



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

March 1, 2016, Primary Election
Texas Representative District 67

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 67. 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.

Texas Representative District 67

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

QUESTIONS

Education: What changes, if any, should be made to 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?

Ray Brewer (Libertarian Party) – No response received

League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

The LWV never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

Scott Coleman (Democratic Party)



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

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

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

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

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

Human Trafficking: Human trafficking should be a priority for Texans because it is an immoral practice that violates human rights of the victims. It also creates a chilling effect on people who would move to Texas for a better opportunity. Texas should begin the process of reducing human trafficking by asking law enforcement what changes need to be made to

decrease trafficking and help those who have already been victims.

Payday and Auto Title Loans: Payday and Auto Title Loans take advantage of the fact that the poor, and increasingly middle class, lack access to capital and other bank services. I support heavy regulations on these loan companies because they take advantage of those who are both ignorant of the loans they are getting, and dependent on them to personally transact their money. Another step should be to encourage more banks and credit unions to open up shop next to these loan companies for the sake of the community: people who pay a lower interest rate will spend that money in the local economy.

Transportation: I support the current funding scheme where some transportation costs like road building and repair are paid from gas taxes. However, as the population has grown exponentially, it will be impossible to continue the policy of more highways and roads and not expect traffic and congestion to continue to eat away at our time and money. I believe more money must be diverted to public transportation to alleviate our traffic problems, and I will oppose any new Toll Roads in Collin County, because previous contracts for Tolls have been a 'bad deal' for taxpayers.

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

Jeff Leach (Republican Party) – No response received

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.