



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

March 1, 2016, Primary Election
Collin County Offices

Early voting: February 16-26

Election Day: March 1 – 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 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 Collin County offices. It is available online at www.lwvcollin.org, along with separate guides for statewide offices and other offices that include all or part of Collin County. A separate online *Voters Guide* gives general information about voting in the primary elections, including how to register to vote, where to vote, and how to vote by mail.

Candidate responses for all races are also available at www.VOTE411.org, where you can enter an address and review 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.

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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.

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District Judge

4 year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for cases including felony criminal cases, civil cases with higher amounts of controversy, and family law matters.

QUESTIONS

New Courts: How will the addition of 2 new district courts in Collin County affect case loads and access to the courts by county residents?

Access to Justice: What, if anything, should be done to improve access to justice for low income residents in civil and criminal cases?

Balance: What is your view on balancing mercy and justice?

Impartiality: How do you maintain impartiality, given the necessity of raising funds for political campaigns?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts, and how would you address them?

199th District Judge, Angela Tucker (Republican Party)

No response received

380th District Judge, Ben Smith (Republican Party)

No response received

401st District Judge, Jim Pikel (Republican Party)



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Education: BA Economics BA Mathematics JD

Experience: 29 years experience as a trial and appellate attorney in criminal, family, and complex commercial litigation.

New Courts: The two new courts are limited to family law cases, so that should move most of the family law cases out of the other courts, including the 401st. Hopefully, this will streamline the disposition of every case as the family law courts can establish procedures best suited to that type of case, and the other courts can do likewise. The speed and correctness of every decision should improve -- provided we elect qualified judges.

Access to Justice: We already have criminal public defenders that are at no cost to indigent criminal defendants. Unless we are going to compel civil lawyers to give their time and resources for free, which is a bad idea, we must continue to promote pro bono legal services provided with the consent of the attorneys involved.

Balance: I hold a Biblical view on this topic. Persons are responsible for their actions and must pay the penalty for their criminal acts. However, the type and amount of punishment should be left to the discretion of the judge, who is in the best possible position to impose

appropriate, proportional, and fair punishment customized to each individual situation.

Impartiality: I will never be swayed by the fact that someone contributed to my campaign. The law is the guide, not the personal feelings of the judge. And, the ethics commission has fairly limited contributions to \$2,500 max, which should prevent any single contributor from even thinking his small contribution "elected" the candidate.

Other Issues: Collin County is becoming an urban county with several very large businesses locating here (Toyota, State Farm, etc.). This means there will be more and more complex, sophisticated litigation being handled by our courts, and we thus need experienced, competent judges to be elected to the bench. The days are over when a 5-10 year assistant DA with no family or civil experience could adequately handle the type of cases that are coming in the next several decades. I am uniquely qualified to handle such cases, having handled them for over 29 years in some of the biggest disputes in US history.

401st District Judge, Mark Rusch (Republican Party)



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Education: University of Dallas, B.A. Political Philosophy, cum laude, University of Houston College of Law, J.D.

Experience: 2000-present-Judge, 401st District Court, 1996-2000-Judge County Court at Law #4, 1984-1995-Collin County District Attorney's office, Board Certified in Criminal Law, 32 yrs extensive experience in all facets of the law: civil, criminal, family law

New Courts: The two new district courts are by statute designated as family courts. The reduction in the number of family cases in the remaining courts will allow for entire dockets (criminal and non-criminal) to be heard faster and more efficiently. While it remains a general jurisdiction court, the 401st is now primarily a felony criminal court that will include the most serious of crimes including capital murder.

Access to Justice: As the county grows, so does the demand for court appointed attorneys. Court appointed lawyers are required by law for criminal and CPS cases. Currently, the Board of District Judges is developing a managed counsel program with a goal of ensuring quality representation, while focusing on consistent, justifiable billing. This will make the process more efficient and will result in a transparent cost saving program for Collin County taxpayers. I support local Bar Associations' pro bono clinics that provide legal assistance for indigent civil litigants.

Balance: Justice is not devoid of mercy. Justice is giving to each what is his due. This is where my judicial experience matters. After 32 years in a courtroom and thousands of cases, one learns to discern the difference between someone deserving mercy and someone deserving a more punitive ruling. Ultimately, it is the rule of law and how the facts apply to the rule of law that determines an outcome.

Personally, there have been people I have sentenced who have later sought me out to thank me for helping them turn their lives around. Mercy and justice are not mutually exclusive.

Impartiality: As long as judges are elected, there will be campaigns to be funded. The money required to fund a judicial campaign is an unfortunate side effect of our system of contested races for judicial office. I am aware of the potential perception of influence such contributions can have on the public. Such a perception weakens respect for the courts and the rule of law that I took an oath to uphold. As a result, I voluntarily limit the size and amount of contributions I receive and I adhere firmly to the spending and reporting rules set forth by the Texas Ethics Commission.

Other Issues: The most pressing issue in the courts of Collin County is to provide effective and efficient administration of justice. Collin County's population is exploding. As a result, there has been a rise in cases filed in district court across our dockets, including family, criminal and civil cases. It is important that we maintain judges with experience in all facets of the law to keep up with this demand. Extensive civil experience plus my Board Certification in criminal law (which is over half the docket of the 401st) will continue to serve to efficiently dispose of those cases.

416th District Judge, Andrea Bouressa (Republican Party)



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Education: J.D., SMU Dedman School of Law (2008); M.S. Sociology, Univ. of N. Texas (2005); B.S. Sociology, Texas A&M Univ. (2002)

Experience: My experience in civil litigation began at Henslee Schwartz, and later at Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff & Miller. I joined Cox Smith as Senior Counsel in 2013, resigning in November to run for the 416th District Court.

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New Courts: The newly-created 469th District Court and 470th District Court are hearing exclusively family cases. In light of these additions, I believe that the 416th District Court, for which I am running, will hear primarily civil and criminal matters, with only a small percentage of family cases. With two new courts sharing the weight of the County's needs, residents should experience greater expediency and efficiency in resolving their legal disputes. If elected, I intend to run an efficient docket.

Access to Justice: Access to justice is critical to maintaining public confidence in our judicial system. No person should suffer an injustice on account of the inability to hire an attorney. In the context of criminal cases, the State of Texas has been helping counties to create and improve indigent defense programs since Governor Perry signed the 2001 Fair Defense Act. Other programs focus on helping low-income residents with family, probate, and civil matters. We can continue to promote these programs, which help individuals gain access to rules and legal resources as they navigate Texas courts.

Balance: Justice and mercy are not mutually exclusive. A trial court is obligated to promote justice through steady application of the law. It

would not be just to deny mercy where mercy is deserved, but a trial court should never use mercy as an excuse to legislate from the bench, or to second-guess the factual findings of a jury based upon the evidence. It is the judge's duty to apply the law impartially and consistently, and if elected, I will do just that.

Impartiality: Impartiality is not something that can be learned; it is a matter of character. Campaigns do necessitate fundraising, but those donations do not compromise the impartiality of a candidate who is of strong character. I decided to run for the 416th District Court because I believe a judge should hold his office in higher esteem than he holds himself. Judges should never use the bench to promote personal or political agendas. If elected, I will bring integrity and impartiality to the bench.

Other Issues: Collin County is experiencing rapid commercial growth, which means that in coming years, the District Courts are likely to see a significant increase in litigation involving business issues. My civil litigation background, which encompasses issues ranging from breach of contract to employment disputes, premises liability, insurance litigation, and more, makes me well prepared to address this growing need in our County.

416th District Judge, Daniel Correa (Libertarian Party)



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Education: -New York University School of Law, LL.M. (2013) -Oklahoma City University School of Law, J.D. (2011) -University of California, Los Angeles, B.A. (2007)

Experience: I have primarily practiced in civil litigation since 2011. I have handled criminal cases and hold academic accolades in Criminal Procedure and Jurisprudence. I also teach Federal Government and Texas Government at Tarrant County College.

New Courts: The two new family law courts in Collin County free up the other Collin County Courts to handle the remainder of criminal and civil cases that would otherwise distribute to the courts generally. Family law is a field whose constitutional importance cannot be overstated: the cohesion, coherence, and constitution of families. Opening two new courts that specialize in family law ensures Collin County residents an immediate forum to here their most pressing matters. These new family law courts also provide an opportunity for Collin County voters to elect specialists to oversee these cases.

Access to Justice: Among the many principles of justice to which I subscribe, the principle that social and economic inequalities

must inure to the benefit of the least well-off is one. Access to justice involves not only committing funds to enable the less well off and marginalized groups and persons to secure some representation, but it also involves educational efforts. I intend to create symposia covering various legal subjects, open to the public, with a primary effort to involve low-income residents.

Balance: Mercy should inform a judge's understanding of justice. If judicial action is viewed as merciful rather than just, the rule of law is undermined. For example, to call merciful a judge's decision to impose a lesser punishment or penalty when a larger one is available renders mercy arbitrary. Relatedly, if to take the merciful route would appear the

right thing under the circumstances, then arguably it would be unjust not to take that route. To lend transparency to what judges do, it is important clearly to articulate what justice requires and consistently to act in accord with just principles.

Impartiality: As a United States Army veteran, I am accustomed to living up to the oaths I take. I took an oath to conduct myself with integrity in the practice of law. I take this oath serious as I have great respect for law. Through law we are able to achieve our greatest cooperative ventures and foster trust and civility between each other. Impartial judges are necessary to maintain this trust and civility. To ensure I am conducting myself accordingly, I plan to conduct quarterly open

meetings for the general public to discuss how the courts are working and how they can improve.

Other Issues: There are three issues: transparency, consistent application of law, and accessibility to the general public. I will hold open meetings for the general public. I will create an online database with reasoned opinions for every dispositive or substantive motion or plea so lawyers and the general public can plan their cases, and ensure I am consistent. I will employ every effort to involve minority and marginalized groups in jury pools, and hold open symposiums for the general public to learn different areas of the law, because people must understand law to be governed by it.

416th District Judge, Lon Garner (Republican Party)

No photo provided

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Education: Jacksboro High School Texas A&M University - Political Science St Mary's School of Law - Juris Doctorate

Experience: Collin County Assistant District Attorney 4 years Touchstone Bernays (practicing Insurance Defense) 1 year Private Practice 10 years

New Courts: The two new courts will hear only family law cases. As a result, fewer family law cases are being filed in the remaining courts. The caseloads of the older courts were helped tremendously when pending family law cases sitting on their dockets were transferred into the new courts allowing them to be heard sooner. This has already increased access to the courts for county residents as more cases are being heard on a daily basis.

Access to Justice: I think the low income residents of Collin County have excellent access to the justice system. In criminal cases, each defendant is given access to a court appointed attorney to assist in their case. In civil and family law cases, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas provides free legal services to Collin County residents who qualify with an income level at or below 125% the federal poverty level. For those wishing to represent themselves, residents can file an Affidavit of Inability to Pay to have their filing fees and court costs waived by the courts.

Balance: As a practicing criminal defense attorney, I recognize that bad things happen to good people. I believe that one of the greatest

assets a judge can bring to the bench is empathy. The understanding that not every person who comes before them had malicious intent when committing the acts that brought them to court. However, there will be cases where empathy should be put aside and the person willfully committing the offense should be punished accordingly.

Impartiality: I have been able to self-fund a great deal of my campaign. I have not had to rely on contributions to pay for any political paraphernalia. I believe that all people should be treated the same whether they donate to a campaign or not. I do not believe in buying access to justice. My reputation in the legal community is one of honesty and integrity. I will bring that to the bench.

Other Issues: One of the most pressing issues in the Collin County court system is the soaring legal costs associated with court appointed attorneys. I plan to implement a new system to better determine who qualifies for court appointed attorneys. Too often, a person will be assigned a court appointed attorney and have the assets available to hire an attorney. This needs to stop immediately.

416th District Judge, Michael Puhl (Republican Party)



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Education: BS Business Administration, Chicago State University (1977) Juris Doctorate, The John Marshall University (1982)
Experience: 34 years of continuous legal experience. I have practiced in all areas of law that will be considered by this court. I am board certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Managing partner in several small to med-sized firms.

New Courts: The addition of 2 new district courts will contribute greatly to relieve the backlog of cases in the county. Statistically, the average number of cases filed per district judge in Collin County has been the highest in the State. Higher caseloads translate to longer delays to receive court hearings. The addition of these courts will save County residents millions of dollars in attorneys fees by expediting the conclusion of cases and more efficient and effective manner.

Access to Justice: The challenge and cost of developing and maintaining a quality, cost-effective indigent defense system that meets the needs of our local community and requirements of the Constitution and state law is staggering. Since eliminating indigent defense is not an option we must create better efficiencies within the system. These efficiencies should include (1) prompt determination of indigence ASAP (2) prompt appointment of counsel to those confined to state custody; (3) the establishment of a reasonable fee schedule for the payment of appointed attorneys; and (4) the prompt disposition of cases.

Balance: When it comes to justice and mercy the quest is to achieve balance and perspective while wrestling with complicated human issues often set on a foundation of self-contradictions. On these issues I am inclined to consider and follow the Rotary 4-Way Test in daily living of the things I think, say or do. The test: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build

goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned. Repeatedly meting out harsh consequences may be in vogue, but it is not a cure for social ills. Tolerance and forgiveness often require greater courage.

Impartiality: I recognize that politicizing judicial elections poses a definite threat to a court's impartiality. There is increasing pressure on candidates to follow donor's or political views rather than their own best judgment. Though there is no foolproof method to assure the character and integrity of a judge, I know that I must remain vigilant and monitor myself to assure that I remain fair and impartial and true to my faith and the moral principles I have been raised with. I must constrain myself to perform my duties in a manner that justifies public faith and confidence in the courts.

Other Issues: Though there is much to be proud of, the most pressing issue facing our local district courts is the expanding rift among judges and local political officials over judicial decisions which affect local political issues. This "elephant in the room" seriously threatens the impartiality of judges and, in turn, has the potential to undermine public faith and confidence in the courts. In addition to relying on my faith and moral principles, I hope to use my age, experience, established relationships, and reputation as a consensus builder to both address and aggressively pursue positive solutions.

416th District Judge, Andrea Thompson (Republican Party)



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Education: I attended Plano Senior High School, then received a BS from Texas A&M University before receiving my JD from South Texas College of Law in Houston.
Experience: I served as Collin County District Clerk from December 2011 - December 2015. Prior to that I was an attorney practicing in the area of family law with my own law firm from 2003 - 2011 when the District Judges asked me to serve as District Clerk.

New Courts: Family law cases are more than 50% of the cases filed in Collin County. There are twice as many family law cases filed as criminal and almost twice as many family law as civil cases. The addition of 2 new courts that only hear family law cases should help residents access the courts faster, but only if the existing courts continue to hear family law cases at a higher percentage than what they are currently. With my family law background I would be able to immediately take a larger percentage of family law cases and help residents have faster access to the courts.

Access to Justice: Improving access to justice is our duty and it improves court efficiency. As an attorney, I provided hundreds of hours of free & discounted services to clients. I am currently a member of the Texas Guide & File team working to develop and provide free online forms for legal filings. This program will walk self represented litigants through legal forms and then electronically file them with the court. Judges are leaders and as a judge I can encourage broader access to out of court settlement options in civil matters and develop a larger pool of attorneys to defend the indigent in criminal cases.

Balance: My family law clients often faced behavior by the other spouse that was devastating to their family. In discussing their choices in how to respond, we discussed whether the action was morally wrong or illegal. Infidelity is immoral, it isn't illegal. The

injured spouse may feel angry, but retribution may not be best for the children. Mercy and justice sit in a similar balance. Our laws demand justice, which is decided by a finding of guilt or fault. Yet mercy may be served by the length of a sentence or the amount of a judgment based on weighing the specific facts of a case.

Impartiality: Unfortunately in Texas we elect our judiciary and campaigns cost money but there are voluntary limits to contributions which I have chosen to accept so that no special interest group or law firm may contribute enough to decide the outcome of my election or give the appearance of impropriety. In fact, my campaign is mostly funded by my friends and family, with 36% of my donations coming from retirees, 41% from friends still working and only 23% from attorneys.

Other Issues: In Collin County, two family law cases are filed for every criminal or civil case and the number of family law cases is growing at twice the rate of civil or criminal cases. Few of us know someone affected by violent crime, but we all know someone affected by a family law matter. We need judges who understand the complexities and both sides of cases involving family violence, child support obligations, divorce, adoption and CPS. I have dedicated my career to these complex problems and finding solutions that preserve families and their finances. We have a need—my experience is the solution.

469th District Judge, Piper McCraw (Republican Party)

No response received

470th District Judge, Emily Miskel (Republican Party)



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Education: Emily Miskel received her law degree from Harvard Law School. Her undergraduate degree is a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. She graduated with distinction, in the top 15% of her class.

Experience: Emily Miskel practiced family law at a firm in Plano before being appointed to the 470th district court by Gov. Abbott. She is board certified in family law.

New Courts: I believe the addition of 2 new family district courts will improve access for Collin County residents. Specialized family courts will increase efficiency in resolving family law cases, because the courts will have expertise and procedures focused on the issues unique to family law. Further, adding court capacity will permit litigants to obtain quick settings to address the urgent matters facing

parties and children when family law cases are filed.

Access to Justice: Access to justice for low income residents is a persistent concern for our justice system. Many Collin County attorneys devote significant hours towards volunteer legal work to assist low income residents. I am proud of the dedication of our Collin County attorneys to pro bono work. The

Texas Supreme Court has also created forms for low income parties to represent themselves in family law cases. Further, staff and judges in Collin County are sensitive to the difficulties of navigating the system as a self-represented litigant and take great care to apply the law fairly and equally.

Balance: Our Constitution guarantees due process. To me, that means that the existing laws and rules should be followed with consistency. By applying statutes and rules as written, every person is on the same playing field. With increased predictability, parties are better able to settle their claims outside of court, which leads to faster results at lower cost. I believe mercy is achieved through transparency and following the law as written. Judges should never attempt to create new law from the bench to achieve a particular result.

Impartiality: I focus on each case before me and give that case my full attention. With my

focus on the case and the parties involved, I can apply the law fairly and impartially, without regard to fundraising. I believe that judges should be elected, because voters deserve accountability from their government officials. I also believe that the campaign process is invaluable for getting to know my community and serving voters. I think the benefits achieved through the election of judges outweigh concerns about fundraising. I am always mindful to treat each person in my court equally and with dignity.

Other Issues: I believe that cost is always a pressing issue. Courts should be conscious of taxpayer funds, and should always strive to reduce waste and increase efficiency. I will be sensitive to our budget and will constantly work to keep costs as low as possible while still performing to the highest standards.

County Court at Law Judge

4 year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the county. Responsible for cases including misdemeanor or criminal cases, class C appeals, civil matters, mental health cases, and probate matters.

QUESTIONS

Access to Justice: What, if anything, should be done to improve access to justice for low income residents in civil and criminal cases?

Impartiality: How do you maintain impartiality, given the necessity of raising funds for political campaigns?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the County Courts at Law and how would you address them?

County Court at Law Judge 7, James Angelino (Republican Party)



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Education: 1984 BBA Management Dowling College Oakdale NY, 1994 JD SMU School of Law

Experience: 11 and 1/2 as an Assistant District Attorney in Denton County, 8 yrs. as a criminal defense attorney, 14 yrs as a JAG Officer in the United States Army Reserve, Iraq War veteran and was awarded the Bronze Star. Have had between 400-500 jury trials.

Access to Justice: In Criminal Cases in Collin County you can get a court appointed attorney, if your income is below a certain level. I can honestly say that court appointed clients get excellent representation. As far as I know, there are no appointed lawyers for civil cases. There are many indigent clients that unable to access the civil justice system because they do not have the money. Their only chance is to

see if a local law school has a clinic where they might get some representation. It would help if there was a way to appoint attorney's for civil cases, but its not very cost effective.

Impartiality: I realize that there are people who have strong relationships with other candidates. I cannot hold that against someone if that is the case. Times are hard and people may not be able to donate. In the

end we must always be able to work together for the common good. After the election I will have to work with the people who were donors. If I want to remain successful, I have to remain impartial. I understand that this is a primary and we are all Republicans. If I am not our candidate I will support whoever is the Republican Candidate and will do everything possible to get that candidate elected

Other Issues: One major issue that the Commissioners have talked about is the cost for indigent defense. I understand that this is a

major expense for the courts, but I feel that Collin County does it right. Unfortunately you cannot just look at the expenses, you also have to look at the quality of the legal representation. I would not do anything at this point except to monitor the expenses. Another issue is dealing with mental health or substance abuse issues.. I am a firm believer in alternative sentencing and getting these type people help so we might fix the reason they are in court.

County Court at Law Judge 7, Melvin Thathiah (Republican Party)



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Education: BA English from Texas A&M University, JD from Florida Coastal School of Law

Experience: I am an experienced trial attorney with thousands of hours in trial handling cases all over Texas. I have also sat for the past year as a visiting judge in Collin County Justices of the Peace, hearing civil and criminal matters.

Access to Justice: Something should always be done to improve access to justice for all citizens, especially since that number of low income residents is growing in our struggling economy. The difficult part is finding ways to pay for that access that does not place undue burden on taxpayers. Civil access to justice can be improved, but much has already been done with the rules enacted in 2013 regarding justice courts. Legal aide programs could offer volunteer attorney clinics to provide low income residents free legal advice and form document assistance.

Impartiality: I am conservative that believes in strictly upholding the Constitution. Since this is my first political campaign, it has been easy for me to avoid being approached by donors that would do so hoping to gain favorable results. As an attorney running for the position, I have been mentored by a band of

judges who exercise integrity from the bench and do not show favoritism to campaign donors. I make clear to any potential donors that I do not take political contribution in exchange for results and am always prepared to forego the contribution. Losing donors is not worth sacrificing character.

Other Issues: The civil and criminal dockets should be given the same weight and attention to efficiency. With an extreme amount of judicial experience in criminal matters in the sitting judges of Collin County, we do not have a similar amount of civil experience on the bench. A fact which has caused the courts to have quite a bit of civil backlog. My experience would be beneficial to the citizens and the other courts in our rapidly growing community. Traveling the state has let me experience case management that will develop an efficient docket that saves taxpayers money.

County Court at Law Judge 7, David Waddill (Republican Party)



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Education: Texas Tech University School of Law Doctor of Jurisprudence 1986 University of Texas at Austin Bachelor of Business Administration 1983

Experience: Assistant District Attorney 20+ yrs.; 1st & 2nd Assistant, Chief of Grand Jury & Intake, Handled over 10,000 cases Managing Partner of firm & solo practitioner - handling both civil and criminal law matters. Judicial appellate clerks

Access to Justice: Access to justice for criminal defendants, while not perfect, is

addressed by Collin County's indigent defense plans. For civil matters, a possible solution

would be to encourage law schools and law firms to start civil clinics, similar to defense clinics currently in place. In this model third year law students and/or new graduates could work pro bono under the supervision of licensed attorneys to provide legal services in civil law matters. At a time when just over half of new graduates obtain jobs, this provides assistance to those in need and gives new attorneys much needed experience.

Impartiality: The best form of government is one that the people elect. Voters should have a say in the judicial branch. Currently, Texas has a hybrid system to fill the judiciary, election and appointment, and campaign finance rules for judicial candidates are stricter than for other candidates. This method blends the best

of both worlds and enhances our judiciary. Developing a system to police and prosecute, already existing campaign finance regulations would go a long way in curtailing abuses and assuring an impartial judiciary.

Other Issues: The most pressing or exciting issue facing our courts is the development of specialty courts. These problem-solving courts focus on substance abuse and addiction, mental health, and veterans issues. They provide court-supervised probation and mandated treatment. These programs are self-funded and are developed and run with little or no cost to taxpayers. The best part is they are incredibly successful in dealing with the highest needs highest risk offenders.

District Clerk

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for the judicial records of the District Courts.

QUESTIONS

Records: What is the biggest challenge in protecting the accuracy and integrity of records of the district courts and how would you address it?

Growth: How would you manage the District Clerk's office to keep pace with the expected growth in district court cases?

Vision: If elected what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

Other issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the District Clerk, and what is your position on these issues?

District Clerk, Lynne Chupp Finley (Republican Party)



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Education: B.A. in Telecommunications from Texas Tech, 1990; J.D. from South Texas College of Law, 1994; Master of Arts in Mass Communications, 1996.

Experience: 20+ years as an attorney practicing in human resources, health care, regulatory compliance, IT, data management, records retention, and civil, family and criminal law.

Records: Volume of filings: We have to do more with less. I will increase automation to handle more filings with fewer employees by importing proven, well tested industry best practices from the private sector. Employee Training: I will provide training to establish a baseline of technical ability, excellence and professionalism in every employee; not only in systems and software, but also in providing confident, professional and efficient customer service. Accessibility: I will increase online public access to appropriate documents to increase public confidence and ensure accuracy and integrity.

Growth: Zealously advocating to maintain or increase the district clerk's budget. Increasing

automation to reduce expenditures and improve efficiency, while improving customer service. Increasing the use of emails and text messaging to reduce inconvenience to potential jurors. Implementing productivity and overall effectiveness metrics and feedback. Importing proven, well tested industry best practices from the private sector. Increasing public online access to appropriate documents. Increasing access for pro se litigants while increasing safeguards against vexatious litigants

Vision: My vision is to provide exemplary services within a fiscally conservative budget. I will ensure that the Collin County District Clerk's office has a sterling reputation for

integrity, stability, and professionalism for many years to come. I will reduce the number of citizens who are required to show up but then are not placed in a jury pool. I will increase public online access to appropriate records. I will complete a smooth transition to e-filing in criminal cases. I will improve the systems used in our passport offices to address issues with false and fraudulent documents.

Other Issues: Juror management. We have to balance the need for properly vetted jury pools

against the time and inconvenience that jury duty imposes. I will reduce the number of citizens who are required to show up but then are not placed in a jury pool. I will do this by improving communications between the District Clerk and citizens through greater use of emails and text messages and by increasing flexibility in jury service dates by making it easier to reschedule jury dates and establish valid exemptions in advance.

District Clerk, Yoon Kim (Republican Party)



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Education: The University of Texas School of Law, J.D., May 2004 (President of the Asian Law Students Association); The University of Texas at Austin, B.A. English/Biology Minor, May 2001 (Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society)

Experience: Collin County District Clerk (Dec. 2015 - present); Yoon Kim, Attorney at Law, PLLC, Solo Practitioner (2009 - 2012, 2015); Melton & Kim, PLLC, Attorney and Partner (2012 - 2015); Collin County D.A.'s Office, Assistant D.A. (2005 - 2008)

Records: The biggest challenge is document security. The District Clerk's office must carefully review every filed document to ensure compliance with Rules on sensitive data and the General Sealing Order. If there is a sealing order signed by a judge, the District Clerk's office must ensure that the sealing procedure is followed. We address document and case security challenges by reviewing each document for accuracy. The District Clerk carefully monitors and audits document security rights and roles within the case management system to ensure proper viewing access to any restricted court files.

Growth: My job as District Clerk is to provide leadership to the office as it faces county growth, a growing caseload, and technological challenges. I lead the office by implementing operational procedures and policies to achieve efficiency, excellence, and cut costs in spite of a growing caseload. It is my responsibility to provide the vision and motivation my employees need to achieve these efficiency and excellence goals and to make sure the deputy clerks are developing expertise in their roles.

Vision: My vision for this term is an office that is completely invisible because we are running so smoothly and efficiently. We are a behind-the-scenes, purely administrative office. We work to serve the county and the public by supporting the district courts as custodian of all papers and imaged documents filed in all lawsuit. My office will be efficient and save taxpayer dollars. We will have measurably lower error rates and quicker e-filing return rates from previous years. I plan on saving the county money and putting money back into the Collin County general fund.

Other Issues: I believe the most pressing issue will be employee retention and training. Our office consists of 75 individuals, and 30 individuals were hired in 2015. I need to provide the proper training, encouragement, and motivation for our employees to remain with the District Clerk's office and develop expertise. Expertise is a result of knowledge and experience. Even though the goal of my office is to be fiscally responsible and save taxpayer money, the citizens of Collin County demand excellent, efficient services and that only comes with experience and expertise.

County Commissioner

4 year term. Must be 18 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 Collin County Commissioners Court, which conducts the general business of the county and oversees financial matters.

QUESTIONS

Justice System: What are the main challenges in providing a justice system for the county, and how would you address them?

Growth: What challenges will the growth of the county present, and how would you address them?

Poverty/Homelessness: What, if anything, should be done to meet low income residents' basic needs and reduce homelessness in the county?

Water: What are the most significant water issues in our county, and how should they be addressed?

Transportation: What are the main transportation issues in the county, and how should they be addressed?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the county, and what is your position on these issues?

County Commissioner, Precinct 1, Susan Fletcher (Republican Party)



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Education: BFA - University of North Texas, 1989 Interior Design / Industrial Technology. Continuing Education including Government Law & Liability (through Attorney General) and Commissioners Court Leadership Academy (through Texas A&M / VG Young Institute)

Experience: Professional background in Commercial Interior Construction, Project Management & Space Planning, for several corporate entities, in addition to owning my own business. Service on several governmental policy committees has also prepared me to serve.

Justice System: The Commissioners Court has very specific responsibilities, including our duty to provide a safe, suitable jail according to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. Our main challenges are primarily funding issues, resulting from unfunded mandates, including indigent defense counsel, ad litem counsel, appointed special prosecutors, interpreters, etc. I believe we must implement a managed system or contract situation to provide public defense. However, we must ensure that the primary goal is for justice to be served, and those receiving these services are still receiving quality representation.

Growth: Transportation Infrastructure. With 75-100 people a day moving into Collin County, consider that they are also bringing their cars. Many existing roads and highways need to be improved as well, such as Highways 75 and 380. I am currently working with NCTCOG (North Central Texas Council Of Governments) as well as other entities to address our current and future needs for transportation. In addition, education and water are huge challenges, and although they are outside of the scope of a county commissioner's responsibilities, I will work with

other elected officials on behalf of the community.

Poverty/Homelessness: Collin County has programs in place to help give our residents a hand up, rather than a handout. Due to our innovative program to provide state-mandated indigent health care, Collin County is consistently ranked in the top 1% when it comes to health, out of the state's 254 counties. Collin County's Project Access provides both better care and dignity to our participating patients, as they are seen in doctor's offices. Collin County also works alongside organizations such as the Samaritan Inn, Hope's Door, City House and Habitat for Humanity to help address the issue of homelessness.

Water: While water administration and planning is not within the scope of the Commissioners Court, I believe it's important for me to work with our local municipalities, as well as our state and federal legislative representatives. I believe it's critical that we identify new / alternate sources of water such as reclamation, new construction that minimizes the need for irrigation and locating potential new underground sources as well.

Transportation: It is critical to have proper forecasting so that we can anticipate further growth and address the trouble spots / choke points as early as possible. Another current issue is that with the demise of TAPS (Texoma Area Paratransit System), the county is currently in the process of designating another provider to service county residents who are unable to drive themselves. While we don't use county tax revenue, the provider is able to draw down funding to help residents such as dialysis patients, the blind, and others with specialized needs regain their mobility and be more self sufficient..

Other Issues: One of my greatest concerns is the additional burden that has been placed on our citizens by taxing of our mobility through tolling. Living in Frisco, I often say that I live in a "gated community", referring to the fact that I have two toll roads on two sides of our city - Highway 121 and the Dallas North Tollway. With talk of possible managed lanes on Highway 75, I suggested a transportation symposium or consultant to help guide the court in making critical decisions regarding funding our transportation needs. I implore the legislature to continue to make transportation funding a priority.

County Commissioner, Precinct 3, Jon Cocks (Republican Party)



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Education: BA, Business, Baldwin-Wallace College (Berea, Ohio)

Experience: During my thirty-five-year career, I have led or worked for a variety of organizations ranging in size from small businesses to a Fortune 50 company. I have worked with and advised numerous entrepreneurs, business owners, executives and families.

Justice System: The County needs to determine when additional court rooms will be required. The existing Courthouse will have to be expanded in order to accommodate further growth beyond two additional courts. Courthouse expansion will most likely require a bond issuance. The County then needs to proactively request the State Legislature to approve additional courts. The County will also need to expand the County Jail and Juvenile Detention facilities in the near future, which will require bonds to finance. Staffing needs and levels must also be proactively evaluated in order to keep up with "demand."

Growth: We must be committed to planning. Our planning should not be limited to just the County's operations, it must be comprehensive and include all of the County's elected and appointed officials along with officials from the municipalities, other government agencies, non-profit organizations and members of the community. Our planning priorities should include the development of a common set of priorities that can be used as the basis for discussions and requests to the State Legislature, Congress, etc. The County must insure it has the back-bench employee strength to take-over when needed.

Poverty/Homelessness: While we must be prudent stewards of the County's funds, we must be mindful that the poor or the homeless are our neighbors. The County should work

closely with and support volunteer agencies as well as with applicable state and federal agencies. I believe our primary focus should be on children. I support the WIC program as well as children's health care services. We also cannot forget that many of those experiencing poverty or homelessness may have mental health issues. It is important to insure Collin County offers an appropriate mix of mental health care and related support services.

Water: The obvious response is the availability of water, but availability is a function of cost. The most significant water issue impacting Collin County is the rapid increase in cost. One water district projects the wholesale cost of water will increase 65% during the next five years. As our population grows, water providers will be forced to obtain water from sources that are increasingly farther away. We must support the applicable providers to insure an adequate supply and lobby the Legislature and Congress to insure the County has access to supplies. We must act to support conservation.

Transportation: We need to first complete the paving of the 80 miles of unpaved County roads. Working with our government partners, the County has to determine our transportation priorities using the three T's - traffic, taxes, tolls. We must seek to achieve an appropriate balance between the three T's. In order to achieve less traffic (the first T), we must be

willing to accept some combination of taxes or tolls (the second and/or third T's). If we are unwilling to accept some reasonable combination of the second and third T's, then the result is going to be more traffic.

Other Issues: While not direct responsibilities, it is in the County's interest to work with the applicable officials to insure adequate educational and retraining opportunities exist for our children and

ourselves. An educated and adaptable population creates a huge competitive advantage for Collin County and its residents. High quality public schools also enhances Collin County's desirability as well as help maintain the value of our homes. Insuring we keep an abundant supply of reasonably priced electricity along with access to a world class telecommunications system also enhances our desirability.

County Commissioner, Precinct 3, Chris Hill (Republican Party)

No response received

Tax Assessor and Collector

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the county.

QUESTIONS

Tax Collection: What changes, if any, are needed in tax collection processes in the county?

Property Appraisals: What changes are needed, if any, to ensure fairness and accuracy for all property appraisals?

Automobile Registration: What will be the difficulties of the transition to a single vehicle sticker, and how will you handle them?

Growth: What challenges will the continuing growth of the county present, and how will you address them?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the county Tax Assessor and Collector, and how would you address them?

Tax Assessor and Collector, Kenneth Maun (Republican Party)

No response received

Sheriff

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the county.

QUESTIONS

Processes: What changes, if any, are needed in law enforcement processes in the county?

Juveniles: What changes, if any, are needed in the handling of juveniles in the county jail?

Growth: What challenges to law enforcement will the continuing growth of the county present, and how would you address them?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the county Sheriff, and how would you address them?

Sheriff, Jim Skinner (Republican Party)



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Education: Doctor of Jurisprudence, May 2001, University of Houston; Bachelor of Science/Criminal Justice (minor in Corrections), May 1990, University of Central Texas; USAF NCO Leadership School, Cannon AFB, NM, 1986; TCOLE Certified Texas Master Peace Officer

Experience: 25-year law enforcement veteran (Patrol, SWAT, Narcotics, Homicide, White-Collar fraud); former 2nd Assistant District Attorney/Chief of Special Prosecutions Division, Collin County DA's Office; and Special Prosecutor (public corruption matter).

Processes: The new Sheriff's challenge will be to lead the Office into the future with an eye towards exceeding the level of service that our citizens deserve and have come to expect. Leadership that provides planning for growth in the jail, for increasing the professional development of deputies and detention officers, and that ensures quality education and training for all employees, is essential to the safety and well being of our citizens. Additionally, close coordination between our DA, the Courts, probation officials and the jail, will be essential to ensure overcrowding of the jail does not occur.

Juveniles: None. Since 2011, Texas law requires separation by sight and sound for juveniles being detained in adult detention facilities. Most often, a juvenile will remain in juvenile detention pending their trial, unless (when on the rare occasion because of certain extenuating circumstances) a District Judge orders a juvenile held in an adult detention facility. If this occurs, the sight and sound rules must apply. Also, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJJD) recently consolidated rules regarding reporting the deaths, sexual abuse, and serious physical abuse of in-custody juveniles.

Growth: The explosive growth that we continue to experience will cause a strain on law enforcement staffing as calls for service increase. Work being done throughout the County on our transportation infrastructure may result in deputies handling an increased volume of calls as road construction causes unexpected problems, i.e. road hazards, traffic congestion, breakdowns, and accidents. Also, maintaining the standards of detention officers and staff, while providing for the safety and well being of 900+ inmates in the county jail will be among our most pressing issues as we look ahead to the future.

Other Issues: Unfortunately, drug use, burglaries and theft will continue to be a problem. With enforcement efforts aimed at curbing the raging Rx drug epidemic, addicts have turned to heroin as a substitute for the prescription painkillers they now cannot acquire. With increased use of heroin, overdoses and deaths will increase, and property losses will rise as people turn to crime to support their drug habit. As Sheriff, I will work with other stakeholders from every community to coordinate efforts at education, treatment and enforcement designed to help reduce the use of narcotics and dangerous drugs.

Sheriff, Daniel St. Clair (Libertarian Party)

No response received

Justice of the Peace

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for civil cases and criminal misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only.

QUESTIONS

Processes: What changes, if any, are needed in court processes in your precinct?

Poverty/Homelessness: What are the effects of poverty and homelessness on Justice of the Peace cases, and how would you address them?

Accessibility: The JP Courts are often referred to as "The People's Courts." What measures do you support to make the JP courts more accessible to the people?

Impartiality: How do you maintain impartiality, given the necessity of raising funds for political campaigns?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the county Justice of the Peace courts, and how would you address them?

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, Pl. 1, Ramona Brumfield (Democratic Party)



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Education: Bachelor's of Science in Business Management, University of Phoenix, Dallas, Texas University of Phoenix Lambda Sigma Chapter of the International Business Honor Society, Delta Mu Delta, Paralegal Certification from Southern Methodist University

Experience: Worked in the legal field for several years with emphasis on foreclosure processes in 12 states, truancy mentor, volunteers at the Legal Aid clinic in Plano and Allen with assisting the public with pro bono legal aid counseling.

Processes: Currently the process changes in the JP Courts are working. JP Courts has software that allows the public 24 hour access to review their cases and dockets. Mandatory E-filing has been launch to make sure documents are electronically filed and stored properly. By eliminating mailing, handling and keying in returns, the E-filing processed is faster and retrieved rapidly. There is also a cost savings as a result of the reduction of duplicated manual processing.

Poverty/Homelessness: We are past moral decay when it comes to the issue of homelessness. The Justice of the Peace Courts can become more involved in eviction cases which affect a potential homelessness population. I feel that once an eviction case comes into the JP Courts that could potentially meet the Assistance Center of Collin County Homeless Prevention program requirements, it would be great practice to have the Justice of the Peace Judge work as a collaborative effort, and ask the landlord if they would consider delaying the eviction to allow the family ample time to qualify for the program.

Accessibility: The majority of people in Collin County work 9 to 5 jobs and often finds it very difficult to get away from work without facing a

write up or perhaps taking their vacation days to handle their personal obligations. The JP Courts are "The People's Court" and the courts should be more accessible to "The People". The measures I support to make the JP Courts more accessible are to hold night court, three times a month, every other month while having all the Justice of the Peace Judges rotate this responsibility. This will give "The People" greater accessibility to the court system.

Impartiality: As a person that works in the Legal profession, I am govern by a code of ethics and it is my duty to remain impartial at all times. I take this election very seriously. I am well aware that my job is not to please everyone but to run a fair and honest election while avoiding any acts of favoritism or even the appearance of favoritism. The people who will donate to my campaign are people who are ready for change in Collin County, champion my causes, believe in my abilities, and are not expecting partiality in return.

Other Issues: I believe that as the economy still attempts to stabilize, an influx in truancy cases will arise. As a previous truancy mentor, I am very familiar with the conditions that may cause a child to end up in truancy court. As

Justice of the Peace Judge, I will push for more parent and student engagement. I would recommend more mentoring programs into the school system. I realize a Judge's words can

have a profound effect on our youth. I will make sure the words I speak are of wisdom, honesty, and encouragement to our children.

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, Pl. 1, Thomas Hayden (Republican Party)

No photo provided

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None provided

Education: J.D. at the Michigan State University College of Law, M.A. in Political Science-Constitutional Law at the University of Texas at Dallas, B.A. in Political Science at the University of Texas at Dallas
Experience: I have worked in higher education for the last year and a half, after completing my Juris Doctor.

Processes: All too often, people are eager to suggest improvements from outside of a system, without understanding the complex factors that are involved. In looking at any process, one area that can almost always be improved is making things more efficient. More-efficient processes are not only more accessible, but also cost less to operate.
Poverty/Homelessness: Poverty has long been acknowledged to have a negative effect on education. Education and knowledge of laws are often directly linked. When people are unaware of the extent of the rule of law, they find themselves unable to adequately protect their rights. To address this, I would and do encourage people to continue to take the initiative in enhancing their own education, and not to believe everything they see on television.

Accessibility: The measure that I most support to make the JP courts more accessible to the people is to avoid physically locking the public out of the courtroom.
Impartiality: The easiest way to maintain impartiality is to not accept funds for a political campaign, as I have committed to doing. The "necessity" of raising funds for campaigns is a symptom of a sickened electoral system; in some instances raising funds is acceptable, but it is never "necessary."
Other Issues: The most pressing issue for any justice, judge, or arbitrator is equality under the law. "All men are created equal," and the law exists to "protect the rights of the smallest minority that has ever existed - the individual."

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, Pl. 1, Michael Messer (Democratic Party)



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Education: Michael is a graduate of the University of North Texas (UNT), where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting Information Systems.
Experience: Michael is a patented inventor, accountant, Eagle Scout, Rotarian, and an active member of Mensa. He served as the DFW-regional organizer for Save Texas Schools. He has prior experience with tax credit and property management law.

Processes: Our past Judges in Collin County have done an excellent job at developing court software and processes which provide significant gains in efficiency. The size of those gains is dependent on the public's awareness and use of these new tools. I suggest that we incentivize the adoption of online tools with a modest discount on court fees for those who consent to email service and use E-Filing.
Poverty/Homelessness: In Texas, roughly one out of every five children lives in poverty.

Poverty has been shown to be connected to higher chances of health problems, which tend to affect other issues, like truancy. It is important to weigh the realities faced by impoverished families when ruling. It doesn't make any sense to imprison poor people for not being able to pay fines. Such practices are a waste of tax dollars and have twice been ruled unconstitutional. I intend to collaborate with local community service organizations to

offer an alternative to those who are unable to afford the fines.

Accessibility: First and foremost, I will ensure that the doors of my court are open to the public, unless there is a specific privacy, trade secret, or national security issue. The people have a constitutional right to watch the inner workings of the court. I would also like to work with the city councils in Collin County to determine how to best serve citizens with disabilities after the dissolution of TAPS. It is extremely important that our courts are accessible to those who are unable to drive.

Impartiality: Even though candidates in Texas affiliate with political parties and raise

funds during elections, it is important that they remain objective in their rulings. Judges have a responsibility to the public trust which requires them to recuse themselves from cases in which there might possibly be a conflict-of-interest. This is how I will remain neutral and unbiased in my rulings as Justice of the Peace.

Other Issues: Domestic violence is a prominent blight on our society which primarily harms women and children and is far too often ignored. As Justice of the Peace, I will work with programs which assist battered women and children in their escape from abusive relationships.

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, Pl. 1, Chuck Ruckel (Republican Party)



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Education: BS Engineering, UT - Austin; MS Management, UT - Dallas; Sam Houston State University - Leadership & Command College; Leadership Plano Class IV; Registered Professional Engineer; Master Peace Officer; Over 200 hours of Judicial training.

Experience: 3 years as Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3-1; Approximately 25 years with the Collin County Sheriff's Office retiring as the head of the Field Operations Division. Experienced in management, budgeting, and solving complex problems.

Processes: Justice Court is still a paper system in an electronic world. It is imperative that we move these courts into the 21 century. We will always need to allow paper filings, reports, and evidence but our Court can be much more efficient by using technologies and software that are available.

Poverty/Homelessness: Most of our eviction cases are due to non-payment of rent. Often this occurs because the occupants have fallen on hard economic times due largely to loss of employment, illness, or divorce. After eviction, many of these people become homeless. Churches and non-profit organizations could become more proactive in helping in the short term preventing some of the homelessness.

Accessibility: Education is the key to accessibility. Many citizens do not know what the Justice of the Peace even does other than marriages. It is the "People's Court" because an average citizen can plead their case at a very low cost and seek "justice" for any dispute as long as the amount in question is \$10,000 or less. There are also a number of other services that are available. Some of these include mental warrants, occupational driver's

license, hot checks, and truancy. Justice Courts hear all criminal cases that are fine only. We need to increase access to technology and simplify the filing process.

Impartiality: The most important role for a Judge is to remain impartial while conducting Court. The sanctions for a Judge that shows favoritism are harsh and swift. While all Judges understand this, I believe it is the moral fiber of the individual that allows them to maintain their integrity and impartiality. I would not compromise my core beliefs for a campaign contribution.

Other Issues: Staff and staff pay – All Collin County justice Courts have small, efficient staffs. These staff members are expected to know the law, work with citizens, Courts, lawyers, law enforcement, DA's, and numerous others all without making any mistakes. Yet, they are paid as an entry-level position. If the clerks were fairly compensated, there would be less employee turnover. Turnover is not only expensive and time consuming, it is frustrating for the citizens. Court Security – Justice Court security is lacking and must be improved.

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, Pl. 1, Andrew White (Republican Party)

Andrew White's name will appear on the ballot, but he has been disqualified from winning the race because he does not live in the district.

Constable

4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented.

QUESTIONS

Role: What are challenges of the Constable role, and how would you handle them?

Processes: What changes, if any, are needed in the processes used by Constables in our county?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the county Constables, and how would you address them?

Constable, Precinct 1, Mike Vance (Republican Party)

No response received

Constable, Precinct 1, Mark Wester (Libertarian Party)

No response received

Constable, Precinct 1, Shane Williams (Republican Party)

No response received

Constable, Precinct 2, Gary Edwards (Republican Party)

No response received

Constable, Precinct 3, Sammy Knapp (Republican Party)**Contact Information:**

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[Knapp/100005040556204](https://www.facebook.com/people/Constable-Sammy-Knapp/100005040556204)

Education: Bryan Adams High School, Dallas, Texas Bishop College, Dallas, Texas Collin College, Plano, Texas Master Police Officer Certificate

Experience: Constable Sammy Knapp has over 40 years of law enforcement experience. Grand Prairie Police Department DFW Airport Police Department Plano Police Department Collin County Constable Pct. 3 (Deputy) Collin County Constable Pct. 3 (Elected Constable) putting this office in a daily struggle to maintain our duties.

Processes: The addition of our lost sworn positions, would allow the office of Constable Pct. 3 to function at a level that the workload requires. It would allow this office to be more productive within the community we serve and have dedicated Deputies within our precinct that would be able to represent this office, the people whom we serve and provide efficient service at a low cost to the citizens.

Other Issues: As Constable, I am working to bring the Deputy Constable's of this county to

Role: The biggest challenges that the Constable's face today are educating the public as well as our elected county commissioners court. Pct. 3 Constable's office is the only elected constable within Collin County to serve two (2) justice courts on top of our other state mandated duties. We not only serve criminal and civil warrants and documents for those two courts, our office is also mandated to serve all courts that send us any document to serve or execute. The Collin County commissioners reduced our staff size by three employees,

the same pay level of the Collin County Sheriff's office. Until several years ago, Deputy Constables, who require more training than a Deputy Sheriff, were on the same pay scale. Our elected commissioners with the help of the

Collin County HR department, decided that Deputy Constables should not be paid at the same level and lowered a Deputy Constable's overall benefit package to that of an unlicensed Collin County Sheriff Deputy.

Constable, Precinct 4, Joe Wright (Republican Party)

No response received

County Party Chair

County chairs lead party activities within the county; work with candidates, precinct chairs and staff; conduct primary elections and certify results, and build a network of volunteers and precinct chairs.

QUESTIONS

Candidates: What are your plans to aid in candidate recruitment for local races?

Precinct Chairs: Precinct chair positions are often unfilled. How would you recruit and retain precinct chairs?

Voter Turnout: Voter turnout has traditionally been low. What strategies would you use, if any, to increase voter turnout within the county?

Vision: If elected, what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for this office, and how would you address them?

County Democratic Party Chair, Mike Rawlins



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Education: M.S Computer Science, University of Texas at Dallas B.A. Political Science, U of Oklahoma

Experience: 6/14 - present - County Chair 2004-2014 - Chair, Precinct 48 Chair of Strategic Planning and Coordinated Campaign committees, and chair of convention Resolutions Committee

Candidates: Our Candidate Recruitment and Development Committee has been successful in recruiting the most Democratic candidates that have been fielded in over 20 years. We'll build on those efforts in the next term by also recruiting and developing candidates for non-partisan offices.

Precinct Chairs: Filling Precinct Chair positions is a perennial and traditional challenge. We'll continue recruitment initiatives by contacting known Democrats and community outreach at various events and groups. We'll retain by developing skills, monitoring, and mentoring.

Voter Turnout: This is not a Republican county. Even in Collin we're a nonvoting county. More will vote when they know that there is a viable alternative to Republican rule.

We will work with other groups to reinforce the message that people's votes count, that they can make a difference by voting.

Vision: I am grateful for the support I have received this term and for the progress we've made in the past 18 months, rebuilding the Party and beginning to make significant progress again. My goal is to continue this progress and make this county competitive for Democrats.

Other Issues: The biggest obstacle we have in Collin County, and in Texas, is the belief that Democrats can't win here. This is a self-defeating prophecy. By believing that we can win and by doing the things that are necessary to win, more will believe that we can win and we will win.

County Republican Party Chair, George Flint

No response received

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.