



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

March 4, 2014, Primary Election
Texas Senate District 8

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 Senate 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 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, 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 Senate 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 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.

Van Taylor (Republican Party)



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Education: Harvard College,
Harvard Business School

Experience: For the last two sessions I have had the privilege to represent southwestern Collin County in the Texas House, and have spearheaded legislation to protect our children from online predators, make it easier for our military to vote while serving overseas, and revoke benefits from corrupt politicians.

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. While the most egregious parts of this law can only be stopped at the federal level, as a member of the Texas House I have fought at every turn to stop the expansion of Obamacare into Texas.

Education: I believe education should be, and is going to 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 that we are looking into is finding incentives to increase school hours. There have been several studies and success models that show a clear correlation between academic success and time spent in the classroom.

Water: Here in North Texas, our biggest challenge concerning water comes from a cumbersome, long, and bureaucratic permitting process. As such, last session I filed two bills addressing permission: HB 2120 and HB 2121. These bills created definitive timelines for securing water reservoir and inter-basin water transfer permits. The lengthy and bureaucratic process adds significant

expense and uncertainty in our efforts to provide long-term water solutions. I am proud both bills passed the House and the inter-basin transfer permit bill became law, capping the approval process from unlimited to 3 years.

Transportation: Last session there were a lot of plans being circulated on how to best fund our state's critical transportation and infrastructure needs. I was proud to help craft a conservative solution to transportation which increased funding to meet the demands of our rapidly growing population, while, for the first time, instituting a solid floor to protect our Rainy Day Fund. This approach successfully addresses both short-term needs and long-term fiscal responsibility.

Human Trafficking: I was incredibly proud to co-author the bipartisan House Bill 8 protecting victims of human trafficking and significantly increasing penalties for human traffickers. This bill passed and was signed into law this past legislative session. I also had the honor of recognizing a local charity, Traffick 911, who work to stop human trafficking.

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.

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*)

Scott Jameson (Libertarian Party)



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Education: BBA Finance & Economics minor in Real Estate - Baylor University, MBA MIS - UT Arlington, MS E-Commerce - UT Dallas. National Merit Scholar.

Experience: I am currently a Texas Real Estate Broker and computer security consultant. I have also worked in the financial industry. As a Libertarian candidate, I ran against Dewhurst for Lt. Governor and before that against Hutchison for U.S. Senate.

Health Care: Obamacare is the law and Texas needs to be in compliance. We need to pay our "claw back" transfers and accept our federal Medicaid subsidy transfers. The federal monies given to Texas should be spent legally on its intended purpose of expanding Medicaid, not put into general revenue as a block grant. Of course, Obamacare is a horribly written law with many bizarre sections, including a massive non-published national security act to expand the spying capabilities of the feds. So, many major changes need to be made to the ACA, but until that happens, Texas needs to be in compliance.

Education: Independent public school districts should keep their own income from their local property taxes. Redistribution is taxation without representation (I am not voter nor a member of a school district outside my own), which violates the Declaration of Independence. The State of Texas has no business in funding or defunding ISD budgets. If the El Paso ISD needs more money, they should vote to raise their own property taxes, not be subsidized by the Plano ISD or the State of Texas.

Water: The rule of capture sounds great until one realizes that water is another limited, shared resource. Unless we want to end up like California, we need to fully implement and fund water conservation districts statewide. Also, I hate to say this as a government minimalist, but the TCEQ and water conservation districts need more staff to implement this program correctly. As a start, I propose we budget the money for more water staff by closing the Texas Ethics Commission, which was created to deter candidates not with the two legacy parties from running for office.

Transportation: There is already a detailed, prioritized list of transportation projects for

Texas. To fund them all properly, we need to redirect car and other transportation related taxes from the general revenue slush fund to TxDOT. The 2030 Committee reports are just one example of expert analysis and recommendations, many of which are low-cost, that can be used by policymakers and the public to reach a consensus on how to move forward into the future. We can have a highly competitive (from a business development perspective) and safe transportation infrastructure for Texas.

Human Trafficking: Texas has good laws against human trafficking compared to many other states. What we need is a solid enforcement policy and far more public awareness. I don't think many people think about the problem of human trafficking; it's one of those problems that it is easy to think is only happening somewhere else. In addition to the obvious human tragedy, trafficking is also strongly linked to identity theft and financial fraud. I also would push for a secure texting system for victims to be able to quietly reach law enforcement and other resources. This system has been successful in other states.

Other Issues: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled after the market crash that states have the right to regulate banks and protect consumers beyond what federal laws do. I want Texas to have the most secure banking and consumer finance system in the world. EMV enabled credit/debit cards with their encryption tech, have already been implemented in many other civilized parts of the world by the VISA, MC & AMEX cartels. So the technology for best practices is here, but our financiers need a kick (other than rampant fraud) to make it happen. Texas usury laws need to be uniformly applied to all loans - an 18.5% cap.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.