



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

Nov. 4, 2014, General Election
Texas Senator District 8

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 Texas Senator District 8. 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 general election, 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, 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. 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.

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*)

Questions and candidate responses for this race were provided by the League of Women Voters of Dallas.

Texas Senator District 8

4-year term. Must be 26 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 Senate.

QUESTIONS

Health Care: According to the US Census Bureau, Texas has the nation's highest percentage of uninsured residents. What, if anything, should the state do to ensure that more people have access to adequate health care?

Education: What are your legislative priorities for ensuring that all Texas children have access to quality education?

Water: Given the historic recent droughts and the projected future water shortages for Texas, how would you protect and sustain our current water resources and satisfy the growing needs of people, cities, businesses and agriculture?

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.

Van Taylor (Republican Party)



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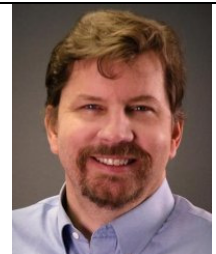
Health Care: We must repeal Obamacare. More disturbing than the embarrassment of a broken website are the broken promises that have led to increased premiums, dropped coverage and a burden of debt passed on to the next generation. With more Americans losing insurance than have gotten it from Obamacare, it is clear that President Obama's policies are making the problem worse. I will continue to fight to stop the expansion of Obamacare into Texas at every turn.

Education: I believe education should be a top priority next session. I have already begun discussions with teachers, parents, and school administrators on solutions to improve our schools and give our children every opportunity to pursue their dreams. One such reform we are looking at is finding incentives to increase school hours. There are several studies and success models that show a clear correlation between academic success and time in the classroom.

Water: Here in North Texas our biggest challenge with water is the long, cumbersome, and bureaucratic permitting process. In fact, since there was no time limit to issue a permit water projects were being stalled over a decade. That's why last session I made this issue a priority and passed legislation to help solve our states water problem by cutting the unnecessary red-tape and bureaucracy that prevents us from accessing the water Texas needs to grow.

Other Issues: My main inspirations for seeking public office are my three little girls. I am running to ensure that they, and all our children, inherit a strong, secure, and growing Texas, full of opportunity. To ensure this promise to the next generation we must rein in government spending, keep taxes low, protect the Rainy Day Fund, and stop the expansion of Obamacare in Texas.

Scott Jameson (Libertarian Party)



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Health Care: We need to accept the federal funds for Medicaid expansion, even though the ACA needs revision. Encourage indigent patients to seek care in their home county by setting a statewide poverty definition that all county hospitals must use. Despite the learning curve, encourage best practices and lower costs by starting more ACO pilot programs. Mandate treatment price transparency to allow all consumers to shop for the best and most affordable care.

Education: The Texas Constitution says that the state must distribute equally for every student to promote education. School districts' main funding source is property tax which can vary by district. However, the state's contribution must equally fund every student, including private and home schooled students. Play and creativity need to be encouraged to mitigate the failures of standardization. Seek excellence by following the 2030 Higher Education Plan.

Water: Fund conservation education. Encourage construction of solar-powered biotectural desalinization water plants. Encourage localized groundwater conservation districts. Push for aquifer storage and recovery feasibility analysis to be in regional water plans. Prevent CO2 emissions and save a tremendous amount of water by making the state's road RFQ process friendly to the construction of green roads. Further clarity is needed on the rule of capture.

Other Issues: Given the U.S. Supreme Court decision that once again allows state consumer protection and banking laws to go beyond federal rules, we need to enforce our usury law to limit interest rates at 18.5%. Regulate the use and disposal of drilling mud. Stabilize the TRS retirement fund and health benefits. Prevent internet sales tax. Reduce violence and oppression against children by better enforcement of our laws, and enhancing crisis support systems.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.