



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

May 27, 2014

Primary Runoff Election

Early voting: May 19-23

Election Day: May 27 – 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 three Collin County Republican Party primary runoff races: U.S. Representative District 4, Texas Representative District 66, and Collin County Commissioner Precinct 1. There are no Collin County Democratic Party primary runoff races.

This *Voters Guide* is available online at www.lwvcollin.org, along with a separate guide for statewide offices.

Candidate responses for all races are also available at www.VOTE411.org, which allows voters to enter a home address and review races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates in the runoff for each office. Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the print deadline, "No response received" is printed. Later responses may be available in VOTE411. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This *Voters Guide* is organized by office, with candidates listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot.

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Voting in Texas primaries

When you vote in a political party's primary, you become affiliated with that party for the next two years. At the time you vote, your voting certificate may be stamped with the name of the party in whose primary you vote. You may vote in only one party's primary and if there is a runoff, you may vote only in the same party's runoff election. However, if you do not vote in either party's primary, you may vote in either runoff.

Note: In the general election in November, you can vote for any candidate you wish,

regardless of whether you voted in a party primary or runoff or participated in a party convention. All candidates from all parties are on the same ballot.

Check the Collin County Elections Department for information about polling places, sample ballots and applications to vote by mail:

election@collincountytx.gov
800-687-8546
www.co.collin.tx.us/elections

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.

U.S. Representative

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?

U.S. Representative District 4 – Ralph M. Hall (Republican Party)

No response received

U.S. Representative District 4 – John Ratcliffe (Republican Party)



Contact Information:

RatcliffeForCongress.com
john@ratcliffeforcongress.com
(972) 455-8609

Education: Southern Methodist University Law School, Juris Doctor (1989); University of Notre Dame, Bachelor of Arts in Government and International Studies (1987)

Experience: U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas (2007-2008); Chief of Anti-Terrorism and National Security for the Eastern District of Texas (2004-2007); Mayor of Heath, Texas (2004-2012)

Immigration: My experience as a terrorism official and U.S. Attorney forms my belief that accomplishing true immigration reform is not possible without first securing our borders. To do otherwise is simply putting the cart before the horse. Enhanced border security should include a combination of physical fences, more troops on the ground and the best technology available. I will not, under any circumstances, support amnesty for illegal aliens. As U.S. Attorney, I led an operation which arrested over 300 illegal aliens in a single day who committed identity theft to unlawfully work in our country.

Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid: As we look to make smart reforms to entitlement programs, we need to ensure that current seniors and those nearing retirement are not affected. This is non-negotiable. I support

block granting Medicaid back to states and capping its growth rate. With Social Security, I would consider a number of proposed changes such as means testing, gradually raising the retirement age and switching to a chain weighted CPI for cost of living adjustments. With Medicare, priority number one should be repealing Obamacare which unfairly steals over 700 billion Medicare dollars each year.

Foreign intervention: Providing for the common defense is the primary duty of the Federal Government as enumerated by the Constitution. As a former terrorism official, I know firsthand the resourcefulness of our enemies. The tragic events of 9/11 collectively reminded us just how fragile our liberty and freedom can be. If American involvement in a conflict is necessary to protect our homeland and our allies, then we have no choice but to

engage. However, we shouldn't entangle ourselves in foreign conflict strictly for nation building purposes. Such experiments are costly, unpredictable and often ineffective.

Elections: Free and fair elections are one of the hallmarks of any democratic state, and we should never let the integrity of our elections become compromised. I agree with the outcome of *Shelby County v. Holder* which removes unnecessary federal oversight from the voting processes in select states.

Presenting valid photo identification is a reasonable and necessary qualification to exercise one's highest civic duty. I hope more states move to adopt stricter voter ID laws like Texas to ensure that our elections continue to be both free and fair.

Gridlock: The dysfunction in Washington is unacceptable, and the American people deserve better. Congress lurches from one manufactured crisis to the next as it refuses to make hard decisions. Ultimately, it's our children who will pay the price for the endless can kicking. At the center of the problem are career politicians who are more concerned about keeping their jobs than doing what's right for the American people. Our Founding Fathers never intended for there to be a permanent political class. I am a strong proponent of Constitutional amendment to impose term limits on Congress.

Environment: I strongly oppose regulations to control carbon emissions and believe that the EPA's overreach needs to be undone. Its most recent mandate requires that new coal fired power plants use CCS technology –

despite the fact that this technology that has never been proven viable on a large scale. Proposed carbon taxes amount to little more than a disguised increase in the corporate tax rate – which at 35% even President Obama agrees is too high. The House of Representatives should embrace the virtues of the free market and reduce the burden on businesses from unnecessary environmental regulations.

Surveillance: As the U.S. Attorney, I saw firsthand that 85% of the provisions in the Patriot Act have provided actionable intelligence directly responsible for stopping terrorists and protecting our homeland. These should be made permanent. However, other provisions have since been deemed unconstitutional. This tells me that our system is working. Ongoing healthy debate and judicial review has allowed for course correcting which appropriately balances our national security interests and citizens' right to privacy.

Other Issues: Repealing and replacing Obamacare should be a priority in the next session of Congress. Obamacare is government at its worst – intrusive, expensive and ineffective. At this point, the failures of Obamacare are well documented. It costs twice as much as originally promised (\$1.8 trillion), hurts an already weak job market and forces Americans off health plans they like for ones that they don't. It shouldn't be surprising that a clunky, 2,300 page law that wasn't properly vetted has fallen short in so many areas. In Congress, I will push for market-based reforms that actually control costs.

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.

Texas Representative

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?

Texas Representative District 66 – Matt Shaheen (Republican Party)



Contact Information:

mattshaheen.com
matt@mattshaheen.com
(214) 448-8316

Education: Bachelor of Arts Business \ Economics from Randolph-Macon College Ashland, Virginia (1987) Master of Liberal Arts from SMU (2003)

Experience: -Founding Chairman of the Ronald Reagan Conservative Society - Delegate to Republican State Conventions - Precinct Chair -Election Judge -Board Member of the Collin County Republican Men's Club - Chairman of the Plano Community Relations Committee -Collin County Commissioner

Health Care: The percentage of uninsured is not necessarily a good metric to determine access to healthcare since the uninsured received healthcare. As County Commissioner, I played a leading role establishing an indigent care approach that provided healthcare to low income citizens with no insurance by leveraging the private sector and non-profit organizations. I am currently working with the Texas Public Policy Foundation on legislation to make this approach easier to implement throughout the state of Texas.

Education: Funding for education should be sufficient to uphold the constitutional requirement of the legislature to support and maintain a system of public schools. Texas should consider the consolidation of school districts, as well as, enabling school districts to share resources such as payroll processing and technology departments. The more we can place local control of education in our communities, the better off our children will be.

Water: Texas groundwater, unlike surface water, belongs to the landowner who has the

right to "capture" the water beneath their property. Education about the need for conservation, as well as, well water usage and groundwater statistics would help conserve groundwater.

Transportation: The need for Texas roads exceeds capacity in certain areas across our state. Current funding is inadequate and must be addressed. An effective way to fund transportation would be to dedicate vehicle sales taxes to transportation and eliminate diversions.

Human Trafficking: Texas has been a leader against human trafficking. Texas was the first state to criminalize human trafficking and in 2009, a statewide taskforce was established to battle human trafficking. The Texas border however, serves as the largest entry point for human trafficking and I would support expanding the Ranger Recon Teams on our border, as well as, the use of cameras and other surveillance devices.

Other Issues: I believe the margin tax goes against the spirit of the Texas constitution and the tax has complicated what used to be a

simple system of taxation for business in Texas. I would work to phase it out. Education needs to remain a priority in our state. We need local control for our school districts, allowing Trustees to determine student/teacher ratios, have more control of the school

calendar, allowing teacher pay based on performance and outcomes. School financing must be reformed as well, since Plano has relinquished over \$1 billion to the state since the inception of Robin Hood.

Texas Representative District 66 – Glenn Callison (Republican Party)



Contact Information:

GlennCallison.com
glenn@glenncallison.com
(972) 248-3671

Education: Baylor University, BBA, Cum Laude Baylor Law School, JD, Cum Laude and graduated #1 in class

Experience: Attorney practicing in Commercial Real Estate with Munsch, Hardt Kopf & Harr, PC, serving as Chairman and CEO for the last eight years. Munsch Hardt was recognized as a DMN Top 100 workplace in 2013.

Health Care: While I oppose the mandates of the ACA and expansion of Medicaid, I would support the use of federal block grants to return Texans' federal tax dollars to our state to help pay for the required care of the uninsured in Texas. The best way to help uninsured Texans get health insurance is to create opportunities by a booming economy. With more job creation and added career and technical education, our future workers will have the skills they need to be successful in the workplace. A good career enables hard-working men and women to provide for themselves and their families.

Education: Education is a top priority for me. We must see that our schools and educators have the resources they need to ensure our students are getting the excellent education they deserve. I believe that the \$4 billion Texas restored last session is a step in the right direction; however, more can be done to deliver quality education, while driving efficiency at all levels to make sure tax dollars are properly directed to the classroom. We must prioritize education spending in budgets at the state and local levels.

Water: While I support water conservation efforts, especially in light of the severe and prolonged drought in Texas, property owners' rights should not be unduly limited without a compelling state interest. The rule of capture, subject to reasonable local regulation, can promote conservation and protect the public health and welfare. Reasonable use of

groundwater conservation districts could encourage conservation and while helping develop and manage Texas' water resources.

Transportation: With our population projected to double by 2050, we need more roads to prevent gridlock to keep our economy moving forward. We should prioritize a part of Texas' existing oil and gas severance tax while it is growing. This requires no new taxes and prevents these revenues from flowing into the general fund to be spent on lower priority items. The stakes are high for our economy and Texans need get to where they're going. By transparent budgeting, stopping diversions and by prioritizing our spending, we can solve our transportation problem without additional burdensome taxes.

Human Trafficking: Yes, although I believe this should be an issue controlled by law enforcement primarily at the local level.

Other Issues: I will be a common-sense, solutions-oriented conservative leader for our District in Austin. Texas faces complex challenges that simple rhetoric won't fix. We need a serious, conservative leader willing to tackle our biggest water, education and transportation issues while preserving our shared conservative values. We cannot take past success for granted; we must elect strong leaders to ensure that our region continues to create jobs and remains a great place to live and raise families, while adhering to fiscally conservative policies to keep taxes low.

County Commissioner

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.

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?

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?

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



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.

County Commissioner Pct. 1, Susan Fletcher (Republican Party)



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.

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.

What to take to the polls

Texas now requires voters to show an acceptable photo ID at the polls.

The only acceptable photo IDs are:
Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) issued photo IDs

- Driver's license
- Personal identification card
- Concealed handgun license
- Election Identification Certificate

United States government issued photo IDs

- Passport
- Military identification card
- Citizenship certificate or naturalization certificate with photograph

Only the above photo IDs can be accepted at the polls. Other photo IDs including student IDs and employer IDs cannot be accepted.

Additional information about the photo ID requirements:

- ✓ The photo ID needs to be *current or have expired no more than 60 days* before voting (citizenship and naturalization certificates have no expiration date).
- ✓ The *name on the photo ID should match* the voter registration card. If names don't match, a voter may be accepted if names are "substantially similar." If names match, addresses don't need to match. If the names don't match exactly, the voter can be accepted if names are substantially similar; poll workers will look at address, date of birth, and the photo. If names are substantially similar, the

voter will initial a box for similar name when signing in to vote.

- ✓ Voters with a *documented disability* from Social Security or Veterans Affairs can apply for a voter registration certificate exempting them from the photo ID requirement.
- ✓ Voters without acceptable ID can obtain an *Election Identification Certificate (EIC)* from Texas DPS at no cost by providing proof of citizenship and identity and registering to vote at DPS or showing a voter registration card. Requirements for the EIC can be found at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm>. There is no charge for the EIC but the necessary documentation may have a cost.
- ✓ *Photo ID is not required to vote by mail.* Voters may apply for a mail ballot if 65 or older, ill or disabled, or absent from their county during early voting and on Election Day. Note: Photo ID will be required of first time voters if a driver's license or Social Security number was not included with the voter registration application.
- ✓ Voters who do not show an acceptable ID at the polls can vote a *provisional ballot* and have 6 days to show the required photo ID.
- ✓ Those who lack a photo ID because of a religious objection to being photographed or because of a natural disaster declared by the president will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and complete an affidavit within six days of the election.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.