



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

Nonpartisan

# VOTERS GUIDE

March 4, 2014, Primary Election  
Texas Representative District 89

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 Texas Representative District 89. 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.

## Texas Representative District 89

*2-year term. Must be 21 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 House of Representatives.*

### QUESTIONS

**Health Care:** According to the U.S. 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:** Many school districts in the state have had elections this year to increase their tax rates to supplement what is received from the state. What changes, if any, need to be made to the financing of public education in Texas?

**Water:** In Texas, groundwater is governed by the rule of capture, which grants landowners the right to pump and capture the water from below their property, regardless of the effects of that

pumping on neighboring wells. How would you resolve the conflict between the rule of capture and the need to conserve ground water?

**Transportation:** What are the main transportation needs in Texas and how should they be funded?

**Human Trafficking:** Human trafficking is widespread in Texas and its major cities are among some of the nation's largest hubs. Do you support increased funding to combat human trafficking? Why or why not?

**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.

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**Jodie Laubenberg (Republican Party)** – No response received

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**Sameena Karmally (Democratic Party)**

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**Contact Information:**

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karmallyfortexas@gmail.com

**Education:** University of Texas at Austin, Juris Doctorate, 2004  
University of Texas at Austin, MA in Middle Eastern Studies, 2000  
University of Dallas, BS in Biological Sciences, 1997

**Experience:** Worked at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Field for 7 years, advising investors and investment fund sponsors on various issues related to the formation and administration of private equity investment funds. Volunteered for Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program & served on the Board of Hurst Public Library.

**Health Care:** It's troubling to see individuals and families that desperately need health insurance don't have access to it in our state. Texas should not stand in the way of citizens receiving basic services. The ACA will eventually bring down costs for everyone by mandating that families get health insurance rather than relying on emergency rooms. Medicaid expansion is necessary and fiscally prudent. Texas has essentially refused our own tax dollars by refusing to expand this federally funded program, and many Texas families will not be able to afford insurance otherwise.

**Education:** Schools should not have to go to court or raise local taxes to properly fund classrooms. We DO have the money in Texas to properly fund our schools. I would push for a sunset review of all tax breaks that Texas continues to give corporations "to boost our economy". Texas has the 14th largest economy in the world. We just haven't made sure that a decent amount of those funds support our state's most important functions. Our state legislature should make sure that corporations pay their fair share instead of putting the burden of an increased welfare state on our citizens.

**Water:** The Texas legislature created Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) to issue permits and regulate water use. However, GCD regulations are continually gutted in court by deep-pocketed plaintiffs invoking the Rule of Capture. To protect our water resources statewide, and restore fairness in agricultural and commercial use between small farmers and corporate landowners, the Texas Legislature must enact a statute that clearly repudiates the Rule of Capture doctrine and allows GCDs to function. (Texas is the only

Western State that continues to rely on the Rule of Capture doctrine).

**Transportation:** Our infrastructure is not keeping up with our population growth. Now is the time to take advantage of low interest rates and create needed construction jobs rather than passing these maintenance costs to our children. Our congested highways cost Texans billions in wasted fuel and time. Raising the gasoline tax would decrease congestion and raise funds to maintain safe roads. Natural gas companies must be required to help with the upkeep too. Additionally, rapidly growing cities should be allowed to raise funds and repair state roads that run through their jurisdictions.

**Human Trafficking:** While Texas has good laws in place on this issue, we do need increased funding to focus on prevention, public awareness, prosecution (of johns, not prostitutes), and social services (such as safe housing) to reduce trafficking in and through Texas. I would also support funding to address vulnerable populations (homeless, runaways, exploited women and children) before they are ensnared in trafficking. We have a duty, as citizens and collectively as a government, to free those enslaved.

**Other Issues:** We should (1) enforce existing regulations so we can avoid catastrophes like the West plant explosion, (2) develop effective long-term water conservation plans, (3) institute equal pay for women, (4) increase oversight of oil pipelines, (5) better regulate nursing homes and foster care to end abuses, and (6) develop clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy generation, which will attract investment and create high-wage jobs.

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## Bob Worthington (Libertarian Party)

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**Contact Information:**  
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**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Business  
Management from LeTourneau University

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**Health Care:** Texas should provide better regulation of the health industry within Texas and avoid the government imposition on freedom and privacy from the Affordable Care Act. The health industry should not be allowed to withhold its services from those who cause it to make less money, via pre-existing conditions, lifetime limits, etc., nor should it have the right to overrule health care providers.

**Education:** With minor exceptions, money is available for the proper financing of public education in Texas. It is either not being used or not used properly for its purpose. This is what should be changed. Millions are made by lottery every week that are going to line pockets instead of providing the education they were supposed to. The bureaucracy that currently administers public education in Texas also needs reform.

**Water:** It is the "regardless of the effects" that is the problem. Texas has the responsibility to ensure that others are not hurt by actions of another. Those who pump and capture water should provide evidence that their actions do not harm others. Ground water is a problem in large portions of Texas. Impact on that does harm others. Impact on other's wells also harms others. This should be stopped. If there is no impact, there is no problem with capture.

**Transportation:** Many roads are in poor upkeep. Highways in and around our large cities do not have capacity to effectively support current and future traffic. Funding should not be the problem it seems to be. More and more major roads are toll roads, with little apparent use of the funds. A good portion of state and county taxes are supposed to support roads, but never seem to make it. This should be investigated and corrected.

**Human Trafficking:** I support moving funds currently wasted on such things as marijuana and speeding tickets, to the investigation of all crimes that cause harm to others, human trafficking being a perfect example. If more funds are required, they can be diverted from other sources where they are currently being wasted.

**Other Issues:** One issue that may arise would be emigration. Although I wish our borders were open to legal immigration, they currently are not by federal law. As a state, we must block and remove illegals and ensure those who wish to legally immigrate can do so. Another issue that may arise would be constitutional rights. Many of our rights and freedoms are being whittled away by federal law. As a state, we should support and defend the rights of our citizens.

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.**