



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

Nonpartisan

# VOTERS GUIDE

March 1, 2016, Primary Election  
Texas Representative District 33

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 Texas Representative District 33. It is available online at [www.lwvcollin.org](http://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](http://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.

## Texas Representative District 33

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

### QUESTIONS

**Education:** What changes, if any, should be made to public education financing in Texas?

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

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

**Human Trafficking:** What, if anything, should Texas do to reduce human trafficking?

**Payday and Auto Title Loans:** What, if any, state regulations are needed on Payday and Auto Title loans, and why?

**Transportation:** What are the main transportation needs in Texas, and how should they be funded?

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

## Rick Donaldson (Libertarian Party) – No response received

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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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## Justin Holland (Republican Party)

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**Education:** Rockwall High School ('02), Texas Tech University (BA '05), Texas A&M University-Commerce (MS '08).

**Experience:** Community Banking, Real Estate - Homes & Land, City Councilmember and Community/Civic Volunteer.

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**Education:** The safety and well-being of our kids will always be my top priority. I am committed to guaranteeing their preparation for the future so they can one day provide for their families. I will fight to increase local control of schools, and cut burdensome tests so our teachers can finally educate our kids. I'm fed up with a society of kids who are being taught to take tests and to conform to obedience and compliance with state evaluations than letting our brilliant educators cultivate a society of curiosity, creativity, and imagination. We must test the application of knowledge, not acquisition.

**Water:** I support the implementation of that state water plan which is a 50 year plan for Texas. It is a document which locally driven and puts emphasis on conservation and addresses improvement of infrastructure. It takes public needs into account as well as private property rights and water rights. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) estimates that present-day annual economic losses from not meeting water-supply needs could result in a reduction in income of approximately \$11.9 billion annually if drought conditions approach the drought of record and as much as \$115.7 billion annually by 2060.

**Energy/Environment:** Endorsed by the Texas Association of Realtors, I support their energy policy agenda of recognizing current sources of energy while implementing planning processes of diversification of sources such as wind, nuclear, solar, coal, bio-fuels, and geothermal. We should maintain state electric system independence and encourage the expansion of additional capacity - as well as provide compliance incentives, consumption management programs and voluntary green standards for homes and commercial businesses.

**Human Trafficking:** I am a firm believer in the rule of law and know that illegal immigration is the greatest threat Texans face

today. Texas must lead the fight on border security to ensure our families are safe. As our conservative representative, I will take every step to secure our border, stop sanctuary cities that harbor criminal illegal aliens and ensure the legal status of workers in our state. I do believe that we need a physical barrier to help law enforcement, security officers, DPS troopers and the Texas military to stop the dangerous and illegal border running and smuggling that happens every day.

**Payday and Auto Title Loans:** I am not a fan of more regulations or the government increasingly being a part of our everyday lives, but I am in favor of taking economic steps to set Texans up for financial success and independency in whatever their line of work is. We should be beacon of prosperity, opportunity and shining star example to the rest of the country. If this means reform in areas that can be financially crippling to Texans, then I am willing to listen.

**Transportation:** Texas deserves a safe and efficient transportation system. We've taken steps to fund transportation and stabilize long-term funding but there is still work to do. Congestion, construction and condition of Texas' roadways can be economically crippling to commerce in our state and must be improved. Growth is not slowing down and much like water and we must lead with transportation in mind. As a Texas realtor, I support TAR's plan to cease non-education diversions from the gas tax, dedicate all motor vehicle sales tax to Fund 6 and a pay-as-you-go structure for construction and maintenance.

**Other Issues:** Securing our border, cutting taxes and creating jobs, defending 2nd amendment rights, upholding traditional marriage and other fundamental faith and family values, stopping abortion and defunding Planned Parenthood, defending private property, strengthening transportation, educating our kids, and stopping Obamacare.

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## Karen Jacobs (Democratic Party)

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**Education:** 1983 Bachelor of Science in Computer Science - Georgia Institute of Technology, graduated with highest honors

**Experience:** A former engineer and business leader, mother and grandmother, my husband and I have five children and four grandchildren - all proud Texans. I started Raytheon as a software engineer and rose to the position of program director prior to retirement.

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**Education:** The state is not spending enough on education - 2/3 of Texas school districts are suing the state over inadequate and unequal funding. We fund our schools from local property taxes/bonds (~55%), state funds (~35%), and federal funds (~10%). Our local property taxes also have a "robin hood restriction" limiting the amount. We need to ensure that everyone (including commercial property owners) pay the market value for their properties and limit the appeals process so that small school districts with a few major commercial property owners are not held hostage waiting for their tax fund.

**Water:** The current target for gallons per capita per day (GPCD) is 140 (set by the Texas Water Conservation Implementation Task Force). We are not meeting that threshold today in North Texas - we can and should do better. Conservation and reuse is the cheapest and most earth friendly way to reach our needs. We must fully fund the statewide water conservation education program passed in 2007 and look towards Aquifer Storage and Retrieval for parts of Texas with available aquifers. Texas must ensure that we plan for future droughts today - not wait until the next one occurs.

**Energy/Environment:** Increased use of wind and solar power will drive innovation and lower costs. It will reduce our vulnerability to fluctuations in the supply and demand of oil and gas while reducing pollution and leaving a cleaner environment for our children. I support the continuation of the CREZ program that provides state incentives for renewable energy. I would expand it to ensure we track and provide goals for the percentage of our total energy produced from renewable sources rather than just total megawatt hours. This would ensure a balance in our energy supply as Texas continues to grow.

**Human Trafficking:** Texas has made progress on human trafficking with stronger laws and penalties. The next focus is to cut the demand side of the equation. HB 188 added the duties of providing a strategy to reduce demand to

the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, and HB968 allows victims who have been trafficked by a business to go after the assets of shareholders who directly benefited from human trafficking. HB2455 establishes a task force to gather accurate and uniform data on human trafficking and provide policy recommendations by Sept 2016, which will be important to determine the next steps.

**Payday and Auto Title Loans:** Almost 30 cities in Texas have adopted payday-lending laws. We need consistency across our state. We need to cap the interest rate, ensure payback of the loan takes no more than 5-10% of the borrower's income per payday, and that the loan closes in a year. I would also be interested in programs that encourage employers to join with credit unions and banks to offer low-income workers the option to take out loans and have payroll deduction to repay the lenders.

**Transportation:** Transportation is more than half of Texas' total debt of \$42 billion, doubling in the last decade. The cost of building and maintaining roads is on top of that. Right now, part of the gas tax goes to fund schools, and Proposition 7 is moving sales tax to fund roads. This is a shell game. The gas tax was last set at 20 cents per gallon in 1991, which is the equivalent of 9.3 cents today. We are at the point of being forced to choose between no new roads, expensive toll roads/taxes or raising the gas tax. I support raising the gas tax rather than taking funds from our schools.

**Other Issues:** The gun lobby will push beyond open carry for increased access to guns. I am against open carry/campus carry and support background checks closing the gun show and Internet loopholes and keeping guns out of the hands of violent offenders. We need to make the economic system fairer including equal pay for equal work, raising the minimum wage, and accepting Medicaid expansion. Medicaid expansion insures an additional 1.3M Texans and offers an economic benefit to Texas with lower property taxes while adding jobs due to the growth of the healthcare sector.

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**John Keating (Republican Party) – No response received**

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**Lorne Liechty (Republican Party)**

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**Education:** University of Notre Dame (1981), JD, magna cum laude, MBA, With Highest Honors; Oral Roberts University (1977), BA, summa cum laude

**Experience:** Mayor, Heath, Texas, 2012 – present. City Council, Heath, Texas, 2004 – 2012. Park Board, Heath, Texas, 1996 – 2004. Attorney licensed in Texas since 1981, with Liechty, McGinnis, Berryman & Bowen (f/k/a Liechty & McGinnis) for 26 years

**Education:** Education funding will be an issue that needs to be addressed in the next legislative session, regardless of the exact outcome of the pending Supreme Court case. As State Representative, I will consult with school administrators, trustees and other experts within my District to make sure that our funding System is adequate and equitable and meets the needs of our fast-growth schools. I will also work to simplify the complex school funding requirements and to provide more local control to our local school districts to deal with their funding needs.

**Water:** A sufficient, safe water supply is essential to the stability of our society and the strength of our economy. We need to plan for and implement long term strategies for the development of our water supply. As part of this process, we need to look at all possible options for developing our water resources. Additionally, we need to allow private owners of water resources to develop these resources for the benefit of Texas and to maximize our water supply options.

**Energy/Environment:** We need to allow development of all energy resources on a market competitive basis, while at the same time protecting the environment for future generations and for use by all Texans. Fortunately, modern technology allows us to do this much more effectively and efficiently than ever before. I would emphasize careful oversight of energy development and policy to protect our environment, and the use of the most up-to-date technologies to do so. We should also encourage use of renewable energy resources, but such resources need to be developed on a market competitive basis.

**Human Trafficking:** The state needs to emphasize enforcement of all applicable laws against human trafficking and look at making the penalties for these crime much more

severe. Additionally we need to emphasize border security, which will limit further restrict human trafficking.

**Payday and Auto Title Loans:** The State should examine any unethical and/or illegal practices by payday lenders. Although I am against the government's over-regulation of businesses, the criminal justice system should not be used as a tool of private businesses to force collection of defaulted payday loans. Fuller and more transparent disclosures should also be required so that all customers of these companies are fully aware of the terms of the loans.

**Transportation:** We need to develop additional roads and maximize transportation resources within the District and the State. Failure to do so will limit our growth, hamper economic development and worsen our air quality. We need to work to maximize available funding resources, and use all available funds as efficiently as possible. TXDOT has worked on cost savings plans recently, but still needs to improve efficiency and budgeting. One thing that could bring increased efficiency would be allowing more use of Design-Build, rather than Design-Bid-Build projects.

**Other Issues:** a. Immigration and Border Security. I will support enforcing our border security and oppose Sanctuary Cities. b. Protection of Personal & Religious Liberties. I will fight to protect the free exercise of religion and to limit governmental infringement on any rights guaranteed by the Constitution. c. Economic Development. I will work to promote a pro-business, pro-jobs agenda that will allow our Texas economy to grow. d. Public Schools. I will work closely with local teachers and education leaders to make sure we are doing everything we can to provide the best public schools possible.

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## Cristin Padgett (Democratic Party)

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**Education:** B.S Marketing - University of Texas at Dallas

**Experience:** Having been in professional sales and marketing for seven years in various roles I have the exceptional ability to relate to people, build relationships, and be a leader.

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**Education:** Effectively zero dollars from the Texas Lottery goes into education. Lottery funds need to be voted directly into the state's education fund. Texas ranked 11th in the US on per-pupil financing before it cut \$5.2B from education while giving out \$19B in corporate incentives. These incentives are corporate welfare. Texas has 11th lowest poverty rate and highest ratio of min. wage workers. It would benefit our society more to allocate some of these corporate incentives to educating our children than it is to incentivize companies to come to Texas, only to offer hourly jobs that pay minimum wage

**Water:** Dallasites use 213 gallons/person of water a day. North Texas has spent \$9M on water conservancy education programs over the past 5 years. Providing residents, directly or through voucher based incentive programs, with available technologies such as water-saving low-flow shower heads, aerators, or float boosters for the toilet tank will give Texans the ability to conserve water without concern with the extra cost associates with those changes. If we invest now we can save later.

**Energy/Environment:** With oil trading at below \$30 a barrel we can no longer rely on it for stable Texas jobs. Investing in renewable energy and infrastructure will create high paying jobs. Texas should lead the way in the renewable energy revolution; specifically solar energy. Currently policy choices and economic factors have deterred the growth of solar energy in Texas. Expanding the solar investment tax credit, adding other rebates, or tax incentives to consumers and companies who want to invest in the future of solar power in Texas will help foster growth of the industry

**Human Trafficking:** The 2011 Super Bowl hosted in Arlington Texas was the largest human trafficking event in history. Right in our backyard women were being sold into sexual slavery. Human trafficking is the fastest

growing industry in the organized crime world and our children are at the highest risk. However sex trafficking is only a symptom and the disease is poverty. Victims of human trafficking are not coming from Preston Hollow or Uptown Dallas. They are being targeted in the poorest neighborhoods across the state and across the world. If you can resolve poverty you can resolve human trafficking.

**Payday and Auto Title Loans:** Payday lenders use check cashing services in order to lure consumers in low income neighborhoods into their door. The Attorney General's office should treat the predatory payday loan industry with the contempt they deserve. Increasing the presence of banks in low income neighborhoods will decrease the prevalence of predatory payday loans. Every high school student should be given proper financial education specifically: how to apply for a mortgage, calculate compound interest, know how to file taxes, and the importance of checking and savings accounts before they graduate.

**Transportation:** We need to fix our crumbling transportation infrastructure and we need to improve and increase mass transit. It is imperative to invest in mass transit given our growing population. We cannot sustain the population growth and the infrastructure. More toll roads owned and operated by foreign conglomerates will only take us so far. Extending dart rail hours, tracks, and expanding bus routes will allow suburban communities such as those in Collin County to use mass transit as a viable consistent form of transportation lessening the burden on our roads.

**Other Issues:** Creating a living wage at the state level to reduce reliance on public assistance and lift Texans out of poverty. Reducing the gender pay gap through equal pay for equal work legislation. School reforms that produce more high school graduates.

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.**