transparency and oversight. It's the same principle the government applies to us every day. And besides, the State of Texas, even after thirteen years, still refuses to comply with the voter education and polling place access requirements of HAVA 2002. Sadly, corruption has ruled in the place of honest compliance and enforcement. Our new governor, along with the rest of the Texas GOP, champion the vision that we don't need any safeguards to the democratic process at all.

Other Issues: It is horrifying that the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Treasury via the IRS have led the way on funding global terrorism for decades. Want to bomb Paris but are low on cash? Send the IRS a thousand tax returns, each requesting a refund check for \$1,000 all to be mailed to the same address, and wait a couple weeks. Are you a known terrorist group, low on cash, but want to fire another rocket at Jerusalem? Just ask the U.S. State Department for a billion dollars a year for

"food". As a matter of urgent national and international security, both departments need

to be closed immediately.

Sam Johnson (Republican Party)



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Education: Southern Methodist University, BS 1951; George Washington University, MA International Affairs, 1974
Experience: House Ways & Means Committee; Social Security Subcommittee Chairman; Health Subcommittee; Deputy Whip; US/Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs; Smithsonian Regent; Co-Founder, Conservative Action Team; Co-Chairman, Air Force Caucus

Immigration: Let me start by voicing my strong opposition to Obama's executive amnesty. It is insulting to hardworking taxpayers struggling to make ends meet. Congress' top priority must be about securing the border and ensuring our immigration laws are enforced. We have a responsibility to taxpayers to remove incentives for illegal immigration. As a member of Ways & Means, I had a bill signed into law that ends the ability of the IRS to provide retroactive Earned Income Tax Credit payments to illegal immigrants. I had a measure that cracks down on fraud associated with the refundable child tax credit.

Foreign Intervention: My top priority is to ensure Congress fulfills its constitutional responsibility to provide for the common defense. As an Air Force veteran who spent nearly 7 years as a POW in Vietnam, I can say there is no more important decision than sending service members into harm's way. It must be in our national security interest, and our service members need to be given the support to be successful. We are engaged in a conflict in the Middle East against ISIS, and the President's lack of leadership and strategy has created infinite failure, death, and destruction. The American people deserve better.

Economy: No response received.

Safety: No response received.

Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid: As Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, my number one priority is ensuring the promise of this program isn't just there for current retirees but also for tomorrow's retirees. While there are a number of

commonsense ideas such as increasing the retirement age, one idea I oppose is increasing Social Security taxes. We can't tax our way to a solution. I'm committed to leading a much-needed conversation on fixing Social Security. We also have a responsibility to ensure Medicare is there for future generations. We need to do so with fiscally responsible and commonsense reforms.

Elections: Back in 2013 the Supreme Court ruled that Texas and several other states no longer needed Washington's sign-off for election-related changes. It's simply been unfair that the Lone Star state, unlike other states, has been singled out by Washington. The Supreme Court decision was the right one and a victory for federalism. When it comes to protecting voting rights, we must make sure a fraudulent vote doesn't cancel out a legitimate vote. That's why I strongly support Texas' voter ID law. It's just commonsense to require individuals to show a photo ID.

Other Issues: National security is a top issue. We need leaders who are not afraid to speak the truth, and I bring the experience of a combat veteran. Radical Islamists aim to destroy our way of life, and we must not stand down or live in fear. I remain committed to keeping this country safe. Another issue is our national debt, which is a serious threat to the economic well-being of the U.S. Washington should respect hardworking taxpayers' dollars. I have voted repeatedly against reckless spending, and have proposed legislation saving billions of taxpayer dollars by going after waste, fraud and abuse.

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.