



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

March 1, 2016, Primary Election
U.S. Representative District 32

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 U.S. Representative District 32. 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 for this office were prepared and distributed to candidates by the League of Women Voters of Dallas, which also collected responses.

Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response received" is printed. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This *Voters Guide* is organized by office sought, with candidates listed in alphabetical order, regardless of their political party.

U.S. Representative District 32

2-year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of Texas. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the U.S. House of Representatives.

QUESTIONS

Immigration: There is general agreement that America's immigration system is broken. What changes, if any, would you support?

Foreign Intervention: Under what circumstances would you support use of US combat forces in a foreign conflict? What actions do you recommend regarding the threat of global terrorism?

Social Security/Medicare: What changes, if any, would you support to the Social Security and Medicare programs? Why? What would be the impact of your changes on retired citizens?

Tax Code: Some people believe the tax code has become too onerous and has a negative effect on economic growth. What changes, if any, would you support?

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

League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

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

Paul Brown (Republican Party)



Contact Information:

info@paulbrowntx.com

(469) 416-6580

Website:

paulbrowntx.com

Immigration: For starters, the US should be enforcing the laws we have in place. However it will likely take more than that. Other than enforcing current laws, I am in favor increasing the difficulty of entering the country illegally. A wall, sufficient patrols, and allowing our border patrol agents to do their jobs would be a start. But in truth, this is only treating the symptom of the problem, and we need to get to the source. Illegal immigration is fueled primarily by several different factors 1) Extremely adverse conditions in other countries, creating a large disparity of quality of life between those nations and our own. 2) A demand for illegal or undocumented workers created by our economic policies. And 3) easy access to entitlements for illegal aliens. We cannot change number one, but we can address number two and three. Of course, removing the economic conditions that create a black market for undocumented work and limiting access to entitlements will be politically difficult.

Foreign Intervention: As a Marine Corps veteran of the War in Iraq, I am sick and tired of the US sending troops to wars that we do not commit to win. This has been going on for 70 years: we have not had a total victory in any of the major conflicts since World War II. That is unacceptable. In future conflicts I demand that the US government and the US people decide before the conflict whether we are committed to winning at all costs or not. If we are not, then we cannot afford to go in. There is no sense sending young men and women to die for something we are not committed to win. If we can commit as a nation to winning, then we can go. Regarding the global threat of terrorism, one of our best defenses is an armed populous. Beyond that we must remain vigilant and be prepared to

respond in the event of a substantive attack on our soil or against our interests.

Social Security/Medicare: I believe Social Security and Medicare should be phased out entirely starting as soon as possible. Those who have paid into these programs should have the option to opt out, be bought out, or stay in. Ideally, enough people would choose to opt out or buy out that it would significantly decrease the program. No new individuals would be added to the program. Of course, this would likely be very costly, and it would mean we would need to cut other programs to pay to phase these ones out, but in the long run it would save Americans quite a bit of money once the programs were phased out entirely. Ultimately, the less money the Federal government spends, the better off we as Americans are.

Tax Code: I support a low, flat tax across personal income and business profits. Ideally this would be in the range of 7% to 10%, though we would likely need to phase down to these tax levels over a number of years. In order to pay off our debt we would need to cut Federal spending at a more rapid pace than the lowering of Federal taxes. The above described plan is a very ideal one, however I am generally in favor of most plans that would lower taxes or create a flat tax.

Other Issues: Spending, the national debt, and foreign policy are huge issues right now. The Federal government must stop its out-of-control spending and start paying down the debt, which means no more deficit spending. Our foreign policy is a mess, and will not improve until Congress takes responsibility for things like our wars in the Middle East, and our sloppy handling of gun running to Mexican Cartels and the like.

Russ Ramsland (Republican Party)



Contact Information:

russ@ramslandforcongress.com
(469) 909-8246

Website:

ramslandforcongress.com

Immigration: I adamantly oppose any proposal for the legalization of illegal immigrants, generally referred to as "amnesty." I believe in the rule of law, and those who entered America illegally cannot be allowed to have a path to legal status. It sends the message that breaking the law is okay as long as enough people do it, and would lead more people bypassing our LEGAL immigration system. We had a chance to stop the pro-amnesty agenda when an amendment was offered to last year's "cromnibus" bill and our own blocked it. Border security is a necessary first step to any further action on immigration. Congress and the Administration must also show a dedication to enforcement of our existing immigration laws. THEN, we start a national conversation about any changes to immigration laws. We must note that 94.5 million Americans of working age are no longer in the labor force, and recognize that the H-1B visa program is being abused. We must first protect American jobs for Americans.

Foreign Intervention: We must stop ISIS. Our allies in the Middle East are worried, confused and making up their own foreign policy as they go along, because our administration has not projected strength and has no goal or coherent strategy to get there. Once we have a goal and coherent strategy, we must give our full support to our allies in this fight, including working with the Kurds who are currently fighting ISIS, as well as providing Sunni moderates with serious weaponry and Special Operations personnel. If we are to commit to fighting ISIS, we must make sure that our military is allowed to do what is necessary to contain the threat, not bound by nonsensical rules of engagement. Before considering sending a large number of troops to fight ISIS, there must be a clear and compelling case that American security interests are at stake and that the only way to secure them is American boots on the ground. We should never send our men and women into harm's way with an uncertain mission and no plan to win.

Social Security/Medicare: Everyone who is in the system now, or is heading toward

retirement, deserves every dime they've been promised, because they've paid into it. We need to stop Congress from raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. Start by taking it off-budget as it was before President Johnson used it to mask the deficit. For newer entrants to the workforce, move their retirement age back and look at new models. The Social Security Trustees and several rounds of bipartisan commissions have prepared detailed recommendations. Chile offers a great model. For 30 years, younger people have been able to opt for a personal, Social Security savings account. The historic record in Chile is the average young person gets two to three times the retirement income, and Chile has never written a single "safety net" check, because nobody has fallen below the minimum payment of Social Security. We could employ a "safety net" by having the government guarantee the returns to the extent of government run social security.

Tax Code: I support overhaul of the tax code in the direction of a Flat Tax, wherein some of the deductions are removed but the rates are also lowered, various separate categories of income are removed, the alternative minimum tax is ended and the death tax eliminated.

Other Issues: Term Limits – We need Term Limits. I'd limit the House to 4 terms and the Senate to 2 terms with a four year sit out. National Debt – With the National Debt approaching \$19 Trillion, it is a MAJOR National Security issue. Soon we'll pay more interest than we spend on Defense. The answer is to peg spending at 16% of GNP since we generally collect about 19%. Re-build the Military – We spend around \$600 billion on our military, same as we spent (inflation adjusted) in 1987 at the height of the Reagan defense buildup. Yet under Reagan, we had a 600 ship fleet. Today we have 272. Under Reagan, it took 4 years from conception to deployment of major weapon systems (Poseidon submarine and Minuteman ICBM). Today, it takes 21.2 years. The difference today is a huge, unnecessary bureaucracy. The procurement system needs changing. During Reagan, major defense contractors re-bid every year. Now,

we award 50-year contracts on a cost-plus basis. Therefore more costs means more

contractor fees.

Ed Rankin (Libertarian Party) – No questions were sent to Libertarian Party candidates by LWV Dallas.

Cherie Myint Roughneen (Republican Party)



Contact Information:
cherie.roughneen@gmail.com
(214) 287-3203

Website:
CherieForCongress.com

Immigration: Enforce the Laws and Regulations. The System is Broken only because the Laws are not Enforced. If the Law is broken then Repeal and We will Replace.

Foreign Intervention: Any threat from foreign or domestic entities to the well being and the safety and security of the citizens of the United States of America will be considered a reason or circumstance to support use of combat force in a foreign conflict. Now you are asking question in a hypothetical sense therefore this will have to be revisited and clarified.

Social Security/Medicare: Why should it ever get to where we have to discuss this. I have paid into this program. My husband, family members, friends, neighbors and you the members that ask me these question have all paid into this scheme. Now, you ask me what will I support to change this fraud that has been hoisted upon the American citizens? First and foremost, I would round up and haul up the characters that hoisted the greatest heist in the history of the United States of America and haul them off to jail. Then I would try them an prosecute them to the fullest extent of the Law/ Thereafter, I would simultaneously dismantle the Affordable Act a fraud and deceptive practice to go to its grave, never to be resurrected again. I would make sure that those of us who paid for this receive

full compensation . I will propose that there would be no statute of limitation on members of the government who have committed fraud, waste and abuse on their constituents.

Tax Code: A very simple solution. Flat Tax. You Buy. You Use. You Pay. This is Fair Taxation with representaion.

Other Issues: I believe, National Security is a pressing issue. Screen all who wish to come to America. vgorously with no exceptions. Secure Our Borders. Illegal Immigration is a threat to our way of life, health and well being. The jobs for our citizens is in jeopardy. Screen all vigorously with no apologies. We do not know who is trying to seek asylum, persecution or economics What about Infection Control? Isn't the healthcare of our citizens paramount? We do not endanger our citizens for a political agenda. Screening of the health of all immigrants legal and illegal of any individuals arriving on the land and shores of America is a must for the health and wellbeing of our citizens. We must have strict border security and control of who arrives into our country. We must Create opportunity for all citizens. We must manufacture our own products. Prevent Monopolies. Get back to healthcare between the patient and the doctor. Eliminate government over reach and term limits. Thank you.

Pete Sessions (Republican Party)



Contact Information:
petesessions12@gmail.com
(214) 373-8585

Website:
petesessions.com

Immigration: Voters have lost faith in the federal government to protect our borders. Due to that distrust, there's little support for immigration "reform". Congress has to prove it will enforce our immigration law, beyond completing the fence on the southern border, which I support. We have to amend the "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" (DACA) law, which this administration has abused, encouraging tens of thousands of self-reported minors to enter the U.S. without any documentation. We have to end "Catch and Release," whereby persons residing illegally in our nation can be set free on the promise of showing up later for a court hearing. (Few return; most disappear.) We have to deport immigrants with expired visas. (They knew the rules when they came to our country and have ignored the law.) We have to take away federal funds from "sanctuary cities" and place a minimum sentence of five years for any illegal immigrant convicted of a violent crime, if they had been previously deported.

Foreign Intervention: I oppose signaling to the enemy what our military will, or will not, do to win. Our policy is to defeat ISIS. That should be our only publicly stated goal, and we should pursue it with far fewer engagement rules on our military, allowing it to better carry out its mission. ISIS has been emboldened by a vacillating administration. In 2011, President Obama said our men and women in uniform were returning from Iraq, because "violence was down" and – in Afghanistan – we were successfully "preventing the Taliban from re-establishing a stranglehold on the Afghan people." Neither claim has turned out to be true. Iraq has been partitioned by the bloodthirsty terrorist group, controlling about a third of Iraq and its fifth-largest city. In Afghanistan, the Taliban has stepped up its attacks on American soldiers. President Obama has been too accommodating to our enemies, such as Iran, while being too harsh on our allies, like Israel. His misjudgments have jeopardized our national security.

Social Security/Medicare: To ensure the success and solvency of Social Security, we

need to allow any person to opt out of Social Security to begin developing their own private accounts. Specifically, individuals should be able to save their own money on a pretax basis and their employer to provide a retirement program. I believe that any long-term solution for Social Security proposed by Congress must be voluntary and equal to or greater than the current benefit that workers receive, not change the current system for Americans 62 and older, and provide workers with individual choice and opportunities to allow these workers to diversify their assets. I believe that individual choice and opportunities are crucial for any Social Security reform plan and that by allowing workers to diversify their assets will make for a stronger and safer retirement security plan for American workers. Inaction on this issue is not a solution – either massive tax increases or benefit cuts will result if this is not addressed today.

Tax Code: In his 2011 State of the Union speech, President Obama called for a tax reduction on business earnings to spur job growth. In the five years since, nothing has happened. This President is often more concerned with his speeches than working with Congress to take action. If he had worked a tenth as much on tax reform as he has, say, on renewable energy, we would likely have lower taxes on families and businesses today, along with a simplified tax code. Your question puzzles. "Some people believe?" I know of no one who thinks our tax code is NOT onerous. Of course our tax laws hinder job growth! I favor fewer tax brackets with lower rates on individuals and families. We should also reduce the top tax rate on business – no higher than 25%, maybe less to stay competitive with other nations. To keep American companies from re-locating overseas, we should stop taxing business income earned outside the U.S. We're the only developed nation with that policy; it's killing jobs in the U.S.

Other Issues: We should make job growth our highest priority. Our economy needs to grow faster. We cannot tolerate the sub-two percent growth rate which we have

experienced during the Obama administration. The formula for job creation is simple: Fewer federal regulations on business and lower taxes on individuals, families and businesses. These policies have worked in Texas; they'll work nationwide. Federal regulations under this administration have become particularly burdensome. Dodd-Frank, passed by Democrats to supposedly end "too-big-to-fail" banking, has instead harmed local and regional

banks, none of which had anything to do with the 2008 financial crisis. From that one piece of legislation, the administration has released more than 19,000 pages of new regulations, leading to fewer banks making loans to credit-worthy small businesses. It's time to unleash business startups and job creation. Free enterprise is the engine for achieving the American Dream; it's time to re-start the engine.

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.