



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

May 22, 2018
Primary Runoff Election
Collin County

Early voting: May 14-18

Election Day Polls: May 22 – 7 am to 7 pm

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 is available online at www.lwvcollin.org, along with guides for other offices that include all or part of Collin County. Candidate responses for all races are also available at www.VOTE411.org, where you can enter an address and view a personalized ballot with races specific to that address.

Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

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.

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

Prevention: What measure do you support, if any, to reduce the quantity of school truancy cases?

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?

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, Precinct 2
Mike McCandless, Republican Party**

Email: mikeforjp2@gmail.com

Website: www.MikeforJP2.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mikeforjp2

Phone: (214) 556-7990

Education: Formerly a Locksmith, Radio Personality, EMT, Paramedic, Firefighter, Arson Investigator, Police Officer, Deputy Constable and now a Reserve Deputy, Court Bailiff.

Experience: I have over 11 years experience as a Court Bailiff for three Justices of the Peace along with Civil Process experience.

Prevention: First by bringing Truancy Cases back to JP 2 Court. And by utilizing the experience I've learned through Judge John Payton by offering different programs of accountability, family structure and resources.

Accessibility: Direct communication with the citizens of Collin County by phone or e-mail. People should have access to the Judge when they have questions that affect their lives and livelihood. Also by thoroughly educating the JP staff with clear and

concise answers. I as Judge will offer the best "Customer/ Citizen Service" by making myself available day or night. And by also having a Truancy Night Court and Traffic and other cases Night Court twice a month for those who can not take off of work during the day.

Other Issues: I will refer to the about statement I made that a Truancy Night Court and Traffic and other cases Night Court be held twice a month for those who can not take off of work during the day. This can truly help out the working families without having to put additional stress on them. It is truly important to take care of the people who have put their trust in me.

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Jerry Shaffer, Republican Party



Email: ojshaffer@verizon.net

Website: <http://judgejerryshaffer.com>

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Phone: (972) 442-3024

Education: MA physics & mathematics - Austin Coll. MS physics & math - Purdue Univ. Doctorate Ed. Adm & physics - Texas A & M, Commerce

Experience: Geophysical Research - Globe Univ. Sciences, teaching & coaching & athletic directing in high schools and teaching physics and mathematics in colleges and Universities.

Prevention: I have spent most of my life dealing with young people, mostly students or student athletes. A major cause of truancy is the difficulty a parent has in convincing their child of the value of education. Measures that engage parents by the school or community in the education process would be of help. Extracurricular activities are powerful in connecting parents and students to school and should be encouraged, however, a student attending only because of extracurricular activities may not receive a solid education. A more powerful and productive motivation is relevance. If the student's imagination can project him/her into a fun, productive and rewarding use of what he/she is learning, the student will look forward to the class. Measures to improve the relevance of school are expensive in the short run, but will pay great dividends in the long run. The "carrot" trumps the "stick". Removing the "stick" from the JP court did not significantly change the truancy rate.

Accessibility: I propose that all students receive more education in the way our governments actually works. A class that required field trips to city council and school board meetings and to court room sessions including the JP court would make the study of the "rules of the game" more fun. On a very small scale, Teen Court does this very effectively. The problem is that only a tiny fraction of all students get to participate. Prior to preparing to fill my position I had little real practical knowledge of how local justice was implemented. I find, as a judge, many who come before me are intimidated by the "mystery" of what is actually happeninig. Greater knowledge of how the law is implemented would lead to a more effective use of the "Peoples' Court".

Other Issues: It is anticipated that the \$10,000 limit to recoverable damages in civil cases will be changed in the next legislative session, perhaps to \$20,000. This will lead to many more cases being filed in the JP courts with fewer pro se litigants. Cases will be even more complicated, requiring a greater understanding of the law. Justice of the Peace judges are not required to be attorneys, only about 15% now are. This means that most Justices of the Peace, especially new judges, will need more training than now being provided. Another looming issue is the effect of self driving cars and other technologies. It may well be that traffic violations now being dealt with by officers writing tickets and filing them with JP or Municipal courts will be handled like tollway charges now are. Again, additional training of court clerks and other court personnel will be needed.

<p>You may bring this <i>Voters Guide</i> into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this <i>Voters Guide</i>, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (<i>Texas Election Code, Section 61.011</i>)</p>
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Your vote is your voice. Be heard.