



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

**Nonpartisan**

# VOTERS GUIDE

**May 9, 2015, Local Election  
Allen City Council & ISD**

Early voting: April 27 – May 5

Election Day: May 9 – 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 Allen City Council and ISD board of trustees as shown in the table of contents. It also lists a bond revocation proposition and 20 City of Allen charter amendment propositions. It is available online at [www.LWVCollin.org](http://www.LWVCollin.org), along with separate guides for elections for Collin College, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie. The website also has a Voter Information Guide with general information about qualifications for voting, what to take to the polls, vote by mail and helpful websites.

Candidate responses for all races are also available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org). Users may enter a home address and review races specific to that address.

None of the races for Allen City Council are contested, and no questions were sent to these candidates. Questionnaires were sent to all candidates who will appear on the ballot for the Allen ISD election, 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 print deadline, "No response received" is printed. Later responses may appear 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.

To enter your address and see all races for that address visit [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).



### Table of Contents

	<i>Pages</i>
Allen City Council Candidates	2
Allen City Bond Proposition	2
Allen City Charter Propositions	2-4
Allen ISD Questions	4
Allen ISD Place 1	5
Allen ISD Place 2	5-6
Allen ISD Place 3	6-8

## When & Where to Vote

### Early Voting

April 27-29: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
April 30: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
May 1-2: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
May 4-5: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

### Election Day

May 9 – 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

During early voting and on Election Day, you can vote in Allen City & ISD elections at any vote center in Collin County. A vote center in Allen is:

Allen Municipal Courts Facility  
301 Century Pkwy., Allen, TX

For a complete list of Collin County vote centers and a sample ballot, visit [co.collin.tx.us/elections/Pages/default.aspx](http://co.collin.tx.us/elections/Pages/default.aspx)  
Or call 972.547.1990 (McKinney)

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.

---

## **Allen City Council – Unopposed Candidates**

---

**Kurt Kizer, Place 1**  
**Joey Herald, Place 3**  
**Gary Caplinger, Place 5**

---

---

### **City of Allen Bond Proposition No. 1**

---

The revocation of \$16,685,000 of General Obligation Bonds to construct and equip a performing arts center.

---

---

### **City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 1**

---

Shall Article II, Sections 2.02 of the Allen City Charter be amended to require members of the City Council to be a qualified voter for at least six (6) months as of the time of filing for election to the City Council?

---

---

### **City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 2**

---

Shall Article II, Sections 2.04 and 2.05 of the Allen City Charter be amended to authorize the City Council to fill by appointment a vacancy in the office of Mayor or Councilmember when less than one year remains on the term of the office vacated as allowed by state law?

---

---

### **City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 3**

---

Shall Article II, Section 2.15 of the Allen City Charter be amended to eliminate clerical duties not required by state law relating to the recordkeeping of approved ordinances?

---

---

### **City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 4**

---

Shall Article II, Section 2.16 of the Allen City Charter be amended to amend the manner of calling a special meeting to comply with state law?

---

---

### **City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 5**

---

Shall Article II, Section 2.18 of the Allen City Charter be amended to delete redundant language regarding rules of procedure found in Section 2.19 and change the caption of said section to conform to such amendment?

---

---

### **City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 6**

---

Shall Article II, Section 2.19 of the Allen City Charter be amended to delete redundant language regarding minutes of meetings found in Section 2.18?

---

---

### **City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 7**

---

Shall Article II, Section 2.19 of the Allen City Charter be amended to delete the requirement that votes of the City Council be specifically taken by the "ayes" and "nays"?

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 8**

Shall Article IV, Section 4.04 of the Allen City Charter be amended to provide for notice of public hearings on the city budget as required by state law?

---

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 9**

Shall Article IV, Section 4.09 of the Allen City Charter be amended to delete the requirement to reproduce copies of the city budget by mimeograph?

---

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 10**

Shall Article VI, Section 6.03 of the Allen City Charter be amended to change the due date and delinquency date for payment of ad valorem taxes to conform to state law?

---

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 11**

Shall Article VII, Section 7.03 of the Allen City Charter be amended to amend the requirements of a petition for a place on the ballot for election to the office of Mayor or councilmember to conform to state law and the charter?

---

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 12**

Shall Article VII, Section 7.03 of the Allen City Charter be amended to add procedures for becoming a write-in candidate for election to the office of Mayor or councilmember?

---

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 13**

Shall Article VII, Section 7.03 of the Allen City Charter be amended to provide that the filing period for candidates for the office of Mayor or councilmember be in accordance with state law?

---

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 14**

Shall Article VIII, Section 8.04 of the Allen City Charter be amended to comply with state law to repeal the city council's option to submit an application for a franchise to an election to be considered by the voters and its subsections re-lettered to conform to such amendment?

---

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 15**

Shall Article IX, Section 9.02 of the Allen City Charter be amended to change the number of signatures required for a recall petition for a member of the city council to ten (10%) percent of the total registered voters appearing on the voter registration list issued by the Collin County Elections Administrator as of the date of the last general election for city officers?

---

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 16**

Shall Article IX, Section 9.03 of the Allen City Charter be amended to correct the form of a recall petition for city council to include a place for the notarized signature of the circulator of the petition?

---

---

---

---

**City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 17**

Shall Article IX, Section 9.05 of the Allen City Charter be amended to change the time period for the city secretary to present a recall petition to the city council from five (5) days to fifteen (15) business days after the petition is filed with the city secretary?

---

---

---

### City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 18

---

Shall Article IX, Section 9.10 of the Allen City Charter be amended to prohibit the filing of a recall petition for a member of the city council within six (6) months after such person's election to office and within six (6) months after an election for such officer's recall?

---

---

### City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 19

---

Shall Article IX, Section 9.13 of the Allen City Charter be amended to require an initiative petition to be signed by ten percent (10%) of the total number of registered voters of the city appearing on the voters registration list issued by the Collin County Elections Administrator as of the date of the last general election for city officers?

---

---

### City of Allen Charter Proposition No. 20

---

Shall Article IX, Section 9.13 of the Allen City Charter be amended to change the time period for the city secretary to present an initiative petition to the city council from five (5) days to fifteen (15) business days after the petition is filed with the city secretary?

---

---

## Allen ISD Board of Trustees

---

3-year term, elected district wide. Must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen, a qualified voter and a resident of the District. The Board of Trustees makes all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget, levy taxes and submit bond issues to finance construction projects.

---

#### QUESTION – UNCONTESTED RACES

**Priorities:** Even though your race is not contested this time, please share with voters

your priorities for the next term, and how you will address them.

---

#### QUESTIONS – CONTESTED RACES

**Finances:** What actions should your school district take in response to reduced state funding?

**Vouchers:** Should school vouchers for private school students be allowed? Why or why not?

**Students:** What is your district doing to meet the needs of students who are not college-bound? Should anything else be done and, if so, how could it be funded?

**Growth:** What issues does the district have as a result of population growth, increased number

of homeless children, and/or changing demographics? How would you address them?

**Curriculum:** What has been the impact of current curriculum requirements for high school graduation?

**Teachers:** What is the best way to attract and retain good teachers?

**Testing:** What changes, if any, should be made to standardized testing requirements?

**Other Issues:** What are the most important issues you think will come before the school district in the next few years? What are your views on these issues?

---

## Allen ISD Trustee, Place 1 Candidates (1):

---

### Susan Olinger – Candidate for Allen ISD Trustee, Place 1

No response received by print deadline. Later responses may be in [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org)

---

## Allen ISD Trustee, Place 2 Candidates (2):

---

### Carl Clemencich Jr. – Candidate for Allen ISD Trustee, Place 2



**Contact Information:**

(214) 576-9464  
carl4allen.com  
carl4allen@yahoo.com

**Education:** (1) B.S. -  
Accounting (University of South  
Carolina, Columbia, SC) (2)  
M.B.A. - Corporate Finance  
(University of Dallas, Irving, TX)  
(3) M.S. – Accounting

(University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson,  
TX) Certified Public Accountant (CPA) State  
of Texas

**Experience:** (1) Board Trustee - Allen ISD  
(2012-current); (2) Board Member - City of  
Allen Economic Dev'l Corporation (2004-  
2012); (3) Board Member - City of Allen  
Parks & Recreation Board (2000-2004) (4)  
Board Member - City of Allen Community  
Dev'l Corp (1996-2000); (5)

---

**Finances:** The Allen ISD has chosen a multi-prong approach for dealing with reduced state funding. Through a combination of fiscal responsibility, tax rate adjustments (ie- 2011 TRE) and Legislative Advocacy, Allen ISD was able to maintain and then grow its teacher base, expand its programs/curriculum and build strong financial reserves. With regards to fiscal responsibility, Allen ISD has received a Five Star rating for the last 4 years for the Financial Allocation Study for Texas (FAST)([www.fastexas.org](http://www.fastexas.org)) which measures how spending translates to student academic progress.

**Vouchers:** As a current member of the AISD Board of Trustees, the Board and AISD supports legislation that holds privately run schools that are receiving vouchers, tax payer savings grants, tax credits, tuition reimbursements, and any other program that diverts tax dollars, to the same transparency standards and state and federal accountability requirements to which traditional public schools are held.

**Students:** With the passage of HB 5 in the last legislative session. AISD has taken a proactive approach to providing enhanced career and technical educational (CTE) opportunities that provides our students both a college and career pathway. In addition to our current CTE classes, I look forward to an expansion of

offerings to include other traditional Vocational and Trade opportunities.

**Growth:** Allen ISD is faced with challenges related to its growth, especially in its need for new or enhanced facilities and its impact on the students, the District and its programs. From a facility perspective, the District needs to review the future of the existing Lowery 9th Grade Learning Center and its ability to handle the larger class sizes, as well as a comprehensive review of other facility needs & programs to meet the continued growth of the student base and expansion of such programs as Gifted & Talented and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics).

**Curriculum:** The District continues to do an excellent job in ensuring an extremely high graduation rate. According to the 2013-2014 Texas Academic Performance Report published by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), we see that the "4 year Federal Graduation Rate w/o Exclusions" is 98.5% for the Class of 2013 for Allen ISD, some 8% percentage points higher than both the State and Region 10 average. In addition, some 75% of our students are deemed College ready at graduation in both English & Mathematics, again higher than the State & Region.

**Teachers:** I believe Allen ISD is a destination district for many teachers within the State of Texas. With average turnover around 8%, this

rate is below that of the State and the Region. I feel that this low turnover rate is due to a combination of factors including great facilities, parental involvement, a collaborative environment, fair compensation, training to perform their jobs effectively and a strong appreciation of their efforts by the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees.

**Testing:** According to the 2013-14 Texas Academic Performance Report, AISD had 93% of its students perform Satisfactory or above, across all grades, on the STAAR test at Phase-in. The high scores are a reflection of the dedication of our teachers and admin staff, as well as great parental support. The problems with standardized testing, is that we use a

"one size fits all" test. For high performing school districts such as Allen ISD, State mandated testing should perhaps be just one of many different measurement criteria, which could also include the results of ACT/SAT exams, AP/IB exams, etc.

**Other Issues:** Some of the most important issues I feel Allen ISD will face over the next few years will be (1) ensuring adequate and equitable funding from the State in order to continue to provide a high quality education for our children, (2) addressing potential funding issues related to the State of Texas Teachers Retirement System (TRS) defined benefit plan and the (3) integration of technology and distant learning opportunities.

---

### **Ron Austin – Candidate for Allen ISD Trustee, Place 2**

Unable to contact candidate by print deadline to send questions. Later responses may be in [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

---

## **Allen ISD Trustee, Place 3 Candidates (3):**

---

### **Christine Caplinger – Candidate for Allen ISD Trustee, Place 3**

No response received by print deadline. Later responses may be in [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org)

---

---

### **John E. Montgomery – Candidate for Allen ISD Trustee, Place 3**



**Contact Information:**

(469) 656-1964  
montgomery4aisd.com  
jmontgomery41@tx.rr.com

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice- Texas State University, Graduate Studies - Central Michigan University, Executive Education program - University of Pennsylvania - Wharton School

**Experience:** Over 32 years of experience in all aspects of Industrial Security, National Industrial Security Program, and Special Programs Security. Direct experience and extensive training in Business Continuity Management, Crisis Communications, Event Management, Emergency Response, and Incident Management.

**Finances:** Allen ISD is projected to close the 2014-2015 fiscal year with a budget surplus in excess of 7 million dollars and an Operations Fund balance nearing \$70 million dollars. However, funding formulas can change dramatically with each Legislature. The district needs to hold the line on spending that does not directly improve the classroom and compensate staff fairly. We also need to consider lowering the operations tax rate or making a planned spend of some of the reserve dollars for items that might otherwise be in a bond program. I support the advocacy agenda that funds at current levels.

**Vouchers:** I would support school vouchers for use at private schools which adhere fully to state academic standards as a responsible use of tax dollars to provide quality education for every student. That said, the far most important concern for me as a trustee will be to ensure that Allen Schools absolutely meet the needs of every student and remain the schools of choice for parents in the district.  
**Students:** Aptitude and vocation are better distinctions than "college bound" or not. All students will need some level of post-secondary education to be self-sufficient. In Allen, students are offered Career and

Technology Education in 14 of the 16 career clusters recognized by the state (e.g. medicine). Through classwork and business partnerships, students explore a range of occupational opportunities that require basic certification all the way to graduate studies. The instructional and advisory capacity of these programs must be expanded to meet the increasing demand for them.

**Growth:** As the district continues to grow, an increasingly diverse population will emerge to challenge our systems and paradigms. Diverse is not a code word for poor or disadvantaged. Diversity challenges us with hundreds of different languages, cultures, behaviors, and patterns of thought. It creates opportunities to enrich our practices and systems for all. Teachers and administrators require training and resources to support their commitment to meet the individual needs of students and to leverage the prospects presented by a truly diverse population.

**Curriculum:** Allen ISD aligns their day to day instructional curriculum with state TEKS at every grade level. With Allen ISD sitting on a 98.5% HS graduation rate (2014), it appears that the instructional curriculum is well aligned with graduation requirements. Teachers receive instruction throughout the year on teaching techniques as well as curriculum changes (per TEA) and ancillary materials. Allen takes an individual prescriptive approach in preparing students who are not meeting curricular graduation requirements and sets up individual academic plans for success.

**Teachers:** Teachers want to teach in Allen and we are very blessed with phenomenal, dedicated, highly qualified teachers. Teachers

come to Allen because of high academic standards, excellent facilities, outstanding curricular support, and state recognized professional development. Allen maintains a competitive salary scale with neighboring districts. Each campus provides New Teacher Traditions a form of orientation. New teachers are also paired with a teacher mentor for two years. Successful, happy teachers result in successful students.

**Testing:** The concern with Texas standardized assessments revolves around a "one size fits all" approach. Not all students are able to handle a highly rigorous curriculum based purely on their chronological age or enrolled grade. Standardized testing should not be the only component that is used to determine student growth. Teachers are experts in their given field. They should be the ones evaluating student growth and mastery based on standardized goals and objectives. Standardized, high stakes assessments should not be the singular end all answer for student success.

**Other Issues:** Trustees need to listen to teachers and dedicate resources based on their identified needs. The challenges of partnering effectively with parents have changed over time. We need to examine needed resources and supports to help parents navigate a system that can seem daunting in its complexity as they work to help their students succeed. As we approach district build-out, our financial strategies must adapt to the stress of flat funding but growing needs. It is important to make sure we can always support proper employee compensation while meeting tomorrow's needs.

---

---

### **Latricia Smith – Candidate for Allen ISD Trustee, Place 3**

---



**Contact Information:**  
(972) 747-9809  
smith4allen.com  
[latriciags@yahoo.com](mailto:latriciags@yahoo.com)

**Education:** I received an MBA and BS in Business Administration from The University of Texas at Dallas; Plano Senior High School graduate. I completed the Six

Sigma Black Belt Project Management Program.

**Experience:** I'm completing 2 years as President of AISD Council of PTAs, 2015 Project Kids, Optum for 13 years, serving on Boy Scouts since 2006, and member of Altrusa since 2004. I've served on many AISD PTA boards in various leadership positions since 2008 and Chair of the UTD Alumni Board of Directors.

**Finances:** AISD has taken action to reduced state funding by being mindful in handling of taxpayer funds while working to provide the greatest educational value. AISD Finance Office earned Texas Honors Circle designation and the highest 5-Star rating the last 4 years in the

Comptroller's FAST for keeping spending low while experiencing significant student academic growth. Spending should be continually monitored while looking for improvements. Classes and programs with low participation rates should be evaluated to determine if they

align with the students' needs and modified as needed.

**Vouchers:** I oppose school vouchers for private school students. Allen ISD strives to provide a variety of curriculum to meet students' needs. State wide, school choice already exists in Texas. Transfers from one public school to another or from public schools to magnet schools or to charter schools are already available. A major concern with vouchers for private school students is that they are not accountable to taxpayers, not required to teach the state's curriculum or participate in the state's assessment program.

**Students:** AISD added the Career and Technical Education (CTE) center which offers students a chance to develop skills that can lead to industry certification or influence their career choices. One area of improvement I would like to see is to expand the offerings in the CTE center. This would allow students to try new fields that may help guide their decisions. It all depends on what make sense for the student and future job markets. Due to constantly changing career opportunities, we need to continue to research and expand our course offerings to help students prepare for their future.

**Growth:** Property that was originally designated for commercial development was rezoned to residential. Population growth resulted in more students in a concentrated area than planned 10 years ago. Project Kids was created to address the growth issue by looking at ways to expand schools &/or add schools to prepare for the future. A possible solution would be to create a magnet school out of one of the underutilized schools to help balance attendance. Growth is a positive and desirable characteristic for a community, and we must work creatively and collaboratively to address the side effects thereof.

**Curriculum:** Our high school students have a wealth of opportunity and options for curriculum planning. Creating various curriculum venues allow students choices for their career pathway whether that is Minimum, Recommended, or Distinguished. The Foundation High School Program will replace

the current available paths in 2018. The goal of the new assessment and accountability systems is to ensure that Texas public school students are prepared for college or the workforce when they graduate from high school. Our goal is to establish career pathways aligned with the differing needs of the students.

**Teachers:** The best way to attract and retain good teachers is to offer a competitive salary, good benefits with quality facilities. We need to provide an environment that allows teachers the time and latitude to prepare lesson plans, organize their classroom and be able to work with students individually to help them succeed. The district will retain the best educators with continued support from the community. AISD does a great job of supporting our educators; we must ensure this practice. Despite funding cutbacks from the State, our community has steadfastly supported our education system.

**Testing:** Standardized test should be used as a measuring stick to assess schools and identify necessary improvements. AISD recognizes that teachers are in the best position to gauge a student's knowledge and academic progress. Standardized testing should not undermine this longstanding principle of state law; it can diminish the creativity and freedom to contour the learning experience for the student. There certainly needs to be a standard protocol in which to measure districts without constraints limiting the teacher's or school's ability to reach all students.

**Other Issues:** The first issue I would give attention to is the programs that AISD offers because career pathways should be aligned with the needs of the job markets and students. Career trends must be researched, evaluated and updated when necessary. Next, would be the equality of resources for all students. This must be balanced with fiscal responsibility and teaching tools available to all students. We must realistically assess the desirability and cost for new technology along with other such considerations while anticipating future growth in the district.

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.**