



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

Nonpartisan

# VOTERS GUIDE

March 4, 2014, Primary Election  
U.S. Representative District 32

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 U.S. Representative District 32. 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.

## U.S. Representative District 32

*2-year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen and a resident of Texas. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

### QUESTIONS

**Immigration:** What specific changes, if any, would you propose to the current immigration policy? Please explain.

**Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid:** What changes, if any, would you support to the Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid programs and why?

**Foreign intervention:** Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?

**Elections:** The recent Supreme Court decision in *Shelby v. Holder* struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act. What changes, if any, do you support to protect voting rights?

**Gridlock:** What measures should the House of Representatives take to stop the gridlock that has crippled Congress?

**Environment:** Scientists have now established an upper limit on carbon dioxide emissions and the President has announced a comprehensive carbon control plan. What do you see as the House of Representatives' role with regard to these standards as well as other environmental regulations?

**Surveillance:** How should the need to gather information for national security be balanced against citizens' right to privacy?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of Congress, and what is your position on these issues?

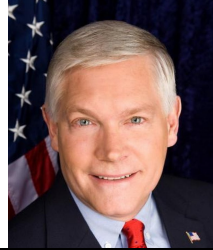
League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

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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## Pete Sessions (Republican Party)

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**Contact Information:**  
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(214) 373-8585

**Education:** BS in Political Science,  
Southwestern University '78

**Experience:** Chairman of the House Rules Committee and former Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee. While Chairman of the NRCC, Republicans won a net-gain of 63 seats marking Republican's greatest expansion in the House of Representatives since the Eisenhower Administration.

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**Immigration:** Immigration is not a race – it is about getting reform right. I am committed to immigration reform done the right way. That is why Congress should take a piecemeal approach to overhauling immigration laws. It is vital that we first and foremost secure our borders and prosecute and deport criminal aliens in the United States before doing anything else. I do not support a comprehensive immigration reform package like the one passed by Senate because it does not focus on these important objectives. The border must be secure and rule of law must be enforced before any other reform can be enacted.

**Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid:** Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are the federal government's first, second, and third largest entitlement programs, respectively, and are each growing substantially faster than the entire U.S. economy. Each of them provide benefits to our nation's most vulnerable – our seniors, lower-income individuals, people with disabilities, and children. Because of this, they must be reformed, improved, and preserved in order to continue providing essential services to those who have been promised these benefits and to those most in need.

**Foreign intervention:** The use of military force is one of the most serious decisions our nation's elected officials address. I have the utmost respect for the men and women of our armed services and take any decision to intervene militarily extremely seriously. It is important that Congress provide our servicemen and women with the finest equipment and resources in the event they are called upon to defend our country. After all other options have been exhausted, military intervention should be considered if and only if U.S. lives, property, or vital strategic interests are under attack or seriously threatened.

**Elections:** The right to vote is the cornerstone that holds the United States together and the Voting Rights Act has played a vital role in ensuring that every American has equal access to the polls. However, parts of

the VRA that were decades old are not always the answer to modern concerns, which is why I am glad that the Supreme Court overturned the parts of the VRA which were unconstitutional. In the meantime, the federal government should step out of the way and allow states to exercise their right to enforce voter laws like voter-ID that help stop voter fraud and abuse.

**Gridlock:** When comprised of leaders willing to make tough decisions, Congress is capable of meeting our nation's major challenges. Unfortunately, for the past five years our nation has been led by an Administration that has chosen to ignore our fiscal crisis. To regain control over our \$17 trillion national debt, we need leaders that are willing to make bold decisions. I strongly believe that if Republicans maintain control of the House, take back the Senate, and win the presidency, we can reduce the size of government, continue cutting government spending, and begin getting our economy back on track.

**Environment:** You imply scientific unanimity on whether global warming is caused by man-made greenhouse gases - not so. While there is near unanimous agreement that the earth is getting warmer, there's not universal agreement that global warming is caused by human activity. Regardless, what about the possibility of discovering global warming is caused by man-made greenhouse gases? Reject cap-and-trade but diversify electricity production with renewable energy, while letting the free market continue to gravitate towards cleaner and more efficient natural gas. Technology will solve this challenge.

**Surveillance:** The threat that terrorists continue to pose to our security is a real and must be taken seriously. The federal government must use every legal tool available to gather information about those who threaten our nation and stop them from and committing another heinous attack of terror. However, the government must also respect the constitutional rights of all Americans and not infringe upon their right to privacy.

Congress and the courts should closely examine any program that unnecessarily collects vast amounts of data on American citizens to ensure that no citizens' rights are being violated.

**Other Issues:** Our nation has to end the generational theft currently occurring due to excessive federal spending and the accumulation of an unsustainable national debt, which we are irresponsibly passing onto

future generations. Americans between 29 and 37 are the only age group with a negative growth rate in their net worth. This is a threat to the American Dream. Therefore, my focus will always remain the reduction of federal spending to balance the budget. We can best create a brighter future for our children and grandchildren by putting our national budget on a sustainable path for the long-term.

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## **Katrina Pierson (Republican Party)**

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**Contact Information:**  
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**Education:** B.S. Biology University of Texas at Dallas

**Experience:** Health Care Administration  
Director of Corporate Affairs Fox News  
Commentator

**Immigration:** Enforce current laws and update/streamline current immigration procedures. I support securing our borders first, period. This is something already required by federal law but not implemented. We have the ability to secure the border now, it just isn't being done. I do not support a pathway to citizenship, a legal status, or access to taxpayer subsidized welfare programs for those who's first act in our country was the conscious decision to break our laws. I do not support amnesty of any kind. I would consider temporary work visas.

**Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid:** Fully or partially repeal Obamacare. Congress could start by stopping the stealing from the funds. President Obama pulled \$716B dollars out of Medicare to pay for his failed Affordable Care Act. We can discuss reform and means testing for SSI and MCR, but it will not matter what is put in place if the President or Congress can dip into the funds it at will.

**Foreign intervention:** Only when there is a grave threat to Americans or a direct threat to an ally.

**Elections:** Voter ID is reasonable and responsible.

**Gridlock:** Our elected officials needs to put Americans first, not their special interests.

Gridlock occurs when interests collide. But gridlock isn't always gridlock by the popular definition. Often it's simply our form of government working through the processes to make laws to improve our country and protect Americans. It's not a perfect system, but it's the best in the world.

**Environment:** Congress' role is to ensure any regulations are based on good science, free from special interest influence. And any regulations enacted based upon the findings must balance the need to continue to grow our economy and create jobs and not impede our liberties.

**Surveillance:** It is unlawful to infringe upon a U.S. citizens person, papers, and effects. Period. If National Security was the goal, secure the border then we can discuss other measures.

**Other Issues:** Education. Since the implementation of the Department of Education, our students have fallen to the bottom of the barrel compared to international measures. More local control is needed. The federal agency needs to be phased out to give our kids a fighting chance to succeed in life. The one size fits all policies that come out Congress are bad for education, and bad for America.

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*)

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**Frank Perez (Democratic Party)**

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No photo  
provided

**Contact Information:**

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**Education:** BA Government and  
Politics UTD Juris Doctor SMU

**Experience:** 1972-1976 USAF 1976-1981

FAA Air Traffic Controller 1983-1994 Dallas  
Police Department Narcotics Detective 1994-  
95 Assistant District Attorney Dallas County  
1995-present private practice

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**Immigration:** I would strongly support legislation that allows immigrants who have been here since they were children, are in school or have graduated from school, are in the military or have served in the military, and have no criminal record to apply for legal status. In addition, I believe it is important to identify and document all immigrants in our country. I believe it is important for everyone to pay their fair share of taxes. I also support tougher border control measures.

**Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid:** I do not support any changes to these programs. Social Security is an important source of retirement funds for many Americans who depend on these benefits for survival. They planned their future taking these benefits into consideration, had Social Security taxes withheld from their incomes, and are entitled to these benefits. Although Medicare and Medicaid are large and costly programs, they do serve a useful purpose. While I do not have any specific changes I would support at this time, I do believe that the programs should be run more efficiently.

**Foreign intervention:** The U.S. Should intervene militarily when our national interest are threatened. There are infinite number of scenarios where this could occur, but fundamentally, the test for. U.S. Military intervention should be when our national security is threatened.

**Elections:** I support legislation that protects voting rights where it is shown that policies,

laws or ordinances unduly burden a citizen's right to vote.

**Gridlock:** Term limits are one way to stop gridlock. Limiting cronyism by enacting legislation to address the. Citizens United decision is another. Unlimited campaign contributions by corporations are bad for our democracy, as our political action groups that mask the identities and campaign contributions of campaign donors. I also believe that filibustering should be curtailed and simple majority votes should decide legislation.

**Environment:** Congress must take a leadership role in this area. Congress must realize this is a serious issue that must be addressed and work with the President in passing some version of carbon control legislation. It is time to have serious deliberation on the science and research on carbon emissions and start taking action.

**Surveillance:** There is a delicate balance between National Security and citizen's right to privacy. There must be checks and balances. The government must be limited in what information it gathers on ordinary citizens who are not a national security threat. Unfettered and unlimited access to our phone, computer, and other records should not occur and is a government power that can easily be abused and is an invasion of privacy.

**Other Issues:** Gun Control. We should simply enforce the current gun control laws. We do not need additional legislation curbing a citizen's right to bear arms.

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**Edward Rankin (Libertarian Party)**

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**Contact Information:**

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**Education:** MA-Human and  
Organizational Systems MS-Labor  
and Industrial Relations BS-  
Psychology

**Experience:** 35 years experience in human resources management. Successful entrepreneur. Took company from start-up to Inc.500 status in five years. Recognized as national Portfolio Company of the Year. Held many elected and appointed board-level civic leadership roles at both local and state levels.

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**Immigration:** We need an immigration system and processes that allow people to more easily immigrate to the country legally. I

am in favor of temporary work permits that allow people to come to the US to work for six months to a year and then return to their

country of origin. I believe our problems with illegal immigration are caused more by our lenient access to social services. Take away the "free stuff" and it's probable we'd have fewer people interested in coming here illegally.

**Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid:** I am in favor of phasing out all three programs. Those who have paid into these programs are entitled to receive the benefits they were promised. People should be given the opportunity to opt out of Social Security and Medicare and seek alternatives in the private marketplace if they choose. In the case of Medicaid, I think we should more narrowly define who is eligible for benefits under that program. The safety net, should be just that. A net to protect those who are without any other options, not an entitlement program of full support for those who are unwilling to care for themselves.

**Foreign intervention:** I support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression. The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. In his farewell address to the country, President Eisenhower warned Americans about the rise of the military/industrial complex. We have created an enormous military capability with hundreds of installations around the world. We moved far beyond the point of national defense. We need to support our troops by not sending them into conflicts not critical to defense of our homeland.

**Elections:** I support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries and conventions. I will call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns. I oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider alternatives.

**Gridlock:** Congress needs to get out of the way of the people. I will call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and

services not required under the U.S. Constitution. I oppose any legal requirements forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. I support the passage of a "Balanced Budget Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.

**Environment:** Governments are unaccountable for environmental damage and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights in resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. We realize that our planet's climate is constantly changing, but environmental advocates and social pressure are the most effective means of changing public behavior.

**Surveillance:** Our defense requires that we have adequate intelligence to detect and to counter threats to domestic security. This requirement must not take priority over maintaining the civil liberties of our citizens. The Constitution and Bill of Rights shall not be suspended even during time of war. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. I oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially those showing that the government has violated the law.

**Other Issues:** Clearly the jobs and the economy are high on most everyone's list. Unemployment still remains high, economic growth is slow, our national debt is unsustainable. We must relieve the regulatory burden on small and emerging businesses in order to jump start job creation. I believe we must repeal the Affordable Care Act. Not only is it an infringement upon our rights to make our own decisions about our lives, it is a huge burden upon the economy. We need to free up our financial system so capital will flow more easily. I think we begin financial system reform by eliminating the Federal Reserve.

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