



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

March 1, 2016, Primary Election
Texas Representative District 89

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 89. 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 89

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?

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.

Denise Hamilton (Democratic Party)



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Education: Denise graduated from Texas Woman's University (TWU) with a degree in Business Administration. She is a licensed Real Estate professional with Certification in Property Management.

Experience: 2015 Civic Award, Plano Community Forum; Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA); ESL instructor; mentor for Big Brothers/Sisters; member Plano Multicultural Outreach Roundtable (MCOR); substitute teacher. Born in Dallas and raised in Plano.

Education: Let's ensure our schools are run effectively and funded adequately. Starving public education out of existence as the State Legislature tried in 2011 by slashing \$5.4 billion of funding does not work; it resulted in overcrowded classrooms, reduced opportunities, and loss of qualified teachers. Privatizing education is also not an option. Our children are not commodities, they should not have to compete with the profit motivations of corporations. School districts should be allowed to participate in deciding how they are funded, and end the challenges in the State Supreme Court.

Water: Our State needs to start acquiring land to meet water need projections and stop waiting until it's too late. Conservation easements allowed by Federal law are easy for Conservation groups like Sierra Club to get and nearly impossible to remove. Proactive land acquisition by the State effectively blocks this. The entire process at the State level to get permission to build a new reservoir takes 10 to 12 years, and needs to be streamlined. Texas water conservation has no program equivalent to the highly regarded "Don't Mess With Texas" anti-litter campaign; better public education is needed.

Energy/Environment: Oil, gas, and coal have long reigned supreme in the energy posture of Texas. We need to encourage, not hinder, the development of renewable energy resources. While we have made good strides with wind-produced electricity, we need to do more for solar energy at all levels. Reverse the State legislation that stripped local communities from having any say in determining whether fracking is right for them or not. We need to engage our local communities, not push them out of the bus as if their rights and safety concerns don't matter. Let's stop ignoring harmful impacts of energy development.

Human Trafficking: Devote (increased) State funding to enforcement of existing laws against child pornography and human trafficking. Enact

legislation to strengthen the existing laws and greatly increase the penalties for committing these crimes. Devote State funds to a public awareness campaign, especially in areas like Houston which are known national and international trafficking centers. Set up a statewide hot-line where the public may report suspected human trafficking.

Payday and Auto Title Loans: Enact legislation to (1) forbid any state or local law enforcement, including private security companies, from using arrest or any threat of arrest as a means of coercing payment; (2) forbid any municipality from participating in debt collection, (3) specifically forbid imprisonment of anyone based solely on inability to pay a debt; (4) limit the interest rates charged for a loan, as well as prohibit any "loan shark" feature that renders the loan unreasonably difficult to repay. Make it a State crime (felony) to target vulnerable citizens such as veterans, the elderly, and the poor.

Transportation: Texas' transportation challenges are as large and diverse as our State. Tollways have increased in the last decade, but they should be built only as a last resort when there is no other way to address local transportation needs, and no community should be left entirely dependent upon them for access to their surrounding communities. Existing commuter rail like DART needs to be expanded into surrounding communities. I support high speed rail between our major urban areas, and will encourage innovation and investment to meet our States future needs.

Other Issues: Healthcare needs to be seriously addressed to reverse the negative trends facing our citizens, including an increase in the rate of STD infections, rising infant mortality, and more women are dying in childbirth. Ideology-based opposition to the Affordable Care Act have denied women, the poor and elderly much needed health care options, deprived the State of millions in Medicaid funding, and saddled our citizens with

some of the highest insurance premiums in the nation. The question should always be asked,

"who is benefiting and who is being hurt" when healthcare funding is discussed.

Jodie Laubenberg (Republican Party) – No response received

Dalton Lytle (Republican Party)



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Education: Southern Methodist University

BBA – MIS BA – Political Science

Experience: Dalton is a 25-year technologist with experience analyzing and solving complex business problems for companies such as TI and Verizon with experience across many industries including semiconductors, software, advertising and cyber security.

Education: Increased funding does not always translate into a better student education. There are challenges with funding in districts across Texas. With the current ad valorem property tax model, districts whose funding is tied to a tax base with lower overall property values face potential under-funding. We should replace reliance on ad valorem property taxation and move to a model that allows homeowners to truly own their homes. This will ensure those on a fixed income are not taxed out of their homes later in life. I am open to alternative methods of funding but not a state income tax.

Water: Population growth in Texas necessitates that we plan for the future water needs of Texans. Texas has several options to provide water capacity for the future: 1) Build additional reservoirs 2) Expand aquifer storage and retrieval 3) Desalinate brackish water These should be pursued in a manner that protects land and water rights of property owners. Where possible, we should use cost-effective approaches to minimize evaporation and maximize supply. Water quality is monitored frequently to protect against public, commercial, and malicious contamination of our water supplies.

Energy/Environment: Texas is a land rich in oil and gas. These resources are important to our past and future success. We are stewards of our God-given resources and have a responsibility to handle them wisely. Should we ignore environmental impacts? No. It is important that we maintain the safety of ground water and prevent contamination. Oil and gas producers must use responsible

drilling practices, retrieval methods, and storage. We should be responsible, but we should fight overbearing state and EPA regulations. We need fact-based, common sense solutions, not radical regulations.

Human Trafficking: The trafficking of humans is an atrocity. As Texans and Americans, we reject this cruel, criminal behavior, and we must stop human trafficking and punish those responsible. Texas is investing heavily (850 million additional tax dollars) on the border to fight drug and human trafficking. We must continue to protect our citizens and those who are victimized by this abhorrent practice. Leaders in Washington need to fulfill their oath of office and provide for our defense.

Payday and Auto Title Loans: With reported abuse of criminal charges filed by payday loan operators to recover payday loans, penalties against operators that misuse Sec. 393.201 3(c) of the Texas Finance code to coerce individuals to repay their debts may be in order. Use of this tactic by payday loan operators drives up taxpayer-funded administrative and court costs.

Transportation: Based on projected population growth in house district 89, expansion of current roads and new roads will be needed to support that growth. We need to prioritize critical projects and work with our congressional delegation to ensure adequate transportation funding is available for federal road projects. In addition, we can provide flexibility to local governments to pursue projects and funding on their own where the state is unable to fully fund those projects in a

timely manner. This should not become the standard method to fund future roads. We must stop the proliferation of toll roads.

Other Issues: Immigration – The legislature should ban Sanctuary Cities and eliminate taxpayer benefits for illegal immigrants - including in-state tuition. Sanctity of Life – Life begins at conception and ends at natural

death. We should protect both the unborn and the aged. Budget Reform – Enact constitutional spending limitations based on population growth and inflation. Ethics Reform – Enact common sense ethics legislation introduced in the last legislative session and protect 1st Amendment rights of private citizens.

Bob Worthington (Libertarian Party)



Contact Information:

None provided

Website/Facebook/YouTube:

None provided

Education:

None provided

Experience:

None provided

Education: Sources of education financing need to be tightened up. There are several sources available, such as the Texas lottery, where the funds are not being used as intended. Current education spending across the state needs to be audited with the results showing income against spending categories provided to all residents. Bureaucracy in education needs to be reduced or at least streamlined. Spending requirements need to be determined at the lowest level. Governmental oversight must be restricted to ensuring state and federal funds are provided as needed in an equitable fashion for all students.

Water: We need much better management of our water resources in this state. There are currently people responsible for our reservoirs who are not performing needed functions. North Texas over the past few years has experienced water shortages exacerbated by an invasive species. The Zebra Mussel was introduced because there is no supervision of our water resources. A boat was allowed in our lake without cleaning or inspection. There are currently no rules, nor penalties, for this type of situation. These need to be established.

Energy/Environment: This will always be very difficult. Until someone comes up with something better, the current best methods of producing energy with less of an impact on the environment would be conversion of all current plants to either natural gas or nuclear, with a concurrent large expansion of wind and solar farms. However, none of these are perfect and we should continue to search for better alternatives. There is no such thing as an energy source that has no effect on the environment. I know this is not politically

correct, but it is a fact. Even solar and wind energy are having an effect.

Human Trafficking: Human trafficking is disgusting, immoral, and heartbreaking. This should not be allowed in our country, much less our state. Anyone who is caught participating in human trafficking should be considered a murderer, rapist, and slave owner/dealer all in one and should be prosecuted as such. In most cases, human trafficking includes illegal border crossing between Mexico and Texas. Although this is a separate issue than the issue of those illegally entering the US, the precautions we could take for either would benefit the other.

Payday and Auto Title Loans: Payday and Auto Title loans are a semi-necessary evil used by unscrupulous people to prey on poor or down on their luck folks needing quick money. The large interest rates and fast repayment schedules make it difficult for people who get caught in the cycle to get out. We need to create alternatives through banks and credit unions. We need to limit the interest rates and payments required. We need to educate people on the problems with these types of loans.

Transportation: Our state needs a significantly better transportation infrastructure, both for traffic and for the environment. Our state needs to provide incentives for efficient, clean, and environmentally friendly transportation improvements. A better use of the funds we already have would go a long way to funding these improvements. Federal funds, taxes on gasoline, etc., are already available, merely being misused from their intended purposes. This needs to change.

Other Issues: Many constitutional issues are currently being brought before our state legislature. I expect this to continue. We need to support our constitutional rights, including

but not limited to freedom of (not from) religion, free speech, bearing arms, and illegal search and seizure. There are many problems with these now that need to be addressed.

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.