



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

Nonpartisan

# VOTERS GUIDE

November 8, 2016

General Election

U.S. Representative District 4

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.

## U.S. Representative District 4

*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.

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## John Ratcliffe (Republican Party)

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**Contact Information:**

[info@ratcliffeforcongress.com](mailto:info@ratcliffeforcongress.com)  
(972) 455-8609

**Website/Facebook/YouTube:**

[www.ratcliffeforcongress.com](http://www.ratcliffeforcongress.com)  
[www.facebook.com/RatcliffeForCongress](https://www.facebook.com/RatcliffeForCongress)

**Education:** Southern Methodist University Law School - J.D. 1989 Norte Dame University - B.A. Government and International Studies 1987

**Experience:** U.S. Congressman: 2014 - current U.S. Attorney (Eastern District of Texas): 2007 - 2008 Chief of Anti-Terrorism and National Security (Eastern District of Texas): 2004 - 2007 Mayor of Heath, TX: 2004 - 2012

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**Immigration:** The next Congress should begin tackling illegal immigration by ensuring that Congress, not the president through executive action, sets immigration laws as designed by our Constitution. Accordingly, I've voted to defund the President's executive amnesty and every single turn, and to ensure that federal dollars don't go to so called "sanctuary cities." As a former terrorism prosecutor and U.S. Attorney, I have a deeply rooted belief that tackling our illegal immigration must start with securing the border once and for all.

**Foreign Intervention:** One of the first roles of the federal government as outlined by the Constitution is to provide for the common defense. This means we must be willing to do whatever is necessary to defend our homeland to secure the safety and freedom of our citizens. We should intervene to protect the interests of the American people, not to engage in lengthy and costly nation building efforts. As a former U.S. Attorney, I put terrorist sympathizers in federal prison. I've seen the dangers of this up close and in person and I believe these experiences have put me in a position to ensure our safety.

**Economy:** No response received.

**Safety:** No response received.

**Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid:** As a starting point, we need to stop raiding our trust funds for other spending. To redeem these IOUs from the US Treasury to the

trustees of the trust fund, the US Treasury will have to issue more public debt. In this sense, intergovernmental debt, which is conveniently excluded from most debt to GDP calculations, will become public debt to be repaid by future generations. Additionally, it goes without saying that the rampant fraud, waste, and abuse in the system needs to be addressed in order to ensure those who have contributed to these programs can retain the benefits they rightly deserve.

**Elections:** I am a strong proponent of voting ID laws. Voting is our highest civic duty and we must take all necessary steps to stop voter fraud and keep our elections free from intimidation and corruption. It's hypocritical that some on the far left cry foul at voter ID laws when Americans are asked to present an ID for so many other daily activities in their lives.

**Other Issues:** Proving for the common defense is the primary role of the federal government and I will continue to support a strong military, support efforts to stop a nuclear Iran, and efforts to actually defeat ISIS once and for all. The out of the control spending and debt must be stopped, as it's our children and grandchildren who will pay the price for such fiscal irresponsibility. I introduced a balanced budget with defined spending caps to force the government to live within its means. Tackling illegal immigration should be another legislative priority.

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**Cody Wommack (Libertarian Party)**

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No photo  
received

**Contact Information:**  
(979) 229-5805  
**Website/Facebook/YouTube:**  
codywommack.com

**Education:** B.S. Biochemistry, Genetics, M.S.  
Chemistry, M.B.A.  
**Experience:** research scientist, college  
instructor, high school teacher in France and  
Spain, and entrepreneur

**Immigration:** The main problem with immigration as far as the government is concerned is that we are a welfare state. In a truly free market economy and society, anyone who was making a living for themselves would also be creating wealth and helping others. In that situation, there would be very little reason to be against more open immigration policies. In addition to the welfare state, the Federal government manipulates the labor market in a way that has created the appearance of labor shortages.

**Foreign Intervention:** The U.S. should act militarily only when we are in clear and direct

danger and then only when war is declared by Congress.

**Economy:** No response received.

**Safety:** No response received.

**Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid:** The Federal government has no constitutional authority to provide medical care or social security. However, the people who have paid into social security should be able to get back at least what they put into it as was guaranteed.

**Elections:** No response received.

**Other Issues:** No response received.

<p>You may bring this <i>Voters Guide</i> into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this <i>Voters Guide</i>, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (<i>Texas Election Code, Section 61.011</i>)</p>
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**Your vote is your voice. Be heard.**