



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

Nonpartisan

# VOTERS GUIDE

March 4, 2014, Primary Election  
Collin County Offices

Early voting: February 18-28

Election Day: March 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), including an "On Your Ballot" feature that 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 the order in which they will appear on the ballot.

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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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## District Judge

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*4 year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for cases including felony criminal cases, civil cases with higher amounts of controversy, and family law matters.*

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### QUESTIONS

**Impartiality:** How do you maintain impartiality, given the necessity of raising funds for political campaigns?

**Mental Disorders:** A number of inmates in the county jail have been diagnosed with mental or emotional disorders. How should persons with mental disorders be handled in the Collin County justice system?

**Access to Justice:** The traditional funding source for legal aid for the poor and for indigent defense has been shrinking because of low interest rates. How can Texas improve access to justice for the poor in civil and criminal cases?

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**Electronic Filing:** New rules are going into effect to require Texas attorneys to file all legal pleadings in Texas civil cases electronically rather than in paper copy with the clerk. Is mandatory electronic filing an improvement to the legal system? Why or why not?

**Legal System:** What interaction with the legal system makes you most proud to be a lawyer? Why?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in Collin County District Courts and how would you address them?

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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 photo  
provided

**Contact Information:**

judgeroach.org  
judgeroach@gmail.com

**Education:** B.A. University of Texas, 1994; J.D. St. Mary's University School of Law 1997.

**Experience:** State District Judge 2007 - Present; Albin Harrison Roach 2006-2007; ROACH, LLP 1999-2006; Cowles and Thompson, P.C. 1997-1999; United States Marine Corps Reserves 1988-1994.

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**Impartiality:** An impartial judiciary is critical to our constitutional democracy. Judges must exhibit impartiality in each and every decision they make. In Texas, judges are elected. As a result, every four years they must run for reelection. During an election the judge must solicit support and raise money. When I am up for reelection I consider citizen support as their desire to have an independent and impartial jurist preside over cases in Collin County. Nothing more, nothing less. Over the last seven years I have been a judge I have never found it difficult to make impartial decisions based on the law.

**Mental Disorders:** I am proud to have played a key leadership role in applying for and receiving a state-funded grant to create the Collin County Mental Health Managed Counsel Office. This office focuses on the unique needs of mentally-ill defendants facing criminal charges in Collin County. The program expedites hearings, has increased judicial involvement, improved communication between the mental health professionals and provides special training for attorneys

representing the mentally ill. This office has significantly improved the expedited handling of these cases while making the community safer.

**Access to Justice:** The Constitution of the United States mandate that indigent criminal defendants are entitled to a court-appointed attorney. The judges in Collin County constantly monitor expenditures for indigent defense balancing the Constitutional rights of the defendant with being stewards of the taxpayers' money. In civil cases an indigent party is not entitled to a court-appointed attorney. State Bar Associations, including those in Collin County, have pro bono initiatives for the poor in civil cases. I support these efforts but do not believe taxpayers should pay for attorneys for people in civil cases.

**Electronic Filing:** To use a legal cliché – “the jury is still out”. The Texas Supreme Court instituted the mandate for the electronic filing of court documents effective January 1, 2014. However, in Collin County we have been working for months to get this system up and

running. We are making progress each and every day with the help of many departments in Collin County specifically the District Clerk's and County Clerk's Offices. While we have had many challenges in implementing this mandate, I believe over time the electronic filings of court documents throughout the State will improve the legal system.

**Legal System:** Being a judge allows me to be intimately involved in the legal system each and every day. I am most proud of the jury system. Each and every day at the courthouse citizens report for duty as jurors. As jurors they take time out of their day (or week) to make decisions in civil, criminal, family law and Child Protective Services cases. I have observed the juries in Collin County taking this

responsibility very seriously. I am proud every time a jury makes a decision in my court because only in the United States do we have such a system and only in Collin County do we have such great jurors.

**Other Issues:** The District Courts in Collin County are the most efficient courts in Texas according to the Texas Office of Court Administration. This ranking is based on disposition rates as compared to the number of judges we have. I am very proud to be part of such hard working professionals. However, as fast growth continues in Collin County we must have enough courts to handle the growth so our citizens have sufficient access to the courts to resolve criminal, civil, family and Child Protective Services cases.

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

No response received

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

No response received

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

No response received

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**Criminal District Attorney**

*4 year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas and a resident of the district represented. Represents the citizens of Collin County in prosecuting misdemeanor and felony crimes, and acts as legal counsel for county government.*

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**QUESTIONS**

**Mental Disorders:** A number of inmates in the county jail have been diagnosed with mental or emotional disorders. How should persons with mental disorders be handled in the Collin County justice system?

**Growth:** What challenges will the continuing growth of Collin County present to the District Attorney's office, and how would you address them?

**Homelessness:** What are the effects of homelessness on crimes in Collin County, and how would you address them?

**Legal System:** What interaction with the legal system makes you most proud to be a lawyer? Why?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in Collin County and how would you address them?

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

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

**Transportation:** What are the main transportation issues in the county and how would you address them?

**Homelessness:** Collin County is overall affluent, but increasing numbers of its residents are homeless. What measures would you support to address this problem?

**Growth:** What challenges will the continuing growth of Collin County present, and how would you address them?

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**Water:** What are the most significant water issues in our county and what steps would you take to address them?

**Vision:** If elected what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in Collin County, and what is your position on these issues?

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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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**Transportation:** We have roughly \$1 Billion in transportation infrastructure improvements currently completed, under construction, or waiting to begin construction; primarily funded by Regional Toll Revenues paid to Collin County by the North Texas Tollway Authority. But those improvements will not suffice long for our rapidly growing population. We must start now to identify the next round of major transportation funding. This is an example of long-term strategic policy analysis and coordination with our legislators that the Commissioners Court must address.

**Homelessness:** In November, 2013, the Collin County Housing Finance Corporation provided grants totaling more than \$1,000,000 to four non-profit organizations, specifically by law to provide housing. The Samaritan Inn, City House, Emily's Place, and North Collin County Habitat for Humanity each received substantial grants that can be legally be used only to provide housing for our less fortunate, neglected and abused. My hope is that these grants will stimulate even greater charitable giving by our citizens.

**Growth:** The primary challenge that growth will bring will be to maintain focus on our core functions. There are numerous noble causes and needs in our county, and we could lose focus on our core missions if we take our eye off the ball and focus on issues more properly

accomplished by the private sector, personal charity, or other government entities. The entire judicial/law enforcement system is our major core function, and requires close attention. The judicial system is a general benefit for every citizen, with costs borne by the county.

**Water:** The long-term success of Lake Lavon is critical to us, including the new pipeline to bring water from Lake Texoma. The county, although not a member of the North Texas Municipal Water District, is the lowest level of state government, and should encourage our legislators to find long-term solutions to provide water for our growing population. Using the Economic Stabilization Fund to fund regional water infrastructure sets a poor precedent. The State budget should return to adequately funding long-term necessities, such as water and roads, which are crowded out by increasing entitlements.

**Vision:** 1. Identify the next major source of transportation infrastructure funding. 2. Ensure that we have the correct balance of District Courts and County Courts at Law to continue provide an excellent judicial system. 3. Continue to keep the tax rate low and focus on core functions of county government. 4. Continue to keep debt as low as possible while providing adequately for core functions.

**Other Issues:** In partnership with our cities, carefully balance the disparate needs of our complex county from our maturing suburbs to our fast-growing cities to our rural areas. As much as possible, simplify taxes for our taxpayers by focusing on our core functions, which should allow our governmental entity

partners to do the same. In many cases, a project may be funded by multiple governmental entities with taxes on the same property from the same taxpayer. Focusing on core functions might simplify project funding and provide more transparency for our taxpayers.

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### **County Court at Law Judge**

*4 year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas and a resident of the county. Responsible for cases including misdemeanor or criminal cases, class C appeals, civil matters, mental health cases and probate matters.*

#### **QUESTIONS**

**Impartiality:** How do you maintain impartiality, given the necessity of raising funds for political campaigns?

**Mental Disorders:** A number of inmates in the county jail have been diagnosed with mental or emotional disorders. How should persons with mental disorders be handled in the Collin County justice system?

**Electronic Filing:** New rules are going into effect to require Texas attorneys to file all legal

pleadings in Texas civil cases electronically rather than in paper copy with the clerk. Is mandatory electronic filing an improvement to the legal system? Why or why not?

**Legal System:** What interaction with the legal system makes you most proud to be a lawyer? Why?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in Collin County District Courts and how would you address them?

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **THE CANDIDATES ABOVE SENT THE FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO THE LWV VOTERS GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE:**

I am writing to thank you for your invitation to the County Courts at Law of Collin County to participate in your 2014 *Voters Guide*. As elected officials we are all too aware of how much information voters are bombarded with around election time. Since all of the county judges are running unopposed we have decided that, to allow the voters to focus on contested races, we will not participate. We mean no disrespect and we are grateful for the opportunity, but think that in the best interest of the voters we will defer to those candidates that need to inform the electorate of their message in order that the voters can make an informed decision.

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

**Records:** What is the biggest challenge in protecting the accuracy and integrity of records of the district courts and how would you address it?

**Electronic Filing:** New rules are going into effect to require Texas attorneys to file all legal pleadings in Texas civil cases electronically rather than in paper copy with the clerk. Is mandatory electronic filing an improvement to the legal system? Why or why not?

**Growth:** How would you manage the District Clerk's office to keep pace with the expected growth in district court cases?

**Vision:** If elected what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the District Clerk, and what is your position on these issues?

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## District Clerk, Denise Alberino (Republican Party)

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No photo  
provided

**Contact Information:**  
denisealberino.com  
(469) 733-7343

**Education:** High School

**Experience:** 22 years working as a paralegal. Duties included drafting court documents, handling client's questions/concerns; working directly with Judges, court staff, and district clerks. Responsible for office management including AR/AP, client billing, collections, firm budget, and IRS reports.

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**Records:** I believe the biggest challenge in protecting the accuracy and integrity of the records is the sheer volume of records that are filed with the clerk's office as well as the ability to hire and manage competent staff to manage those records. The use of e-file software significantly contributes to the integrity and accuracy of record keeping, but competent, trained staff ensures it.

**Electronic Filing:** There are both positives and negatives to mandatory filing. From the County's perspective, e-filing saves money by reducing supply costs. However, as a long time legal assistant, I can personally say that it is much faster to walk into the clerk's office and file the documents and obtain settings from the Courts, then it is e-filing the documents. Also, there are now costs charged to our clients for e-filing that did not exist before when documents were filed directly with the clerk's office. Additionally, attorneys have had to incur add'l costs to comply with the new mandate.

**Growth:** I would make sure to hire and train ALL staff in the handling of the numerous court documents that are being e-filed, as well as being able to assist members of the public who

are not represented by an attorney. If all staff is fully trained they will be competent to assist front office staff on days that volume is high. We must remain efficient to manage increased responsibilities.

**Vision:** I would like to make sure that clerks are placed in the proper positions to compliment their experience and skills. I would also like to facilitate better and more direct contact between the District Clerk's Office and each of the courts and offices in the courthouse. Efficiencies can be developed through improved communication utilization of available resources.

**Other Issues:** The most pressing challenge facing the clerk's office faces is the effective management of growth. The effective management of growth requires effective leadership. It also requires a qualified and trained staff to handle the large volume of documents that are routinely filed in the county. I support a conservative, cost-effective allocation of resources to maintain a qualified staff. Collin County also needs to implement a backup system for the Odyssey software that is currently used in the clerk's office. I would also make E-filing more user friendly.

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### District Clerk, Terrye Evans (Republican Party)

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**Contact Information:**  
evans4districtclerk.com  
evans4districtclerk@gmail.com  
(469) 247-9444

**Education:** English Major w/  
Minor in Social Science and  
Certification in Technical Writing

**Experience:** Over 12 years with Collin County My first 4 years I worked in the District Clerks Office as a Deputy District Clerk The remaining 8+ years I worked in the Courts as a Court Administrator This unique combination of experience makes me the ideal candidate for District Clerk!

**Records:** One of the biggest challenges in protecting the accuracy and integrity of records, especially in the technological savvy times in which we live, is to put in place a checks and balances procedure that will monitor pleadings as they come in and make sure that are filed timely and appropriately placed where they are supposed to be. Quality control is going to be key in making sure that all files' integrity is in check. We have to realize that even though the computers we have can do a lot of things, it is the person behind the computer that drives what is done.

**Electronic Filing:** I believe that the mandatory e-filing of pleadings is an improvement to the legal system. Right now for us it is only mandatory for civil and family pleadings to be electronically filed. Criminal pleadings will be next. It saves time & money both for the attorney (which in turn saves money for their clients) and the District Clerk's office. It is important for the District Clerk's office to put procedures in place that protect litigants' files from being altered while being electronically transferred. I still believe that if a paper copy is what you want, you should be able to get it.

**Growth:** I believe that one thing that has been lacking in the District Clerk's office is training of employees. I would make sure (at minimal to no cost) that the clerks are kept abreast of changing policies and procedures and that new procedures are streamlined to make for efficient use of time. Also, I would

continually monitor our processes to figure ways to absorb costs in ways that do not require raising fees. The main thing is I would make sure I am on top of all aspects of the office to support the growth of our county without raising cost to the tax payer.

**Vision:** It is my intention, if elected, to maintain a fiscally sound, technology savvy, friendly/timely customer service oriented District Clerk's office. I also believe that because we are public servants, we should give back to the community (after hours; above and beyond our daily work). I would encourage our team to volunteer at food banks or shelters or wherever they see a need. I also believe its vital to know the internal pulse of the office. Happy employees make for great working conditions, which in turn makes for a productive office.

**Other Issues:** I believe another issue that is pressing for the District Clerk's office is the protection of sensitive information, i.e. redaction of personal information in pleadings and making sure that original copies of pleadings can always be verified. With duplication of things being so easy to do in this day and time, we need to have procedures in place to ensure that the integrity of everything filed is not compromised or counterfeited, especially the Judge's signature on orders. Another issue would be to make sure the DC office is capable of handling new courts that will be coming on board soon.

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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.

**Records:** Volume provides the biggest challenge to protecting the integrity of the court records. In 2013, over 1.7 million pages of litigation were filed in the 9 courts we serve. When I took office, I found there was no Quality Control plan in place, and in moving toward mandatory electronic filing and a paper-on-demand environment, rather than paper records, quality of the electronically stored documents is paramount. To address this, we implemented a triple-check plan which now requires the review of a stored image 3 separate times to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the records.

**Electronic Filing:** My experience as an attorney was invaluable as we moved to mandatory e-filing. The new system allows filing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which creates flexibility for filers while saving time and expense of trips to the courthouse. It's exciting that records will be available to the courts and litigants more quickly than when we had to scan them. Also, mandatory e-filing for attorneys reduces the customer traffic at our counter, which will allow our staff to spend more time with the self-represented litigants who need more assistance due to their unfamiliarity with the legal system.

**Growth:** Use of technology allows us to keep pace with county growth. We review and modernize business processes to ensure greater efficiencies, i.e. e-filing frees staff from handling paper which helps manage higher volume. We partnered with the Constables to start electronic delivery of citations, and they

e-file them when done. This saved staff time to prepare and manage paper documents, and saved time and resources for the Constables who used to drive to pick up and return that same paper. Changes that result in saving time and resources will give employees more time to keep pace with growth.

**Vision:** 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 took the next step to online file access by implementing a subscriber agreement that allows attorneys to receive online access to their case files. The next step is 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.

**Other Issues:** Efficient management of our jurors so we can provide the jurors the courts need, without inconveniencing our citizens is a constant struggle. To improve that balance, and provide better customer service for our jurors, we are updating our jury management system to use email and texting notification of service, or release from service. A 60% increase in passport applications since I took office 2 years ago is another issue. To manage the increase in traffic, we are implementing an appointment option which will be convenient for the consumer, and help us manage the increase in volume.

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**District Clerk, John Sheehan (Libertarian Party) – No response received**

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## **County 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. The County Clerk records the proceedings for the county courts and maintains a wide variety of legal and vital records that include: marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, land records, power of attorney filings, bonds, plats, marks and cattle brands, assumed names, and beer and wine sales permit applications.*

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### **QUESTIONS**

**Records:** What is the biggest challenge in protecting the accuracy and integrity of records of the county and how would you address it?

**Electronic Filing:** New rules are going into effect to require Texas attorneys to file all legal pleadings in Texas civil cases electronically rather than in paper copy with the clerk. Is mandatory

electronic filing an improvement to the legal system? Why or why not?

**Vision:** If elected what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the District Clerk, and what is your position on these issues?

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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

**Transportation:** What are the main transportation issues in the county and how would you address them?

**Homelessness:** Collin County is overall affluent, but increasing numbers of its residents are homeless. What measures would you support to address this problem?

**Growth:** What challenges will the continuing growth of Collin County present, and how would you address them?

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**Water:** What are the most significant water issues in our county and what steps would you take to address them?

**Vision:** If elected what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in Collin County, and what is your position on these issues?

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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  
Minor: Industrial Technology

**Experience:** 20-yr. proven track record serving in leadership roles. Proud wife & mother, grassroots activist. Small bus. owner, Chair - Collin Co. Health Care Adv. Bd. Appointed by Gov. Perry to TX State Bd. of Public Accountancy, elected to both the TX GOP Platform Cmte. & delegate to the Republican Natl Conv.

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**Transportation:** It is critical that our long-term planning is up to date, including forecasting for anticipated population growth. I will work closely with municipal leadership to address current and future areas of concern to increase mobility and facilitate responsible growth. One way to reduce congestion is by increasing economic development within Collin County. If our residents aren't forced to drive further for work, it will subsequently reduce traffic on roads such as 121 and the DNT. By making job creation a top priority, we can go a long way toward reducing congestion and auto emissions concurrently.

**Homelessness:** We can never forget about those who are less fortunate, while at the same time understanding that government is not the solution to every issue. There is great work being done by organizations like City House, which is making a huge impact in reaching the homeless youth of Collin County. Divorce, job loss or death of a spouse can all contribute to homelessness. Frisco ISD reported 187 cases of homeless youth including 13 members of the graduating class. We must continue to support organizations like City House as they work to facilitate the

development of responsible, productive citizens.

**Growth:** We must generate a balance between encouraging economic development and responsible growth. On average, 74 new people move to Collin County a day, so preserving our water supply and transportation are high priorities. As we grow, there is a corresponding need for infrastructure improvements, to ensure that we grow responsibly. Fostering the working relationship between the Commissioners Court, the towns and the cities within Precinct 1 is vital in to our success. If we concentrate on solutions instead of credit and work together as a community, we can accomplish much more for the greater good.

**Water:** Texas limits county governments to making ordinances to only those that are explicitly and narrowly granted by state law. Therefore, it is key to work with the members of local municipalities, the Legislature and Congress to come up with solutions. The pipeline from Lake Texoma will help significantly. I believe we can find an equitable plan that balances conservation & efficient use of water resources, development of new

sources such as Lake Ralph Hall, reclaimed water and underground wells, and think outside of the box. We must have public input and work together for our long term future, **Vision:** My priorities are to make government more transparent, efficient, and accountable. Consistently holding town hall meetings and/or coffees where citizens can express their thoughts on issues facing the court is key. Ultimately, leadership means making tough decisions, but we must restore the public's faith in government and have an open dialogue with our elected officials. I promise to be a full-time commissioner, accessible and available to my constituents, because that is what the citizens of Collin County want – to know that

they have a voice – and that their voice matters.

**Other Issues:** Public safety is a core function of county government, from the constables to the courts – and from the deputies to the DA's office. We must be tough on crime, and also be able to compete in the local job pool for competent, skilled county employees. We must be able to attract and retain a workforce that will view their employment with the county as a career, not just a pit stop. We must also consider unintended liabilities & risk management, in addition to the tough budget decisions that come before the court when it comes to salaries & benefits. Ultimately, keeping our tax rate low is key.

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### **County Commissioner Pct. 1, Mark Reid (Republican Party)**

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**Contact Information:**  
votemarkreid.com  
info@votemarkreid.com  
(214) 551-4604

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering at Texas Tech University.

**Experience:** For nearly four decades I've lead volunteer organizations and boards in church, community, industry, university, political, and governmental roles. My work experience includes nearly three decades as the President of the commercial construction firm I found and grew to be a respected regional firm.

**Transportation:** Collin County is the fastest growing county in Texas. Both state and federal transportation funding is constrained and there is considerable toll fatigue in the county. The Collin County Planning Board, which I served on, will soon issue its 2014 Mobility Plan noting that the bulk of our growth will occur in Precinct 1. As Commissioner, I will work with local leaders to proactively address these issues, while aggressively lobbying our state legislators to stop the diversion of transportation tax revenue and restore this funding to its originally intended use, transportation infrastructure.

**Homelessness:** Collin County provides services to low income and indigent citizens in a variety of programs. Project Access provides indigent health care through a partnership with local hospitals and doctors; primary health care is provided through a partnership with PrimaCare; and our Housing Finance Assistance Program helps low income, first time home buyers. I recently voted to approve using funds generated by this program, to award a \$400,000 grant to The Samaritan Inn, which serves the homeless across the county. I am committed to fostering public-private partnerships to address such challenges.

**Growth:** Continued growth in the county will stress our transportation and water infrastructure, as well as our judicial system. Within the judicial system, our county jail has adequate capacity without major changes. However, reports from our courts indicate a coming need to expand the system and the potential need to add more courts. These needs have so far been successfully mitigated with the use of technology, including "virtual" court hearings to streamline routine criminal proceedings. However, we will need more courts and are working with our judges to be prepared for these additions.

**Water:** Water is a major concern that is controlled by the member cities of the North Texas Municipal Water District. Rapid growth, drought, and the loss of water from Lake Texoma have combined to exacerbate the problem, resulting in dangerously low water levels (below 50%) in Lake Lavon. A new pipeline from Lake Texoma will come on-line this spring, restoring about 25% of needed capacity. I will work with our city leaders and citizens to promote water conservation. I am also committed to lobbying state and federal officials to streamline and expedite reservoir permitting and construction.

**Vision:** First, I am absolutely dedicated to keeping our taxes low. We have one of the lowest tax rates in Texas. I intend to keep it that way. Second, I will ensure our elected officials and department heads have the resources they need to continue providing excellent services. Finally, I will fight for the interests of Collin County citizens with the state legislature. Transportation is a priority and funding for 2017 and beyond needs to be discussed now. Given my business background, county employee, performance based compensation is another key issue that I believe must be addressed.

**Other Issues:** We are blessed to live in a county that has a very low tax rate and is run very well. Having said that, I believe we can always do better. I will strive to make our county government work faster, smarter, and better, while continuing to provide the excellent services and low tax rate our citizens expect and deserve. I will focus on core functions and limited government and I will work with city, county, and state leaders on both short and long range objectives. I am honored to serve full-time to help find solutions for the challenges we face and to take advantage of our many opportunities.

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### **County Commissioner Pct. 1, Ann Lieber (Republican Party)**

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**Contact Information:**  
annlieber.com  
campaign@annlieber.com  
(972) 897-2300

**Education:** BA English University of Texas at Dallas 1985

**Experience:** I am a grassroots conservative and tea party leader that focuses at the local, county, regional, and state level concerning transportation, infrastructure, property rights, and the core functions of government.

**Transportation:** Transportation is one of my main issues of focus. There is not adequate funding at the federal or state level. We have kicked the can so far down the road that no option but toll roads has been offered up. I reject the notion that the only answer to Texas transportation woes is to "tax" Texans by the mile for their personal mobility! As a county commissioner I hope to work with the legislature (where appropriate) to find solutions to fund transportation without toll taxes. The right to freedom of mobility is essential and should not be infringed.

**Homelessness:** Collin County is an affluent county with low tax rates; however the economy downturn has hurt so many people and many of those people go unnoticed. While Collin County does a good job keeping county taxes low, there is creeping taxation from other government and non government entities today at every level. As a county, we must continue to foster good relationships with charitable organizations that work with the private sector to provide help to those in need. Meanwhile, warily staying clear of programs that perform "charity" via wealth redistribution tactics. True charity is voluntary!

**Growth:** I see both challenges and great opportunity in the exponential growth Collin County is experiencing. Addressing transportation, infrastructure, appropriate economic development while maintaining the

high standard of service as provided by county employees is what has motivated me to run. Responsible growth is my top priority and with responsible growth comes the need for effective transportation and infrastructure solutions that benefit taxpayers not outside entities that redistribute wealth. I want to ensure our citizens' tax dollars are allocated for original purpose and not diverted.

**Water:** Water is a huge issue. Like transportation, it has not been properly addressed or funded. The drought and zebra mussels in North Texas are a real crisis. I do not feel that Prop 6 adequately addressed the water issue so I did not vote in favor of it. I feared it would be another slush fund that was going to be placed in the hands of appointees. It seems we are making good progress locally as a 9 foot pipeline from Lake Texoma to a water treatment facility has been completed. The treatment plant will be online the summer of 2014. Hopefully the water restrictions will be lifted soon.

**Vision:** I will work hard to get to know the constituents, county employees & elected leaders in my district. I believe to be effective, I will need to be "in the trenches" and "hands on." I will listen to the People and allow them to tell me what they would like to see done. I want to help continue the history of low taxes, great quality of life, stable home values, public safety, great schools, sense of community,

healthy and thriving business climate. These are the reasons folks from all over are flocking to Collin County. It is my job to ensure they are not disappointed once they arrive.

**Other Issues:** The most pressing issues in Collin County are transportation, infrastructure and healthcare, because they are the most expensive. My concerns regarding these issues involve my wariness of a little recognized topic

called regionalism. We have got to avoid being integrated in with other cities, towns, and counties where our tax dollars will be pooled, redistributed and doled out to more urban, densely populated, and needy municipalities and counties. That is not representative government. That is taxation without representation and it is currently happening in Texas via Regional Governance.

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

No response received

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



**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.

**Transportation:** Securing funding for transportation. All of the Regional Transportation Funds allocated to Collin County as a result of the NTTA purchase of the rights to 121 are almost consumed. Those funds have been used to expand and improve numerous roads within the County including US 75 and 380. Finding additional funding to address our expanding transportation needs will be our greatest challenge. Pushing the State and the federal government to properly fund transportation and stop the diversion of funds from funds earmarked for transportation is a priority.

**Homelessness:** The County must continue to expand and strengthen the public/private partnerships developed to meet the needs of these residents. This resident population continues to grow. There are numbers successful programs which with limited support from the County can address this problem.

**Growth:** Lack of sufficient reliable water resources; funding and construction of transportation infrastructure to adequately address the continuing growth our County is experiencing; finding a balanced way to assist our cities. Several cities are experiencing tremendous growth (North and West sides of

the County), other cities are experiencing little growth, while other cities are experiencing aging infrastructure and limited residential growth.

**Water:** Lack of sufficient reliable water resources is our most pressing problem. The County has very little authority or power to address this problem. I will continue to press our State and municipal water districts to stream line the application and construction process but as a Commissioner, I have few options to address this issue.

**Vision:** Continue the progress we have made to keep taxes low (2nd lowest in the State) and assist our cities and communities with services to enhance their economic development. Continue to invest and use electronic records and systems to limit expansion of County payroll. Keep Collin County at forefront of use of technology to limit growth of payroll.

**Other Issues:** Increasing costs for indigent defense. Approaching \$6.5M in annual costs. May need to explore some kind of public defender program to limit these raising costs. Continued investment and use of electronic records and systems to limit expansion of County payroll.

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## Justice of the Peace

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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

**Processes:** What changes, if any, are needed in court processes in your precinct?

**Impartiality:** How do you maintain impartiality, given the necessity of raising funds for political campaigns?

**Homelessness:** What are the effects of homelessness on Justice of the Peace cases in Collin County, and how would you address them?

**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 in Collin County Justice of the Peace Courts and how would you 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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**Processes:** I am running to replace Judge Terry Douglas in precinct 2 of Collin County. Judge Douglas has had a distinguished tenure of 24 years in this position, being selected Justice of the Peace of the year in Texas on one occasion. I hope to serve the citizens of my precinct with as much good judgement and common sense as Judge Douglas has shown. If changes are found to be needed I will not hesitate to address these issues.

**Impartiality:** I have no announced opponent. I have spent only my own money.

**Homelessness:** Compassion for the unfortunate among us should be shown by all.

Justice, tempered by mercy, should be applied to all cases using good judgement and common sense.

**Accessibility:** Maintaining offices in both Wylie and Farmersville seems to address the accessibility issue as pragmatically as possible in precinct 2. I support the current arrangement at this time.

**Other Issues:** School truancy and drug violations by young people pose difficult problems which require input from parents, school leaders and law enforcement personnel.

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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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**Processes:** All 5 Judges work daily to make sure our courts are the most current providing maximum efficiency. We have developed court software that allows the public 24 hour access to dockets and their cases. We have implemented online payment options, in house credit card payments, online forms accessible 24 hours a day, and have provided a copy of the "New Civil Procedure Rules" online for access 24 hours a day to make a party's experience easier once they come to court for their hearing. We are launching this month E-Filing as well to make it even easier to file cases from home or work.

**Impartiality:** As a Judge we weigh evidence, interpret the law, and maintain objectivity at all times. If this is compromised at any time the law directs us to recuse ourselves from those situations. This allows us to maintain the integrity of the bench and the public trust. If I come across a scenario where I believe there might even be the appearance my impartiality is being compromised I recuse myself.

**Homelessness:** Homelessness is something I see daily. Handling truancy cases where families are struggling to eviction cases where people have lost jobs; for the last 24 years I have created a list of agencies and programs that assist in fighting homelessness. As it has come to my attention I have been able to assist families with relocation through programs like The Samaritan Inn, City House, Promise House, Job Corp., and many other

programs. Students on Service, the community service program I began 10 years ago, runs their own food bank to assist these families in their transition. The list is online.

**Accessibility:** We have updated court software so taxpayers can view their cases online; we provide online payment options which are very convenient; in office credit card payment options; 24 hour access to all of our forms, court procedures, and instructions for filing cases. In the office we provide already prepared forms for all case types and party types approved by the Texas Justice Court Legal Staff; All civil rules were re-written and we provide online and in the office all of the new rules. I have worked very hard to make sure that all court resources including myself is available to the public

**Other Issues:** At Risk youth and families continue to struggle. Education is the key to their success. I run a truancy program where I have seen over 35,000 families. Of those families 98.6% of them have successfully graduated, gotten off of drugs, and or have returned home. With technology and availability these problems continue to become more advanced; and the needs of the families grow. I have been recognized for my ability to continue progressive programs that continue to save lives. These issues are most pressing; I wish to build our community one child and family at a time.

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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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**Processes:** Without knowing the exact day to day procedures that are currently in place it is difficult to adequately answer this question. However, anyone who has done the same job for 24 years is at risk of getting into a routine where creativity is stifled and where tasks and people are taken for granted. As your next JP, I will bring a fresh perspective and look to find new and better ways. In addition, I will listen to peers, staff and most importantly, the

citizens of Collin County and be open to trying new things

**Impartiality:** When the majority of your campaign funding comes from a few donors, it is natural to listen more closely to those people because they have used their money to express their concerns. The problem is, those donors represent a tiny part of the overall constituency. I prefer to go after a broader donor base where a lot more people give what they can. I would be much happier with 100

people giving \$5 each than one person giving \$500. My promise to all, citizens and donors alike, is to be just, fair-minded, and work hard addressing the needs and issues of our Precinct.

**Homelessness:** Homelessness is a serious problem in Collin County, and the Justice of the Peace is closely linked to it. JPs handle all evictions and foreclosures, which often makes them the last stop before homelessness. As a Real Estate Professional and former Certified Apartment Manager, I understand the eviction procedures all too well and have seen how lives are affected, especially kids - homelessness contributes to truancy. The JP needs to have a "Now What" Sheet to let our citizens know about available shelters, storage facilities, counseling, food pantries, etc.

**Accessibility:** The average citizen does not know the full scope of the duties of the Justice

of the Peace. Most people think a JP only performs Marriage Ceremonies. I will use Social Media, including YouTube videos, to educate the public on the duties of the JP and their rights before the JP courts.

**Other Issues:** When a student is having school attendance problems, it is often a symptom of a larger issue. While the current law does not look at a student's personal situation, a Justice of the Peace can and should take into account serious issues such as abuse or neglect, drug addiction, teen pregnancy or teen parenting, and personal disabilities. While upholding the Texas Truancy Law, I also believe a Justice of the Peace should judge with fairness, practicality and wisdom. My goal is to implement more truancy prevention, educational, outreach and mentoring programs.

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

No response received

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**County Party Chair**

*County chairs lead party activities within the county; work with candidates, precinct chairs and staff; conduct primary elections and certify results, and build a network of volunteers and precinct chairs.*

**QUESTIONS**

**Candidates:** What are your plans to aid in candidate recruitment for local races?

**Precinct Chairs:** Precinct chair positions are often unfilled. How would you recruit and retain precinct chairs?

**Political Organizations:** How do you envision the role of the county party in relation to other political organizations?

**Voter Turnout:** Voter turnout has traditionally been low. What strategies would you use, if any, to increase voter turnout within the county?

**Vision:** If elected, what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for this office and how would you address them?

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**Collin County Republican Party Chair, George Flint**

No response received

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**Collin County Democratic Party Chair, Shawn Stevens**

No response received

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**Collin County Democratic Party Chair, Mike Rawlins**

No response received

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**Your vote is your voice. Be heard.**