



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

**Nonpartisan**

# VOTERS GUIDE

**Nov. 4, 2014, General Election  
Collin County Offices**

Early voting: Oct. 20-31

Election Day: Nov. 4 – 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 Collin County offices. 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), which allows voters to enter an address and review races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates for each office, whether or not the race is contested. Uncontested candidates were asked to answer a single question about their priorities for the coming term. For candidates

who did not respond, only their names and offices sought are listed.

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 and party, with candidates listed in order by political party.

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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.

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.

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**219<sup>th</sup> District Judge, Scott J. Becker (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**296<sup>th</sup> District Judge, John R. Roach Jr. (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**366<sup>th</sup> District Judge, Ray Wheless (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**417<sup>th</sup> District Judge, Cynthia Wheless (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**429<sup>th</sup> District Judge, Jill Willis (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**Criminal District Attorney, Greg Willis (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**County Judge**

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*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 presiding over the Collin County Commissioners Court, which conducts the general business of the county and oversees financial matters.*

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**QUESTIONS**

**Priorities:** *Even though your race is not contested this time, please share with voters your priorities for the next term, and how you will address them.*

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**County Judge, Keith Self (Republican Party)**

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**Contact Information:**

KeithSelf.com  
Keith@KeithSelf.com  
(214) 454-5075

**Education:** United States Military Academy at West Point, BS, Engineering, 1975  
University of Southern California, MA, International Relations, 1981

**Experience:** 25-year US Army career in tactical and Joint assignments; 7 years as the County Judge, Collin County

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**Priorities:** 1. Continue to ensure that the county core function of our justice system remains funded. The county budget will continue to address the entire justice system; courts, law enforcement, prosecution, detention, back office support. 2. Develop the major transportation system that the county

will need as we grow toward 2 million in population. This will require a region-wide network of grassroots support to develop the strategic plan for the future. 3. Keep US75 a freeway by working with our State legislators for the State to adequately fund transportation.

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**Judge, County Court at Law 1, Corinne A. Mason (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**Judge, County Court at Law 2, Barnett Walker (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**Judge, County Court at Law 3, Lance S. Baxter (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**Judge, County Court at Law 4, David Rippel (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**Judge, County Court at Law 5, Dan Wilson (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**Judge, County Court at Law 6, Jay Adam Bender (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**Judge, County Probate Court 1, Weldon S. Copeland (Republican Party)**

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- No response received

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**District Clerk**

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*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 the judicial records of the District Courts.*

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**QUESTIONS**

**Priorities:** *Even though your race is not contested this time, please share with voters your priorities for the next term, and how you will address them.*

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**District Clerk, Andrea Thompson (Republican Party)**

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**Contact Information:**

andrea4clerk.com  
andrea4clerk@gmail.com  
(972) 679-5090

**Education:** I am a proud graduate of Plano Senior High School, I received a BS degree from Texas A&M University and my law degree from South Texas College of Law.

**Experience:** In December 2011, I left my legal practice after 12 years in Family Law to accept the unanimous appointment by the Board of District Judges to be the District Clerk of Collin County. I served the appointment during 2012, was elected to the unexpired term in November 2012, and now seek re-election.

**Priorities:** My goal is to provide high quality services in a fiscally responsible way. In my next term I want to offer online access to case files. Now, users may view and print files from terminals in our lobby which allows public access, and reduces staff time retrieving files. We plan to use redaction software to remove

sensitive financial data from the files, which will allow public access online without risking identity theft or data mining. We would also like to add electronic filing of criminal case records to complete the transition to a completely paperless courthouse.

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**County Clerk , Stacey Kemp (Republican Party) – No response received**

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**County Commissioner**

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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 representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Collin County Commissioners Court, which conducts the general business of the county and oversees financial matters.

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**QUESTIONS**

**Priorities:** Even though your race is not contested this time, please share with voters your priorities for the next term, and how you will address them.

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**County Commissioner Pct. 1, Susan Fletcher (Republican Party)**

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**Contact Information:**  
votesusanfletcher.com  
susan@votesusanfletcher.com  
(972) 567-4162

**Education:** Bachelor of Fine Arts  
University of North Texas, 1989  
Major: Commercial Interior Design  
& Construction Minor: Industrial  
Technology

**Experience:** 20-yr. proven track record serving in leadership roles. Small business owner, Chair - Collin Co. Health Care Advisory Board. Appointed by Gov. Perry to TX State Board of Public Accountancy, elected to both the TX GOP Platform Cmte (2012 & 2014) & as a delegate to the Republican Natl. Conv. (2012).

**Priorities:** I look forward to working along with the other members of the court to maintain our low tax rate as well as address our growing transportation needs in Collin County, It is critical to have the necessary infrastructure in place, and for our long-term planning to be up to date. Economic

development and public safety are additional priorities which will provide jobs, help maintain our low taxes and keep our communities safe. Overall, I will strive to ensure that our state-mandated services and operations are provided in the most cost-efficient manner, making the best use of taxpayer resources.

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**County Commissioner Pct. 2, Cheryl Williams (Republican Party)**

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No response received

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**County Commissioner Pct. 4, Duncan Webb (Republican Party)**

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**Contact Information:**  
duncanwebb.org  
dwebb@duncanwebb.org  
(972) 608-9799

**Education:** BBA from SMU; JD  
from SMU

**Experience:** 33 years as an attorney practicing in estate planning, real estate, construction and small business law. Elected to the Collin County Commissioners Court for Precinct 4 in November of 2010.

**Priorities:** My priorities will continue to be focused upon keeping Collin County's tax rate one of the lowest in the State of Texas while

providing high levels of services to residents; investing in needed infrastructure, including transportation infrastructure;

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### Justice of the Peace – Uncontested Races

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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.

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**QUESTIONS**

**Priorities:** Even though your race is not contested this time, please share with voters your priorities for the next term, and how you will address them.

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### Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Paul Raleeh (Republican Party)

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No response received

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### Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Jerry Shaffer (Republican Party)

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**Contact Information:**

ojshaffer@verizon.net  
(972) 442-3024

**Education:** Bachelor's in physics and mathematics from Austin College, Masters in physics and mathematics from Purdue University, Doctorate in

educational administration and physics from Texas A & M Commerce.

**Experience:** I have no previous experience in politics. I have served in education most of my life at the high school and college levels as a teacher, coach and administrator. I have also done geophysical research and started several small businesses.

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**Priorities:** My priorities will be to serve Precinct 2 to the best of my ability; to be

honest, forthright, even handed, and to use common sense in the application of the law.

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### Justice of the Peace, Pct. 4, Mike Yarbrough (Republican Party)

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No response received

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### Justice of the Peace – Contested Race

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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.

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**QUESTIONS**

**Duties:** What are the most important duties of a justice of the peace and why?

**Prevention:** When youth come to the JP court for truancy and other issues, what strategies would you use to help guide them?

**Other Issues:** What are the most important issues you think will come before the Collin County JP courts in the next few years? What are your views on these issues?

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### Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3 Pl. 2, John E. Payton (Republican Party)

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**Contact Information:**

jpforjp.com  
jpforjp@gmail.com  
(469) 964-8881

**Education:** Graduate Plano East Sr. High; Collin College Summa Cum Laude; 1st Team Texas All Academic College; USA Today All Academic

Collegiate 2nd Team; 600 hours of Judicial Legal Hours TJCTC- Texas State University; Attended Dallas Baptist University

**Experience:** 24 years Elected Justice of the Peace; Presided over 60,000 traffic cases; over 16,000 civil trials; over 18,000 eviction trials; over 35,000 families and children helped with a 98.6% success rate; over 5000 DL Hearings; 20 years executive trainer and motivational speaker: Judges and Public Officials

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**Duties:** All the duties of the Justice of the Peace are important, because we are the peoples' court. JP courts handle civil cases up to \$10,000, eviction cases, traffic cases, class c misdemeanors, emergency mental health warrants, truancy cases, property hearings, examining trials, weddings, and many other duties that impact the people in our community directly. Citizens come to our office to seek assistance without having the expense of an attorney trusting that we will handle their cases with professionalism, compassion, and judicial decorum. I make sure justice is served for our citizens daily.

**Prevention:** In 24 years I have learned there isn't one strategy that can be applied across all students. Every families dynamics are different. Strategies I employ are to find out as much information as possible so I know how to properly help/guide families. Listening to students/parents explain why they have gotten

where they are and school officials testify on student records and observations. We build a plan that teaches student accountability/responsibility, counseling to assist with emotional, family, and substance abuse issues, community service to inspire self esteem and community awareness.

**Other Issues:** Growth, maintenance, and sustainability is the biggest issues facing Collin County JP courts. Civil cases, truancy cases, class c misdemeanors, and traffic cases are going to continue to grow. 600 plus hours of continuing legal education and solid docket management of 174,000+ cases over 24 years equips and prepares me to handle the growth. Innovative ideas like students on service, my new veterans program, and civil night court will help keep us ahead of the curve. The key is to utilize my experience and creativity to continue to provide these solutions at no cost to the taxpayers

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**Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3 Pl. 2, Denise Hamilton (Democratic Party)**

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**Contact Information:**

denisehamiltonforjp.com  
deniseforjp3@gmail.com  
(972) 588-8592

**Education:** A graduate of Texas Woman's University (TWU) with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration; AA Degree from Collin College; Licensed Real Estate Agent, Certified Instructor for the Texas Real Estate

Commission (TREC), and a former Certified Apartment Manager(CAM).

**Experience:** Denise is a successful real estate professional & instructor that understands property management law. Mother of 3 young adults, substitute teacher for Wylie ISD, Court Appointed Special Advocate, former speaker coordinator for (AVID), ESL instructor, Denise understands the challenges faced by our youth.

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**Duties:** While every duty of a Justice of the Peace is important, the most important duty is to secure Justice For All. Justice is an empty promise if any individual or group is denied access to the court, equality before the court, and equity from the court. Today, even as our County population increases in economic, cultural, and social diversity, barriers to the court unfortunately still exist. It's imperative that our Justices of the Peace have a broad understanding of rich tapestry of differences that characterize the Citizens of Collin County.

**Prevention:** When basic psychological needs are not met, people may seek to meet these needs in alternate and too often inappropriate ways. This is especially true for individuals who have not developed basic coping skills. In order help these people to effectively deal with life challenges, the JP Court should encourage the development of measurable support

system wraparounds or continuums, including:  
1. Mentors 2. Tutors 3. Teacher 4. Counselors 5. Attorneys 6. Parents 7. Life Skill Coaches 8. An advisory coalition of inter-denominational leaders.

**Other Issues:** Rapid population growth in Collin County, coupled with fiscal pressures on services and education, stress the ability of local governments to address our Citizens' social needs. The JP Court sees the result of this as increases in foreclosures, homelessness, truancy, and business disputes. This front line view provides the JP Court with a unique ability to help proactively identify and foster those service programs which will most benefit the Citizens of Collin County, especially for those at the most risk of being marginalized and unfairly treated, before the get into trouble.