



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

**May 9, 2015, Local Election
Collin College**

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 Collin College board of trustees as shown in the table of contents. It is available online at www.LWVCollin.org, along with separate guides for elections for Allen, 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. Users may enter a home address and review races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates who will appear on the ballot for the Collin College 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.



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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 the Collin College election at any vote center in Collin County.

For a complete list of Collin County vote centers and a sample ballot, visit 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.

Collin College Board of Trustees

6-year term, elected countywide. Must be a US citizen, at least 18 years of age, a qualified voter and a resident of Collin County. The Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the District President, establishes the vision for the future of the college, its mission and strategic direction. The Trustees establish college policy, providing rigorous fiscal oversight and leadership for the college's continued growth and success in meeting the needs of its students and community.

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

Tuition: What would be the effects on the college of the proposed two years of free tuition for everyone?

Infrastructure: How can the infrastructure for an expanding student population be funded, including buildings, faculty and staff?

Curriculum: What different types of programs are needed at the college in order to serve the community's higher education needs, and how could they be funded?

Business: How can the college prepare students to work in the current business and professional community and find jobs?

Teachers: How can the college attract and keep good teachers?

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?

Collin College Trustee, Place 7 Candidates (4):

Collin Kennedy – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 7



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cdk@hanshawkennedy.com

Education: (Baylor University - BBA, 1994 University of Arkansas School of Law - J.D., 1999)

Experience: I am involved in leadership positions at our church and also serve on the Advisory Board for Search Ministries. I am also a founding member of the Collin County law firm of Hanshaw Kennedy Marquis, PLLC, where we have been helping individuals and businesses with their legal needs for over a decade.

Tuition: I think free tuition for everyone would actually decrease the value of an education for those pursuing one. Unless the federal government completely subsidizes the free tuition, this proposal would also have a devastating financial impact on all community colleges.

Infrastructure: The college's partnerships with its municipalities and local businesses is critical for the continued sustainable growth of the college. The college benefits from a rapidly expanding tax base due to the extraordinary growth of the county. It is critical that the college continue to exercise fiscal responsibility in the good times so that in the unlikely event the county's tax base stops growing, the college will still have the budgetary resources to expand, if necessary.

Curriculum: I believe the College is already doing a great job identifying new programs to serve the community's higher education needs. Technology and health care are obviously rapidly growing sectors and the College is already seeking to expand its curriculum in those areas. These new programs can be adequately funded with existing reserves and the continued growth of revenues generated by the expanding county tax base.

Business: The college has to continue to be acutely aware of the various emerging fields of industry. Collin County has so much to offer in the fields of medicine, technology, energy and manufacturing. This is why it so important for the College to continue to develop partnerships with local industry. Doing so will naturally

make it easier for students to get jobs in our community.

Teachers: I think the college must continue to do a great job of marketing to its constituents the high quality of the education it provides. Gone are the days when community colleges were simply a place to take "easier" courses and spend a couple of years while the student decides what she wants to do with her life. As long as the product it provides remains

elite and the college carefully nurtures the great reputation it already has, I believe it will get easier and easier to attract and keep good teachers.

Other Issues: Accessibility; Technology will hold the keys to making a higher education even more accessible. I wholeheartedly support research and development to find better and more efficient ways to link the education to the student.

Mike Gould – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 7



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Education: Collin College,
Associate of Liberal Arts - May
2015

Experience: No Experience information received.

Tuition: Collin College already has a large student body, this program would add more students very quickly, adding more instructors to the faculty might be an issue. Finding and retaining good teachers is always a struggle for any great institution, staffing up now might be the best approach, expecting the unexpected in this case.

Infrastructure: I do think that raising tuition is a quick answer, but not the best answer. Asking the taxpayer to approve an increase in the Collin College tax rate would allow for growth as the county grows. Collin College is one of the best institutions in the state and has one of the lowest tuitions in the state, so asking taxpayers to approve an increase to support growth and excellence in their backyard should be considered.

Curriculum: More programs should be brought into the allied health fields including CNA, RNA and other nursing programs that could help close the gap on a growing need in our community. These could be supported by the growing population of hospitals and care facilities located in the area. Collin College has tapped into something special with the arts programs that are offered and these should expand to include concentrations in broadcasting and journalism and tie in with program offerings through Texas universities so that students can continue their education at that institution should they choose.

Business: Internship and mentor programs are key to allowing our students to experience

the workforce prior to graduating and really getting them involved in their prospective career fields. Local businesses should be approached and asked to team up with the college and help place interns, it is beneficial for the business and the college. The addition of more certificate programs would certainly turn out students ready to hit the ground running.

Teachers: Good teachers are attracted by incentives such as tenure and good pay. Collin should offer tenure to instructors that have not only been with the college for a set amount of years, but are actively involved in the college's growth. Instructors should be given pay raises commensurate with their time at the college with larger increases considered for tenured and those that have been faculty for longer periods of time. Health insurance and retirement pensions should also be looked at as a long term incentive.

Other Issues: Campus carry is currently before the Texas House and I am in favor of allowing handguns at Collin College by licensed CHL students. The proliferation of legal marijuana sales continues to grow across the country and I feel this is an issue we should keep an eye on. If approved for any reason (medical, recreational), I think the use of marijuana should be prohibited on campuses regardless of the instance in which it was to be used. There should be a zero tolerance policy for any marijuana allowed on campus.

Steve Cone – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 7



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(214) 284-7696
steve@stevecone.com
steve@stevecone.com

Education: MA - Educational Administration, UT Permian Basin; BA - Political Science, Hardin-Simmons University

Experience: I currently serve as the Place 7 trustee. I have spent 19 years teaching high school juniors & seniors & have direct, first-hand knowledge of our students' needs after high school. I served 24 years in the Army Reserve, deployed to Afghanistan as a company commander, & serve on community committees.

Tuition: We need to find ways to address the increasing costs of higher education. While policy makers will find the funding of free tuition for everyone challenging, there are still ways to make college more affordable. Collin College is already a great value for post high school education and training. I will help the college continue our focus on providing high quality education for the lowest cost possible to students and taxpayers. I will support the work of the Collin College Foundation and other organizations that assist students in paying for college.

Infrastructure: We are fortunate to live in an area with increasing population, expanding student enrollment, and rising property values. This allows us to keep the tuition and tax rates low while having sufficient means to fund the infrastructure and staffing to serve our growing population using current revenues with little to no debt. I will help the college maintain its history of fiscal responsibility while making sure we meet the changing and growing needs of our communities across the entire county.

Curriculum: We currently provide a wide array of high-quality, low-cost academic programs that meet the varied needs of our students and community partners. After an extensive nationwide search, we have selected our new president, Dr. Neil Matkin, and will soon start formulating our next 5 year master plan. I will work to see that we as a board look closely at our program offerings to make sure we are well positioned to meet the community's current and future needs with high-quality offerings at the lowest feasible cost to students and taxpayers.

Business: We will continue to work alongside our business partners to make sure we are

preparing our students for the current workplace and teaching them how to continue to learn and adapt as the nature of work changes. We need to follow employment trends to make sure our students are competitive for career opportunities in high-demand areas like health care and new fields such as cyber security, and that our students are prepared to fill the needs of our local businesses.

Teachers: Having taught high school economics and history for 19 years, I consider attracting and retaining high-quality teachers as a key means to providing the best education possible for our students. We already have great students, great community support, and a well-deserved reputation for having great teachers and staff. I want us to build on that reputation by making sure Collin College is a highly-desired place to work and teach. I will work with the board, the leadership team, and the faculty and staff to make sure our compensation and policies and procedures create a great working environment.

Other Issues: Now that we have hired our third president in the school's history, our first priority is helping Dr. Matkin take the reins for a good start. As board members, we need to guide and support his efforts as he and the leadership team chart the course for the next decade. Our top priorities going forward include maintaining our high-quality education at a low cost as we expand to meet the needs of a fast-growing, ever-changing community. We want to make sure Collin College is one of the best managed, best staffed, highest quality community colleges in the country.

Jim Orr – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 7



Contact Information:

(214) 415-2381

JimOrr.us

Jim@JimOrr.us

Education: B.S. Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University. MBA from Washington State University with an emphasis in Organizational Behavior

Experience: 24 years in global technology strategy and planning. Executive level engagement with multiple Fortune 100 companies. Managed large teams of planning and strategy professionals. Managed capital budgets in excess of \$300M. Active member of Chase Oaks church.

Tuition: Due to low tuition and a high availability of scholarship opportunities, it is unwise to assume there will be a major surge in students if the proposal does pass into law. With this in mind, capacity for individuals that would take advantage of the free tuition option is largely built into the current strategic plan. What must be resisted is the urge to build out extensive facilities for an unproven large surge of students. This requires the guidance of an individual with long experience in managing strategy and large-scale capital budgets. I bring this experience to the Board.

Infrastructure: The rapid growth of Collin County has continually improved our tax base. In combination with a restrained fiscal policy, Collin College enjoys a strong financial position. In order to maintain this fiscal conservatism, the Board must continue to form partnerships with businesses and services in our community. With this model, those partnerships can be leveraged for funding, facilities and ongoing support. I have spent my career forging partnerships between groups with wide ranges of concerns and bring this experience to the Board.

Curriculum: Trained Medical, Technical, First Responder and Automotive experts are highly valued in Collin County. Partnership with local business is important as they provide resources and hire students into the workforce. We must focus on developing the skills needed here in our community and resist wide expansion that depletes scarce resources. Collin College helps families reduce the financial burden of a four year degree. The options for high school students to build a college transcript should be well communicated. Collin College must expand this effort for the benefit of all Collin County citizens

Business: As all of us that have competed for a job know, the best way to win a position is through a personal relationship. By enlisting the help of local employers, Collin College students will not only earn the skills necessary, but will also hold the relationships needed to make it to the top of a hiring manager's list. Collin College has built great partnerships with various community organizations and local companies. We must expand these relationships at every opportunity. My entire career is based on building mutually beneficial relationships. I bring this experience to the Board.

Teachers: Collin College enjoys a wealth of excellent, experienced faculty members that are passionate about teaching. It is typically politics and management conflicts that cause them to leave. Administration cannot run Collin College like a small business and expect the faculty to be happy. Likewise, a standard big-company HR department operation is not designed for a college environment. It is easy to attract strong applicants because Collin County is a great place to live. In order to retain strong Faculty, we must view them as partners as opposed to employees in the education process.

Other Issues: Technology integration into the classroom facilitates amazing opportunities to impact learning. Collin College must support new technologies using a cost effective model. I bring my 24 years of experience in technology strategy and planning to the Board. President Matkin is changing the organization to fit his goals and style. I bring my extensive executive management experience to offer accountability to this process. There is a tendency to move Collin College toward a job training model. I will ensure that we remain a strong intellectual center as we meet the needs of the entire community.

Collin College Trustee, Place 8 Candidates (2):

Ken Roberts – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 8



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Education: College Educated -
Illinois Institute of Technology

Experience: 20 years on Multiple Plano
and Collin County Boards, mostly in the
area of youth and education. See website
for complete list.

Tuition: According to the latest releases from the White House on this proposed plan, Collin College is not expected to give free education to anyone. The Federal Government will be funding 75% of the tuition and the states are expected to fund the other 25%, which will probably not happen in Texas, if looking back on the recent state decisions to help the Federal Government fund their projects, (ie: Obama Care). Presently, any student can receive a student loan to attend college, if they choose. Collin College should not see an expansive rise in students due to this bill.

Infrastructure: Since building cost is the most consistent and faculty and staff would be related to coursework/curriculum, the most profitable course would be to increase the use of the facilities with more weekend and evening, offsite classes and on-line curriculum. As stated above, Collin County will not have the huge increase in students that other county colleges will have, since a large percentage of students already go to college directly after high school, and most families can get student loans for their students.

Curriculum: Curriculum is ever evolving and should reflect the career and job needs of the community. Training needs are for technical workers, administrative and healthcare. These can be funded by partnerships with corporations in the form of scholarships, in-cient training and intern/coop programs. If applying this question to the Free Two Year Education bill, Collin College already has many two year programs that flow directly into a four year state school, as required by this bill. There will be very little revamping in order to conform with the Federal government mandates.

Business: Colleges teach "book knowledge", which very seldom equates to performing a real job. Employers understands this, and are willing to finish the student's education "on the job", by helping the student convert "book knowledge" into practical use. Continuing Education is where employees can enhance their current positions or learn skills for a new occupation. These students will walk out of the classroom and will be fully productive in the community. This is an area of Collin College I hope to expand. Jobs are changing so quickly that in a lifetime, a person may have 3-4 different occupations.

Teachers: Teachers are attracted by different motivations: The terms we us in HR are 'Total Rewards' and quality of life. Some are motivated by tenure or altruistic feelings of 'teaching'. Retention is always an important consideration. This is a strong issue by the fact that the Board minutes always show a lot of activity in personnel 'adjustments'. Collin College has attracted great teachers by the number of awards the teachers earn every year. Reputation of the College and working conditions are great ways to retain and attract the best teachers.

Other Issues: The first could be monetary: Even though the tax and tuition rates are some of the lowest in the state/nation, we must be very vigilant in seeking new review streams and minimize expenses. We must be flexible in the funding structure, partner with corporations in the county, and expand our Continuing Education system in cooperation with the needs of the local industries. Many of these classes must be on weekends and evenings, when the buildings are sitting empty, because these students have jobs during the weekdays.

Bob Collins – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 8



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Education: PhD, Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M University, M.B.A., University of Dallas, Master of Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Texas

A&M University, B.S Mathematics, Lamar University

Experience: Founding Member, Collin College Board, Corporate VP and Officer, E-Systems, Inc (Fortune 500 Company), Plano P&Z, Chairman, Plano City Council, Mayor Pro-tem, CAD, Collin County, Chairman, EDC Farmersville, Chairman

Tuition: The big question with the proposed two years of free tuition is how to pay for it. The President of the United States will likely propose to use federal tax money to fund it. Then the question becomes how the program will be administered and what kind of requirements, policy changes, etc. come along with the program. There are a number of unanswered questions in addition to the basic funding of the program. What will be the role of the state higher education governance structure; can the free tuition program be imposed by the federal government; will there be required program changes.

Infrastructure: For buildings and facilities there are three sources of funds: The existing building fund that has been set aside, selling general obligation (GO) bonds, and selling revenue bonds. Currently Collin has a sizable building fund and our debt position is very good. Financing with either GO bonds or revenue bonds has potential impacts on required tax revenues and/or student tuition and fees. The plan is to grow without incurring debt unless absolutely necessary. Funding for faculty and staff comes from annual revenues. It is fair to assume that as growth occurs, revenues will also increase.

Curriculum: There are a number of programs that have rigorous educational requirements with some requiring certifications that can be considered for Collin. These include certain areas in healthcare, industrial welding, packaging, and logistics among others. Some of these programs can be conducted in a partnership with ISD's in the district. A good example of this is the healthcare academy initiated with the Plano ISD. This is a first and funded jointly by the college and the school district. Other possibilities exist that will involve partnerships within the college district.

Business: Much of this will depend on the academic majors that students choose to take and the local/regional economic trends. The healthcare academy in partnership with Plano ISD is a program that addresses this need specifically. Collin's national center for convergence technology and cyber security also address the needs of a business community that has strong components in banking, insurance, and technology based small business. The nationally recognized service learning program engages students with non-profit organizations, ISD's, and other government agencies.

Teachers: An outstanding faculty is formed as a result of a number of factors the college and the board can implement. Salaries and benefits must be competitive with universities and school districts in the region; the education/work environment should be outstanding as reflected in facilities and class sizes; the best technology should be provided to support the educational function; and, money should be set aside for professional development to ensure faculty are current and active in their disciplines and associations at the state and national level. Collin leads the state in teachers of the year.

Other Issues: Higher education in general is in a major transition. Cost growth and student loans have become a major issue; the internet and new course delivery technologies are impacting how learning takes place; the quality of programs are in question; and, federal and state agencies are increasing oversight. The challenges for Collin will start with working with the new president to ensure continued success. Seasoned board service is critical in helping a new president understand the college's core values and operational activities. There are a number of other issues to discuss.

Collin College Trustee, Place 9 Candidates (1):

Andy Hardin – Candidate for Collin College Trustee, Place 9

No response received by print deadline. Later responses may be in VOTE411.org

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*)

***Voters Guides* for Collin College, Allen, Frisco, McKinney, Plano and Wylie are available on the League's website at www.lwvcollin.org and at www.VOTE411.org**

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.