



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

**May 9, 2015, Local Election
McKinney 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 McKinney City Council and ISD 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 Collin College, Allen, Frisco, 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 McKinney elections, 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.



Table of Contents

	<i>Pages</i>
McKinney City Council Questions	2
McKinney City Council At-Large	2-6
McKinney City Council District 2	7-8
McKinney City Council District 4	9-14
McKinney ISD Questions	15
McKinney ISD Place 4	15
McKinney ISD Place 5	16-18
McKinney ISD Place 6	18-20

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 Frisco City & ISD elections 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.

McKinney City Council

4-year term. Four council members are elected to single-member districts (Districts 1-4), and two Council members and the Mayor are elected at large. The City Council establishes city policy through ordinances and resolutions.

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: The state legislature is considering proposals to limit growth in local property tax revenue through revenue caps or appraisal caps. Do you support revenue limits? How would they affect the city's finances?

Growth: What challenges will the continuing growth of your city present with respect to open space, commercial development and residential development, including affordable housing? How would you address them?

Homelessness: Homelessness, including teenagers and families with children, continues to be a problem. What should the city do to address this issue?

Infrastructure: What measures do you support to meet the growing infrastructure needs of your city, such as transportation and water?

Needs of Seniors: What measures do you support to meet the needs of seniors in your city, including transportation and affordable housing?

Payday Loans: Do you think that payday and auto title loans are a problem in your city? Why or why not? If they are a problem, what should be done to address them?

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

McKinney City Council, At Large Candidates (5):

Jeremiah Hammer – Candidate for McKinney City Council, At Large



Contact Information:
(214) 738-5560
themckinneyhammer.com
info@themckinneyhammer.com

Education: Stephen F. Austin
State University - International
Business Studies

Experience: CEO - Sustainable Ventures,
Commissioner - McKinney Housing Authority,
President - McKinney Community Garden
Association, REACH Mentor, Former
Chairman Community Development Block
Grant (CDBG) Advisory Commission

Finances: When home values are allowed appraise 10% higher one year over the next, it creates an excessive burden on home owners, literally taxing them out of their homes. Allowing for a cap would simply allow for homes to go up in a more steady manner, instead of creating extreme fluctuations in value that make it hard for a city to prepare for. The data on home value increases supports that values rise with inflation plus 1% over long periods of time, creating a more reasonable cap would allow home owners the opportunity to budget for this rise in tax burden.

Growth: McKinney has a comprehensive plan in place, a vision, and a way to get where we need to be. Our best success is by collaborating our talents, assets, and resources in a manner that uses what we have best to get where we want to be.

Homelessness: The city should continue to coordinate with county and state resources, as well as rely on the input of area agencies who work specifically with homelessness, to improve our ability to accurately census the need. The city currently provide funding to agencies through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), but this only scratches the surface of the problem. As a city, we need

to look at the conditions which lead to homelessness, and to each other for innovative ways to help our neighbors avoid this pitfall.

Infrastructure: The Texas Water Development Board has developed a series of standards and best management practices that cities and water users can implement beyond state law, and the city should continue to embrace these BMPs. Further, we are currently transferring the power to set state water rates and CCN (Certificate of Convenience and Necessity) programs from TCEQ to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and we should continue to work with Texas Municipal League and a variety of industry groups to ensure our standards meet the best proven standards available.

Needs of Seniors: Smart growth, mixed use developments, integrated community based agreements with the larger economic development master agreements, and ensuring our parks and recreation leadership team continues to follow our master plans and to continue to collect input from the community on places where we can improve. Further, we can broaden our Community Development

Corporation resources to allow a better focus on not only funding community programs and parks, as we do now, but to expand and boarden these programs to help incubate community organizations and efforts that will appeal to all residents.

Payday Loans: In Texas, at least 21 cities have business regulations, and 24 cities have land use regulations regarding payday lenders. Our goal should be to monitor the progress and impact of 4-5 legal challenges to these regulations. As these regulations are proven to be legal, and lessons are learned, we can in time create a dialogue and use data collected to form our own regulations as needed based on community input.

Other Issues: There are many opportunities that McKinney will benefit from over the upcoming decades, most of these we are likely prepared for. But this is not accident, and it's important that we collectively work together to forge our future. If you go to my website, you can read more on my platform page on a few key areas I hope will help you see our future: <http://www.themckinneyhammer.com>.

Tracy Rath – Candidate for McKinney City Council, At Large



Contact Information:
(214) 578-9561
tracyformckinney.com
tracy@tracyformckinney.com

Education: Jacksonville High School Attended University of Arkansas

Experience: Community Volunteer 25 years, McKinney Community Development Corporation (6) Board Member, Chair, MISD and City of McKinney Bond Committees (2), Former City of McKinney Employee

Finances: McKinney has reduced its tax rate four times since 2002 and increased the senior tax exemption one time. I want a fair tax system and have a lot of questions about the proposal: How would the City pass a budget by October 1st if the rollback election would occur in November? Does the comptroller take into consideration tax incentives for economic development? The school districts are the largest taxing entity but are exempt because of budget cuts? Is expansion considered under the construction exemption?

Growth: McKinney is a diverse community with housing opportunities for all income levels. We must continue to proactively plan for our future by updating the Future Land Use and Comprehensive Plans and setting building standards that speak to our unique community. The McKinney Community

Development Corporation, in concert with City Council has committed \$5.5 million dollars per year for 10 years to fund land acquisition and Parks and Recreation projects.

Homelessness: McKinney is home to the only homeless shelter in Collin County and is very generous in its support of the Inn. The Samaritan Inn turns away families with children daily because of space restrictions. The Inn will break ground on their new family shelter in the fall of 2015 thus increasing their capacity to provide housing for an additional 100 families. The McKinney Community Development Corporation (4b taxing entity) recently granted \$200,000 in 2014 towards infrastructure for the new facility, so McKinney is already addressing the issue.

Infrastructure: The 10 year Capital Improvement Plan will provide a road map

moving forward in addressing infrastructure, road, and signal improvements to increase our mobility. The City contracts with GoTAPS transit to provide public transportation. TAPS provided over 7800 trips in January 2015. Water conservation is an ongoing priority. The City has already modified landscape standards to allow for more drought resistant plant materials. We must continue to educate our citizens on water conservation and work with the NTMWD to strengthen partnerships among its member cities.

Needs of Seniors: The City of McKinney contracts with GoTAPS transit to provide transportation for our senior citizen community. Seniors (60 years and older) ride the fixed routes at no charge and receive discounts for other TAPS transportation services. The City Council has passed

ordinances creating specific zoning categories for senior oriented housing to allow for senior multi family, independent living and assisted living developments to be built in McKinney. Private sector developers determine the timing and market needs for the construction of these facilities.

Payday Loans: No

Other Issues: The most important issues moving forward? How do we balance our quality of life "wants" with the "need" for commercial development to ease the tax burden on homeowners? The list of must-do's include: • Recruiting a permanent City Manager • Updating our Comprehensive and Future Land Use plan • Preparing for infrastructure replacement • Developing sound financial policies as we plan for our future

Rodrirk D. Robinson – Candidate for McKinney City Council, At Large



Contact Information:
(214) 283-2132
rodrirkforcitycouncil.com
rodrirk.robinson@newlifehme.com

Education: Bachelor of Administration degree from the University of North Texas in Entrepreneurship and Strategic Management.

Experience: Founder and CEO of New Life Medical Equipment which specializes in complex rehab, home modifications, assistive technology and durable medical equipment for individuals with disabilities throughout the State of Texas.

Finances: McKinney must have the ability to increase revenue to pay for important local services, such as our emergency response teams, parks and libraries. This cap will make it more difficult to provide these services with our fast-growing population. We will need to seek alternative ways to continue to support our city without diminishing the quality of service to the citizen and our city employees.

Growth: We have annexed areas in the Northwest sector to focus on the expansion in terms of adding more residential communities and businesses. Its important to have a good mix of both business and residential development which is the current focus of the city. The city currently has plans to develop affordable housing on the Westside of McKinney as well as an urban living facility near the Medical Center of McKinney. The challenge is going to ensure we have a great mix of both residential and business development and work to encourage more business to move to our city instead of the neighboring areas

Homelessness: 3e McKinney and our church family at First Baptist have partnered to shelter

the homeless in various ways. Every year, my family and I make a point to contribute and minister to individuals in our community that are homeless. We volunteer our time, we feed them throughout the year and provide gift cards to help with their expenses. Although the city needs to ensure we continue to support our families and individuals during this very tough time by being a financial and community resource, we must not only rely on the city. We all have to be the village that supports these individuals.

Infrastructure: Building the city infrastructure to support our growth also helps to attract businesses to our city, thus improving our overall economy. We need to ensure we control traffic flow and easy of maneuverability within McKinney for visitors and residents. The city needs to continue making the expansion of US Highway 75 a priority as well as focusing on redevelopment of the Highway 5 Corridor and US 380.

Needs of Seniors: I have the privilege of serving seniors everyday within my medical equipment company. I have enjoyed every minute of the experience, from the wise stories

and history lessons to the baked cookies and pies they've prepared for me when visiting their homes. McKinney has been great with their efforts to support our seniors and to preserve the history of our city. Through programs such as Meals on Wheels and the Senior Recreation Center, they are able to live in a vibrant city that embraces opportunity for their social interaction and community involvement.

Payday Loans: I believe in creating independence within our community and to limit our dependency on outside resources when it is not absolutely necessary. By creating an environment in the city that is welcoming to business owners and executives,

we are able to encourage them to join our city and provide more competitive employment opportunities for our residents. With more job opportunities and higher paying positions, the hope is that our citizens will not have to rely on outside resources to make ends meet.

Other Issues: I will work diligently to provide the city with a strong economy, a transparent city government, and ensure preservation of our vibrant historic districts. I will continue to build relationship with both small business owners and large corporations so they see value in moving operations to McKinney, further enhancing our ability to employ local citizens and generate revenue for the city.

Bill Campbell – Candidate for McKinney City Council, At Large



Contact Information:
(469) 667-3022
bill4mckinney.com
bill@campbellclan.net

Education: Bachelor of Science in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Notre Dame, May 1993

Experience: My family and I moved to McKinney in 2001 when I opened an office an engineering firm. I chose McKinney for the office location b/c of the growth potential I saw. My wife, Kelli, and I chose McKinney for our home because we were so impressed with the community.

Finances: While in Austin, we met with the Lt. Gov. and his staff. We explained the difficulties that the legislation would cause in fast-growth cities like McKinney. The mayor described it would be problematic for us. The main concern is that the 4% and 8% that triggers roll-back elections are a low threshold for a fast-growth city. Also, the way that it is being proposed, the city would plan for and pass a budget that would start Oct. 1. A rollback election could then be called and the tax rate rolled back months into the fiscal year. This would be an impossible way for the city to operate and budget.

Growth: McKinney has a downtown that other cities around are rushing to copy, and that's a blessing and a curse. The older infrastructure needs time and money spent on it to keep it up-to-date. It's an on-going process and always requires focus and attention. The City has already spent over \$100M on its Infrastructure Initiative investing in the older, east side of town and that has gotten appx 1/4 of the work done. We built this city, now we need to maintain it. That needs to be in balance with the new and ETJ portions of McKinney. We need to balance commercial and residential development long term.

Homelessness: The Samaritan Inn does an excellent job of taking in people in need, getting them assistance and help, and graduating many of its residents into setting up their households again. The City's role should be to support programs like the Samaritan Inn and facilitate coordination between the local non-profits so that those dollars are spent wisely and efficiently. Frisco Family Services is a good example of this sort of coordination and cooperation between groups and making resource stretch as far as possible. We should examine what FFS is doing and see if that model can be applied in McKinney.

Infrastructure: We are underfunding transportation at all levels. Our politicians have abdicated the responsibility to be honest with citizens about the true cost of building and maintaining our transportation infrastructure. There are no freeways. They all cost money. And, they need to be repaired, expanded and improved. Just because we paid for them one time doesn't mean that they are good forever. We need to explore all the different means and modes of transportation available. We also need to continue to push the NTMWD to find and develop additional water sources while we actively encourage conservation.

Needs of Seniors: The TAPS service is a huge improvement over CCART. The updating and refurbishing of the sr ctr is on the upcoming Nov bond package. As we develop the NW sector, other development patterns that include different sizes, shapes and costs of housing need to be considered. Vertically integrated mixed-use like you see at Legacy/DNT and Bethany/US75 would be great places for different types of development than we currently have available. These would allow for people to live, work and play where they live. It cuts down on vehicular dependence, can support a range of housing prices and demographics.

Payday Loans: Payday and auto title loans are probably something that need to be addressed at the state or federal level. A number of large cities across Texas like Houston, Dallas, El Paso, San Antonio and

Austin have passed ordinances limiting payday loans. Industry supporters say that they offer a needed service to consumers who don't have many options for short-term loans. Critics say they prey on low-income Texans by charging high fees and keeping borrowers in a cycle of debt.

Other Issues: The hiring of the next City Manager is going to be one of the highest priorities for the next city council. Tom Muehlenbeck is doing an excellent job serving as interim city manager and allowing some of the rancor that had developed around the City Manager position in McKinney to dissipate. As Tom's contract is up in June of 2016, the council needs to be in search mode. We need to find a person who can help guide city staff and work with council. This person needs to be familiar with fast-growth cities and ideally has seen them succeed in the short and long term.

Peter Bailey – Candidate for McKinney City Council, At Large



Contact Information:
peterbaileymckinney.net
pbailey2sanuk@yahoo.com

Education: BA Harvard 1962
Teaching certificate NTSU 1985

Experience: Have been on Parrks and Recreation Board for 4vyears am curretlly a member of Historic Preservation, Completed Citizens on Patrol coriser and worked with McKinney Pd for 3 years Graduate of McKinney Experience

Finances: thisw is a bad idea Caps, if any should come from the cities vthemselvesm not be imposed by the states.

Growth: There is still a lot of open space in McKinney in spite of the growth recently. If elected to city council I would work to improve the commerc ial ratio Hopefully the impression of McKinney as a bedroom town for Dallas wil diminish Also, Mckinney has many codes Some were written a long time ag0o I would if elected challenge developers and the cityy staff to issue variances where appropriate and look at the codes from the point of view of enforcement.)One of the issues of apartmernts in the city is that many are owned by companies outside of McKineey; ic would work to sensitize them to th0ose.

Homelessness: We need another facility like the Samaritan Inn I would like to see a budget propal to expand that facility Having said that i think they do an excellent job.

Infrastructure: I am in frequent contact with Barbara Reeves at TAPS they do a good job but we should not encourage laurel resting. If as at-large Council person I cwould ,make sure

citizensc feel that they feel;that they are being properlyu served by the regular routes AND they undertand the rules of medical transportation i would encourage city emploeeto ride Taps now and thent Water isvthe main infrastructure problem facing McKinney. It is ironic that McKinney was one of the cities that created NTMWD anwe are f overned by their regulations which soime treat as a nuisance. The biggest user of water in t.

Needs of Seniors: See prevrbious qwuestion re trnasportation. Senior housing in Mckinney can be divided into 3 parts : Public housing including Section 8'assisted living and senior communities The first and third have swaiting lists and other restrictions; the second is too expensive. I would work to dflate the negative perception of public housing.

Payday Loans: They are.t worth it but not really a problem.

Other Issues: Roads and who to build,who to fund We should work as cdlosely as possible with TEXDOT By the cvway ,can we have Webber have its employees to lern English?

McKinney City Council, District 2 Candidates (2):

Rainey Rogers – Candidate for McKinney City Council, District 2



Contact Information:
(972) 529-3888
rainey@rogers-tatefinancial.com

Education: Earned a CFP designation from the College of Financial Planning, Denver Colorado

Experience: Over 30 years as a Financial Advisor in the North Dallas area, currently owner one of the oldest and largest wealth management practices in McKinney. Served on the Board of Adjustments Served on the Collin County Courthouse Bond Committee Served for 12 years as a BSA scoutmaster

Finances: I like the market setting the values and do not see any other fair way to set a taxable appraised value. The other thought I have is if the state can use artificial limits on how fast appraisals go up then they can artificially limit how fast the appraisals can go down in the event of a downturn in real estate. I do not see any value in artificially limiting tax revenue. I think artificially restricting appraisals could certainly hurt tax revenue for the city.

Growth: The city currently has a plan in place to build out the city. the challenges we face will be building it out the right way. Our tax base is does not have enough commercial real estate to offset the residential developments that continues to be built, that has to change. The one thing McKinney has that no other city in Collin county has is a hometown feel, people move to McKinney because it has that feel to our city. What ever we do that has to be maintained, that starts with making sure the historic district and downtown are kept up and provide a place that people can go and gather.

Homelessness: The Samaritain inn provides a great service to the community, i believe organizations outside of government work on problems like this far more efficiently than the government can. I believe supporting organizations like these can help in the front lines of these types of problems. The best things the government can do is provide businesses and individuals with a city that will welcome investment and business opportunities that will bring jobs into the city.

Infrastructure: I support the next bond election that will allow the city with more capital to help build the needed infrastructure, roads and fire departments that will be needed as McKinney grows, that is the biggest way to meet the needs of a growing city. The deal the

city has with the NTWD seems kinda backwards, in the current deal if the residents do not use a certain amount of water the city pays for water that the residents do not use because we are asked to cut back our water usage. there are plans in place that assure the city will continue to have the water that this growing city needs.

Needs of Seniors: I am not familiar with any measures to support in meeting the needs of the seniors in McKinney. I would support things that would be beneficial for our seniors if it was needed, worked and affordable to the city. I know that laws demand a certain amount of affordable housing needs to be in a growing city like McKinney, but with the land prices being so high i do not know how affordable housing is built or who determines where and how much. As a council member I will work on getting this done right.

Payday Loans: I do not know if they are a problem in the city of McKinney but I do know that they prey on low income people. I am torn about both sides of this as it does provide a source of money that people can go to so that is good however i am not sure it ends up helping people as the interest rate of these plans can be crazy high. if it is a problem I think I can look at the situation and help come up with a workable solution.

Other Issues: The next city council will hire the next city manager and the past city councils are 0 for 4! the hire of the next city manager will set the tone for the city of McKinney for the next 10 years so there is nothing more important than getting this hire right. The next biggest issue is managing the growth and making sure we have the commercial tax base that is needed to bring down our tax rate and keep it down.

Matt Hilton – Candidate for McKinney City Council, District 2



Contact Information:
(214) 632-1020
MattForMcKinney.com
MattOpeningDoors@gmail.com

Education: Baylor University,
Bachelor of Science in Economics

Experience: McKinney Planning & Zoning Commission- Vice Chair, Collin County Planning Board- Past Chair, McKinney Chamber of Commerce- Past Treasurer & Director, Collin County Association of REALTORS®, 2015 President, N. Collin County Habitat for Humanity- Vice President of the Board

Finances: I believe that artificially lowering the appraisal cap or capping the revenue limit whether at the state or local level is bad policy. Fast-growing cities like McKinney need property tax revenue growth to pay for new roads, sewers and other infrastructure. Caps on how much appraisals grow could simply force McKinney to increase the tax rate on our hard-working citizens. Increases in property tax values is one sign of growth and would stifle growth in McKinney.

Growth: We are in a position in McKinney to make sure we set a vision for our future growth through our 2015-2016 Comprehensive Plan. Historically, McKinney has planned well for adequate open space and residential development. Two areas that need special focus is our commercial development and affordable housing. We need to make sure our commercially identified areas are preserved and be patient for the right businesses to come to McKinney. As the Vice President of the BOD of the N. Collin County Habitat for Humanity, I understand the need for affordable housing in our community.

Homelessness: As an avid supporter of The Samaritan Inn, I understand the gross homelessness numbers in Collin County and in McKinney. According to their website, 158 people are living at the Inn and 60 of those are children. We must continue to support their efforts and programs to help those who are homeless find hope, get back on their feet, and re-enter society once again. The City should maybe look at partnering with the schools and other organizations to bring increased awareness of this issue to our fellow citizens.

Infrastructure: Through my current involvement in the community, I have listened to my friends and fellow citizens express their opinions that infrastructure (water & transportation) and McKinney's future growth are challenges we face. When elected, I will continue to work with our County

Commissioners and State Legislators regarding our infrastructure needs. By cutting wasteful spending, exercising fiscal discipline, and maximizing economic development, we can fund the City's growing pains without raising taxes on hard working McKinney citizens.

Needs of Seniors: From my point of view, I see that we have taken measures in McKinney to address the transportation needs through our partnership with TAPS. From designated routes to on-demand curb pick-up, McKinney is working to solve our public transportation needs. I do believe that a key to communication is listening. So if my perception is misguided, I would love feedback to how to increase our public transportation needs. I would suggest that in our Comprehensive Plan that we make sure that we allow for areas of our city to have adequate zoning for senior housing and independent living facilities.

Payday Loans: I do believe that payday loans and auto title loans are a problem in our city. They prey on people in a state of hopelessness, make it sound like they have a good solution to their financial problems, and trap people in a cycle of debt. I know that the State Legislature is pursuing legislation to regulate predatory lending and I would be in favor of similar ordinances locally.

Other Issues: McKinney's most important issue in the immediate future is hiring a highly effective and determined City Manager. I believe we need strong leadership in our next CEO to guide and navigate us through some critically important months and years ahead. I also believe that we have some very important infrastructure needs (water and transportation) and developing a managed growth plan for McKinney. A strong, updated Comprehensive Plan with balanced development and revitalization will be a foundation for bringing everyone together for a more unified McKinney.

McKinney City Council, District 4 Candidates (7):

David Joseph Weaver – Candidate for McKinney City Council, District 4



Contact Information:
(469) 919-8210
dave.weaver.4@gmail.com

Education: Associates

Experience: Citizen of McKinney

Finances: I do not support revenue limits as this is the main source of revenue for the city. If limits are imposed then the city will need to seek other revenue sources.

Growth: I would ask the citizens of my district to inform me of their desires on these issues.

Homelessness: The city should be looking to attract projects for affordable housing so that can be one of the factors to address the homeless issue. Also, look to attract businesses that will pay wages that will allow people to be able to afford to live in McKinney.

Infrastructure: I believe the current plans are adequate and well thought out.

Needs of Seniors: I would ask the Seniors of my district to provide input as to specific needs that need to be addressed.

Payday Loans: I am not aware that they are a problem at this point. However, I do not believe these are good for people, in general.

Other Issues: The important issues will be the ones that the citizens of my district put forth.

Chuck Branch – Candidate for McKinney City Council, District 4



Contact Information:
(469) 569-1044
electchuckbranch.com
info@electchuckbranch.com

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from UT Dallas

Experience: 5 years of business ownership
3 years of accounting 4 years of finance 8 years of mortgage lending/banking

Finances: Due to the significant reliability of revenues from property taxes in the city of McKinney coming from the citizens (70%), I agree that we need to limit this. It is up to the city to pursue businesses that will provide more of the burden in a combination of Sales Tax revenues, Employee Spending as well as Business Property Taxes. These revenues generated by businesses will allow us to lower this burden on the citizens and should be applied as a property tax reduction to them.

Growth: The city will need work with the ISD, council and developers to break out the remaining areas of the city with a specific plan based on what population for the area,

infrastructure needed (roads, police and fire), businesses (corporate, retail, etc) and schools. Place Hard Zones on the properties. And repeat this process through the remainder of the city. If necessary, Annex in properties according to that plan. We will need to continue to address water concerns by utilizing weather stations, specialty landscaping, etc.

Homelessness: The city should work with the ISD and homeless families to study the types of homelessness (situational, episodic or chronic) that are predominant in the city and address it based on the highest need. For situational we could work with businesses that can offer assistance in the means of jobs. For

episodic, work with hospitals to get people stable mentally or off addictions. For chronic, work with the state to determine what resources are available for them and allow them to get them stabilized on those resources.

Infrastructure: Other than TXDOT and County funding, for immediate needs I support a bond that will allow for transportation development. Going forward we will need to grow our business sectors to provide some of the funding for these roads. For water and growth needs we will need to allow that citizens to govern more of their own watering based on the weather stations in the city. These will notify the citizens if watering is necessary to water for the week or not.

Needs of Seniors: Currently, I believe we have the transportation needs met through

TAPS on demand service for our Seniors. As it is related to affordable housing, we will need to determine funding available from the State that assists them as they age or have permanent illnesses.

Payday Loans: I am not familiar with these loans and the city should not get involved in this area as it is the responsibility of the businesses that provide them.

Other Issues: The most important issue before City Council is the amount of turnover in 2015, 2016 and 2017 as it relates to City council(5 members), Mayor and City Manager. As a city we will need to have the right leadership in place that can properly hire the next city manager, work well with the other council members and be able to make the tough decisions to help us to stay focused on the common goal of growth.

Robert DeMarco – Candidate for McKinney City Council, District 4



Contact Information:
(214) 578-2125
robertdemarco.info
robert@demarcomitchell.com

Education: Pepperdine University School of Law, Malibu, CA Juris Doctor, 1988 American Jurisprudence Award in Constitutional Law, Highest Grade in Professional Responsibility Syracuse

University, Syracuse, NY Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Political Philosophy, 1984

Experience: No political experience. I began my legal career as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Geraldine Mund, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in 1988. I am Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization - consumer bankruptcy, and am a Master in the John C. Ford American Inn of Court.

Finances: I oppose tax increases. A limitation placed upon ad valorem tax revenue is a way of limiting taxes. Nonetheless, I oppose any form of appraisal cap because the method is flawed. If one wants to decrease taxes-change the rate but don't create an artificial multiplier to achieve that end. The problems cities face is that as property values increase there is a tax increase. As property values decrease there is a tax cut. Neither event is controlled by the city. Instead, use rollbacks (require an election if FMVs increase by 4% or more) based upon a 5 year average of the FMV. ISD-1.67 City-.583

Growth: There must be a balance between open space, commercial development and residential development. However, McKinney is becoming too much of a bedroom community. I would like to see a more business friendly city council. Another challenge that accompanies growth is water. I moved to McKinney 15 years ago from California. I understand water limitations. What surprised me the most upon moving to McKinney was that few understood the concept of drip

irrigation. Encourage drip systems. As for affordable housing-privatize it. Subsidize new construction that is privately owned and privately financed.

Homelessness: It is important for a society to care for those in need. However, it is not the city's role to establish and run such facilities. Such facilities are best owned and operated by churches and other community groups. The city's role should be one of facilitator. the city should aid in raising capital through charitable campaign drives and, along the same lines the city is able to prove for economic development, provide assistance to such shelters.

Infrastructure: Obviously funding will be required for infrastructure. That does not mean the city should be looking to pass bond after bond like a drunken sailor. If warranted by the economics, bonds might be the most prudent vehicle. The key to such an analysis is value. It has been said it is prudent to borrow to acquire an appreciating asset. The same rule applies to cities. If a funding proposal can establish that the benefits out weigh the costs, the bond

should be approved. And when I say costs, I include soft costs like first responders, aesthetics and amenities.

Needs of Seniors: McKinney has an aging population. There must be a focus on the needs of seniors. The senior center is a great first start, but must be expanded. The same is true of senior transportation. Groups like Visiting Angels should be worked with with and encouraged by the City.

Payday Loans: I do not believe such business are pervasive in McKinney, but I do abhor the practice. I, as a bankruptcy

attorney, interact with payday lenders on a weekly basis. Their practices are less than noble and best characterized as predatory.

Other Issues: The most important issue the next city council will face is the replacement of our temporary city manager. The selection of anew city manager will be crucial for the successful growth of McKinney. The importance of the new city manager cannot be underestimated. I a looking forward to a city manager with the skill set to bring business to McKinney - from small businesses to corporate headquarters.

Steven Spainhouer – Candidate for McKinney City Council, District 4



Contact Information:
(214) 241-9929
spainhouerformckinney.com
spainhouer@gmail.com

Education: B.S. in Criminal Justice (Pre-law heavy)

Experience: Former Combat Arms Trained US Army officer, former police officer, business executive and small business owner. I have also served on the Board of Directors for the North Texas Healthcare Risk Management Society, former Communications Chair- SW Chapter, American Society of Safety Engineers

Finances: No, I do not support limiting local property tax revenues through caps of any type. Local governments must be able to set their own appraisal caps to insure the stability of the city's financial obligations.

Growth: Collin County and McKinney in particular, are in the second fastest growth area of the State, second only to Hayes County south of Austin. We must strike a good balance between residential development and commercial development, so the tax burdens don't fall disproportionately on the homeowner. We must continue to meet federal fair housing laws with respect to affordable housing, insuring existing neighborhoods are not negatively impacted by the addition of affordable housing. I will urge the city manager to hire a vetted and proven Urban Planner who has a specialty in transportation planning.

Homelessness: We (the city) must find a way to partner with the private sector to find equitable solutions to addressing homelessness in our community. Community Block grants are a great tool to help in this regard and I would be in favor of increasing community block grants with a key focus on addressing homeless issues, while also encouraging our private business sector to step up to the plate and assit where economically feasible.

Infrastructure: I will ask the city manager to hire an Urban Planning Director with a background in Transportation Planning to help

pull all city departments together in an effort to effect synergies in urban planning. our transportation issues are not going away any time in the near future and we need to start thinking long term and insure we have the transportation assets and partners on board that economically can connect us in number of ways, within the city and to other cities in the region. We need to work closely with our State Representatives to find solutions to our current water issues.

Needs of Seniors: Our transportation assets must always meet the needs of our senior citizens. We still have issues in this area and I am willing to work with our transportation partners to find ways to resolve some of those issues. As relates to affordable housing, we must stay in compliance with affordable housing requirements and insure placement of affordable housing does not negatively affect nearby property values.

Payday Loans: I do not see payday and auto title loan businesses as a current issue in McKinney. I will defer to our State Legislature to enact any regulatory statutes that may be needed as relates to these industries.

Other Issues: Our biggest issue is our growth and how we manage the growth. The City of McKinney has been recognized as one of the Best Places in which to live in the US, for several years. Upcoming issues will undoubtedly be centered around our growth

and how we manage to respond to the growth as a city. We must address planning and zoning issues, economic development, transportation, fire and police services, water

services, and insure we maintain an attractive city with well planned and well managed parks, arts and entertainment, a well managed historic district and an attractive city center.

Ty Lake – Candidate for McKinney City Council, District 4



Contact Information:
(972) 743-1770
electtylake.com
tylake@outlook.com

Education: Tascosa High School
- Amarillo TX Attended Amarillo
College

Experience: For nearly 9 years I was very actively involved in civic affairs in having worked for the city of McKinney from August of 2005 until May of 2014. The positions that I held included: Main Street Director, Director of MPAC, Community Engagement Director and Community Events Director.

Finances: If a program like this is ultimately passed it certainly has the potential to impact our city budget in a negative way. I will be following this closely. If there is a way to lower our taxes or to improve on the way we assess them, then that is worth a serious look. However, we as a city will remain a growing, dynamic community for some time. Maintaining a sufficient and responsible level of funding for our needs while having a balanced and fair taxing mythology will be a priority for me.

Growth: Our greatest challenge is providing a balanced and stable economy and tax rate. Emphasis should be on thoughtful useful commercial development planning to include dining and retail options, while maintaining continued support for quality of life aspects focused on our increased adolescent demographics and the preservation of green space in residential areas. The City must encourage and promote, and avoid being a barrier to development through a fair, balanced and efficient permitting and zoning process. Quality of life in McKinney continues to receive such high marks and is one of the key a

Homelessness: As a human being, we never know the struggles of others unless we walk a mile in their shoes. With this being said, as a council member I would listen, continue to support important initiatives and provide a fair and supportive avenue for all residents to be embraced within the community.

Infrastructure: We must be mindful of our current water shortage situation. It is

important to continue to evaluate the overall fees so that we are being good stewards of our community. I believe we should continue to take a hard look at improvements on a consistent basis. Regarding infrastructure, it is imperative that we continue to plan on ways to address, fund and support our aging infrastructure on roadways in particular. We should capitalize on the momentum of the US 75 expansion completion. We should plan vital commercial connectors through the Northwest sector to the outer loop. Also, the FM 5

Needs of Seniors: I believe that our leadership past and present has done a good job addressing the needs of our seniors in our community. I will continue to support these initiatives.

Payday Loans: While I recognize this a growing area of concern, I do not believe that this question is materially relevant to my seeking candidacy for district 4 on McKinney City Council.

Other Issues: (1) We have got to correct our trend line and get our tax base in line while being realistic about our commercial and residential needs along with the imbalance while creating a plan to address the need for quality development, (2) ensuring stability and support for the City Manager's Office and our employees by recruiting and retaining a first-class workforce. (3) Address and commit to a strategic action plan for infrastructural, operational and organizational needs for our citizens and our employees as we continue experience growing pains.

Pablo Ruiz – Candidate for McKinney City Council, District 4



Contact Information:
(214) 718-8557
pabloruizdistrict4.com
pabloruizdistrict4@gmail.com

Education: Mechanical Engineering degree with a concentration in aerospace from the United States Military Academy

Experience: I was an Army Engineer officer 4 yrs. I have worked for 17 yrs for TI & 2.5 yrs for Halff Associates. I've been an active volunteer: Building & Standards Commission, McKinney Economic Development Corp., Stonebridge Ranch HOA Board of Directors, Boy Scouts and McKinney North High School Band.

Finances: McKinney is a growing city and revenue or appraisal caps could have a detrimental impact on the city's ability to continue to grow with the same quality of life we enjoy today. I would oppose efforts that take away the city's ability to address its infrastructure needs, amenities, and police and fire services.

Growth: McKinney has a plan for parks and will utilize the MCDC to support it. It's using various organizations like the MEDC and Airport to incentivize target businesses to move to McKinney. Affordable housing has been approved in the Millennium 1 and 2 developments and the city is participating in the renovation of Newsome Homes. The city has assisted Habitat for Humanity with its efforts to build and maintain affordable homes in McKinney as well. Current efforts should be continued.

Homelessness: The McKinney Samaritan Inn is the only homeless shelter in the county. Several churches participate in Family Promise of Collin County to help families get back on their feet. The city should support such organizations that assist citizens to become self-sufficient.

Infrastructure: McKinney is a growing city and needs long term planning of the amenities, police, fire department and infrastructure. The 10-year capital improvement plan is a step in the right direction. Many McKinney roadways already have planned expansions or improvements. Water scarcity needs continued

conservation efforts and additional resources in cooperation with suppliers and citizens.

Needs of Seniors: The Senior Center is not large enough to accommodate the population. A second facility should be considered west of 75. The GoTaps service in McKinney is very affordable and is a viable transportation solution when enough advance notice is available. The city could consider adjusting city property tax exemption amounts or freeze taxes for residents 65 and older and disabled to help citizens on fixed incomes.

Payday Loans: I think these types of loans are an issue across the country. I know that payday loans and pay advances can create a vicious cycle. Ultimately it comes down to personal fiscal discipline to break the cycle and repair the damage. There are a number of organizations that teach money management and they should be encouraged.

Other Issues: McKinney needs an experienced, collaborative City Manager. I support an open, inclusive process to make the selection. We need to plan the city's future growth to address transportation, water scarcity, infrastructure and quality of life. We need a clear vision and updated plans to implement it. The percentage of tax revenue from businesses needs to be increased by attracting more industrial and commercial businesses using the city's MEDC, MCDC, MCVB, and airport. Target industries include aviation, clean manufacturing, corporate offices and headquarters, medical technology and high tech.

Angie Bado – Candidate for McKinney City Council, District 4



Contact Information:
(972) 658-8560
angie4mckinney.com
angie@angie4mckinney.com

Education: BA Bethany College

Experience: Nine years as founder CEO of TownSquareBuzz.com, leader, visionary, results oriented, Chair of the board for many community, city, church, school organizations, including McKinney Convention & Visitors Bureau, Women's Alliance of McKinney, McKinney North PTO, Community Lifeline Center & CMHA

Finances: I don't support property tax caps proposed by the state legislature, which strips away local control. Cities have different needs and must be allowed to make choices that fit their needs. The proposed property tax caps will burden our city in its ability to provide public services and infrastructure to a growing city while maintaining infrastructure that is already in place. In one proposal, the city stands to lose enough revenue to adversely affect city staff or public safety jobs. Either budget cuts would have to be made, or property taxes would have to be raised.

Growth: The population growth predicted for McKinney will necessitate building in areas that are currently open space, changing the face of McKinney. We must carefully plan, building on the city's Northwest Sector Plan to ensure that housing, schools, public safety facilities and infrastructure are built at least at the same rate in order for our standard of living not to deteriorate. We must have a long-range vision, coupled with intentional planning to ensure that the city has a game plan for a diverse population and for attracting commercial dev. to balance out the residential dev.

Homelessness: Prevention and education are key. Community Lifeline Center, an organization whose mission is prevention, can assist families & teens who are in crisis, and prevent them from becoming homeless. Local non-profit organizations provide education and financial assistance. The city could choose to build relationships with, and promote awareness of, existing organizations, such as those that provide job training. Use of Community Block grants to fund programs for homeless could also be an option, as could the Delancey St. Project model, which has proved to be effective in cities nationwide.

Infrastructure: I support the city's proposed a \$160 million bond initiative to address infrastructure needs - roads, additional fire stations, etc. It's imperative that the city has a pro-active strategy to plan for future water needs, transportation, public safety and managing growth, while preserving our quality

of life. These challenges are interdependent, so thoughtful, intentional planning for the future is critical. We must also work with the county, TxDot, TAPS, and other neighboring cities to find viable solutions for all of these issues together.

Needs of Seniors: Use of Community Dev. Block Grant funds to provide further senior services, including affordable housing. I'd work with TAPS to provide more routes and increase the frequency of routes. Thoughtful assessment of seniors' needs, coupled with planning for the future will help us prepare for a growing senior population. We should have the projected demographics and plan accordingly. The city should build on what is here. For example, we already offer classes at the senior center and at Collin College, but perhaps we could partner with other universities to offer more choices for seniors.

Payday Loans: Absolutely. Far too many low-wage earning families find themselves in a situation where they have to borrow money at a high interest rate to make ends meet. Payday loans are easy to qualify for. Many of these are auto title loans and borrower, if unable to repay the debt, gives up his vehicle. Families who borrow are often not able to pay back the loan, plus interest, creating a vicious cycle of debt. One solution is to provide other options in our community, such as Community Loan Center, which offers loans at %18 with only a \$20 fee. Borrowers have 12 mo. to pay a loan back.

Other Issues: I believe hiring a well-qualified city manager with a proven-track record is a top priority. This is a critical hire for our city as we need a leader who will work with council to set a long-range vision for McKinney and identify strategies to reach the vision. Also needed are plans and strategies to address water shortages, transportation concerns, expand the commercial tax base, infrastructure needs and manage growth while preserving our quality of life. I believe these issues are interdependent and must be tackled now to prepare our city to flourish in the future.

McKinney ISD Board of Trustees

4-year term. Places 1-5 are single-member districts. Places 6 and 7 are elected at large. The Board of Trustees is responsible for functioning under all legal state and federal parameters; providing the best educational opportunity for students; making all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures and growth management; adopting a budget; levying taxes, and submitting bond issues.

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?

McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 4 Candidates (1):

Amy Dankel – Candidate for McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 4



Contact Information:
amydankel@gmail.com

Education: Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Virginia Tech, and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Millsaps College

Experience: Public school educator for 22 years, 10 of which were in McKinney ISD

Priorities: Keeping the Board focused on student achievement, as well as student and staff safety is my priority. This can be addressed by establishing clear policies and procedures for our district, then being aware of the success of the implementation of these

policies and procedures. I would also like us to be able to pay our teachers well so that we do not lose good teachers to neighboring districts; and I would like to see us build a new stadium with adequate seating and parking.

McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 5 Candidates (2):

Lynn Sperry – Candidate for McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 5



Contact Information:

(972) 672-3413
lynnsperry.com
lynns@connect.net

Education: The Ohio State University (Bachelor of Music Education)

Experience: McKinney Citizen of Year (2006), McKinney Volunteer of Year (1997), Incumbent MISD trustee (served as president, vice-president, secretary), Texas Assoc. of School Boards 12 years, Leadership TASB, founding member McKinney Education Foundation and Serenity High advisory board, taught public school

Finances: We must always be good stewards of our taxpayers' funds. In a growing district, it is difficult to keep quality of education for each student as the goal as we experience cuts in available funding. With conservative measures, MISD's bonded indebtedness has been handled in an excellent manner. We have been able to continue providing facilities as our district has grown. MISD is in much better shape than many other districts. Budgeting is a major job. Our administration and board take budgeting very seriously. We do our best to plan carefully and conservatively.

Vouchers: No. I do not support vouchers for private schools. Vouchers are funded by taxpayer dollars, and they take funding away from public schools. Private schools do not answer to taxpayers, and they are not subject to the regulations that apply to public schools. U.S. Department of Education studies showed that the Washington DC voucher program did not significantly improve reading or math achievement. The studies also found that many students were less likely to have ESL programs, learning supports, special education supports and services, and counselors.

Students: Career and Technology programs are vital to many students' success after graduating from high school. MISD has many Career and Technology classes in medical fields, cosmetology, ROTC and aviation, among others. Students earn certifications that enable them to step directly into employment or to continue on to college coursework toward an associate's degree or beyond. Career and Tech programs can be funded creatively, whether in cooperation with local businesses or by joining with Collin College.

Growth: Increasing numbers of homeless children. Changing demographics. We have had to develop special means of accommodating each of those responsibilities.

Unfunded state and federal requirements add to the district's financial burdens. We must transport homeless children who live in our district back to the districts from which they came. Special needs children for whom our district lacks the proper facilities or staff must be transported to other districts. Only through conservative budgeting can MISD meet the diverse demands of our students while still providing the best possible education.

Curriculum: McKinney ISD has always emphasized strong academics, and that will continue. There has been some relief in state testing requirements, and our students have more opportunities to enroll in Career and Technology classes. Our district's goal has been, and will continue to be, to prepare our graduates for employment or ongoing education following graduation.

Teachers: The reputation of our district and staff morale are critical elements in attracting and retaining the best teachers. Competitive salaries are obviously important, but a feeling of appreciation is paramount. I have witnessed our district making big strides forward in this area.

Testing: Schools must be accountable for student learning, but that should not be measured by one state test. Too many days given to required testing diminishes the time students have for actual learning in their classrooms. Showing students' progress (growth) over a long period of time is a better way to measure learning that is taking place.

Other Issues: Ongoing population growth coupled with restrictions in financing will continue to be major concerns. Our citizens should be more insistent that state legislators recognize our public schools as the basis for American democracy. They must be made to provide adequate funding to keep our public schools strong.

Tommy Stanley – Candidate for McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 5



Contact Information:
(469) 879-5851
tommystanley.com
tommy@tommystanley.com

Education: Bachelor Arts & Science- Communication, Cum Laude, Dallas Baptist University

Experience: 13 years of volunteering at the campus and district level. Served on several board appointed planning committees. President-elect of the Rotary Club of McKinney. Former McKinney Education Foundation VP of Education. 19 years in the professional world helping leaders be more effective.

Finances: Since passing the TRE recently, it is up to the staff and Board of MISD to make sure that we are being good stewards. Look at expenses and make sure they are in alignment with the goals of the district, parents, and teachers. We must make sure that we are adequately funding the programs that bring students success. Fine Arts, Athletics, AVID, Gifted & Talented, Career & Technology are important programs that we need to continue to fund as they are a few of the many successful programs at MISD. We need to increase our usage of technology to better equip our students for the 21st century.

Vouchers: Vouchers will be decided at the state level and not the district. As a proponent of public education, I think we need to insure that an adequate funding program is established first. I don't think it would be beneficial to MISD or any other public school district to have vouchers with the current funding arrangement. If the state legislators are able to come up with a plan to insure that public funds are used for public education and a way to include vouchers, then I would be happy to examine that program.

Students: MISD has a first class Career & Technical program. If a student does not intend to pursue a secondary education, then MISD offers many career fields in which they can receive training and even certification and be "employable" upon graduation. Some examples are Aviation, Aircraft Maintenance, Construction, Interior Design, Nursing, and Early Childhood Education, just to name a few. While a college education is important, not every student intends to pursue the college degree. This is currently funded the same way as regular education classes.

Growth: The district continues to grow and the demographics are always changing. We have to come up with new ideas on how to keep up with the growth without a lot of new funding. I am willing to think outside the box

and take on the changes. All of this has to be done at the same time of providing quality instruction to every student, every day. The needs of today's learners are very different than they have been in the past. We must continue to look at ways to integrate technology into the everyday classroom experience.

Curriculum: We need to work with the legislators in Austin to make sure that we have the right amount of "high-stakes" tests. I believe that we have had too many and we are moving in the right direction in getting that lowered even more. Too much time and money is spent on "testing" and we need to spend more time and money on education and "learning." It is a disservice to graduates if they go to college and don't know how to learn but only how to "test". It is even a greater disservice to those students who go straight into the work-world without being properly prepared to learn a skill.

Teachers: Teachers need to be empowered to manage their classrooms in an effective manner. We need to equip our teachers with the latest technology and insure they know how to maximize its effectiveness, and not create redundant processes. We need to make sure that the decisions made by the Board do not hinder a teacher's ability to be effective in educating the children. We need to reward outstanding teachers in a meaningful way and not with more work. We need to compensate fairly and provide opportunities for their own professional development.

Testing: I think there does indeed need to be a way to gauge the growth of our students. However, I'm not sure why we can't just go with something that is truly standardized - like the SAT or ACT. Isn't the goal of education for children to learn? All children learn at different rates in different ways. How do you know if teachers are teaching? If a child is learning. How do you know a child is learning? By

evaluating that child's individual growth from year to year. Why can't we mark success based on an individual's personal growth? MAP testing provides us with individual student growth rates.

Other Issues: As we continue to grow, we will have to continue to re-zone our students to maximize class space. The district has embraced zoning based on socio-economic

diversity at the secondary campuses. I believe that it is time to look at the entire process of zoning to make sure that we are truly providing the best opportunity for all students to be successful. The current system is not favored by the students, parents or even most teachers that I have talked to. Busing will always be present in MISD – but we need to minimize busing when it makes sense.

McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 6 At Large Candidates (2):

Stephanie O'Dell –Candidate for McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 6 At Large



Contact Information:
(469) 422-6011
stephanieodell.com
swodell@gmail.com

Education: Bachelors of
Business Administration in
Marketing, Texas A&M
University

Experience: Hyatt Hotels Assistant to the
VP, self-employed in sales, MOM

Finances: In 2011, MISD had to reduce the number of teachers to meet the budget restraints. Many were able to be hired back as they were needed. MISD also got the community support of voting in a Tax Ratification (TRE) in 2013. This allowed MISD to maximize the amount of property tax dollars that stay in McKinney. Our district has always been financially responsible and conservative. For the last 12 years, MISD has won the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas award (FIRST). This is an unsolicited award that commends the transparency of our budget and resources.

Vouchers: The intent of vouchers was to give families in poor performing districts a better opportunity. But the tax credit does not cover the entire cost of private school. And most families taking this tax credit are not low income parents in failing schools but middle class families in successful schools. Since McKinney does not have poor performing schools, vouchers are not necessary. Vouchers also take away public money and give it to private schools who are not subject to the same testing requirements.

Students: We offer a broad range of classes through our Career and Technology Education department. We want to give students as many career options as possible. MISD also offers dual credit classes through Collin College

so students can take college courses while still in high school. Students also have many leadership opportunities through our recently added ROTC program. As new businesses come to McKinney, the Partners in Education program teams businesses with classroom instruction. Raytheon and other businesses participate in our middle and high schools to give students science applications.

Growth: MISD is ready for growth and the homeless population has remained steady. Keeping each secondary school with a similar percentage of economically disadvantaged students balances the playing field. This means that one school is not better than the other and every student has an opportunity to succeed. We have programs to benefit our English language learners and our Newcomers program is one example. Students new to the district are excelling at a tremendous rate as they receive individual attention but also attend PE and fine arts with the rest of the population.

Curriculum: House Bill 5 moves away from the one size fits all approach. It is unrealistic to expect every student to attend college so they need a variety of paths to prepare them. House Bill 5 allows students to follow their passion. MISD strives to meet the needs of every student and that means providing

classes that prepare them for the next step in life.

Teachers: We offer pay that is comparable to surrounding districts. If we didn't, teachers would leave our district for a nearby position. But the best way to keep good teachers is to create good morale at each school. Our principals do a great job of establishing a 'family' atmosphere on their campuses.

Testing: The state's STAAR testing and end of course exams have added many more days of testing. Since these are standardized across the state, we must implement them. Some parent organizations have been successful in

reducing the number of tests required for high school students. The number of tests should not be excessive, but the quality of the tests is vital. Texas should look at successful tests that other states use and draw from their experiences.

Other Issues: Being the best city to live in will attract many new families to McKinney. This will bring more students and more tax dollars but also more pressure on our teachers and buildings. I believe that MISD is up for the challenge. Planning for the future is ongoing at MISD and using our resources wisely will always be a priority.

Curtis Rath – Candidate for McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 6 At Large



Contact Information:
(469) 693-2490
rathpack.wordpress.com
rathpack@gmail.com

Education: MBA (Marketing)
DePaul University Chicago, IL
BS Food Engineering
Technology Kansas State
University, Manhattan, KS BS
Bakery Science and Mgmt

Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
Associate of Science Dodge City Community
College Dodge City, KS

Experience: Texas Faith and Freedom
Coalition -Co-Founder McKinney Armed
Services Memorial Board - Board Member
Collin County City of Hope - Board Member
First Baptist Church McKinney - Ordained
Deacon 2008 McKinney City Council At Large
Candidate - received over 1,000 votes in 3
way race

Finances: * Stop Busing Students for Socioeconomic Balance. According to the financial data at the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the cost of transportation per student at MISD has jumped from \$271 in 2005-06 to \$350 in 2013-14. This is equivalent to \$2 million dollars per year. Greater savings would be saved with common sense geographic boundaries. *Revise Laptop Program costing nearly \$2 million per year: 1. Must include needs based qualification 2. Cost benefit analysis of less expensive laptops, tablets or eReaders. Single source supplier is unwise. 3. Establishment of Goals and Benchmarks

Vouchers: I fully support and encourage the evaluation and exploration of any innovative educational system, that will enhance the academic achievement of our children. My preference would have MISD enhance parental choice and participation in innovative, specialized programs, such as employment interning, mentoring, Business Partnerships, training in skilled trades, Magnet or Charter schools.

Students: As the proud father of a McKinney ISD student, who enlisted in the Navy, I can appreciate the fact that college, is not the only option for our graduates. Adopting the Early College High Schools (ECHS) program, will

allow "students to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate degree", cutting parent expenses by half. Our spending for Career and Technical Programs has increased from \$113/student in 2002 to \$162/student in 2013, which is in the bottom half of Collin County districts. We need to explore business/corporation funding partnerships and intern programs.

Growth: The good news is skyrocketing enrollment has slowed. MISD has been gaining less than 500 students/year since 2011, and actually lost students in 2013. The percent of African American students from 2010 to 2014 has remained steady, at about 12.5%, while Hispanic student percent rose slightly from 23% to 27%. We need to replace MISD dependence on the failed Socio-Economic student redistribution, and replace it with other options, such as employment interning, mentoring, Business Partnerships, training in skilled trades, Magnet or Charter schools.

Curriculum: In 2014, the State Board of Education changed the graduation requirements to allow non-College bounds students more flexibility, and I support changes that allow these students to focus on trade skills. We should offer these students with mentoring and work intern opportunities

with local businesses. Just last week, the Texas Senate passed a bill that would allow some student to by-pass some testing and still be allowed to "walk across the stage" for graduation. These students would be required to get a waiver from a school committee, so this would not be abused.

Teachers: During a time of increasing enrollment, the leadership of MISD responded, by cutting about 140 teaching positions between 2011 and 2013, while adding 98 administrative and support positions. At the same time, teachers received a 2.2% raise, while support staff got 4.1% and administrators 7.2%. During the 2013 Tax Ratification Election, the district threatened to fire, as many as 290 teachers, if the proposal did not pass. This is not acceptable. Teachers must be properly compensated and fully equipped to do their job properly.

Testing: The state of Texas is now spending nearly \$100 million per year for testing. In

2000, we spent just \$10 million. Testing is out of control. A single end of the year exam should be enough, to track student and district progress. A senior administrator at MISD has suggested having teachers make the decision on student advancement. I believe this idea has merit and should be explored.

Other Issues: Since 1995, McKinney ISD has utilized forced busing and gerrymander attendance zones, to balance the number of Economically Disadvantaged (ECD), claiming this policy of "Student Redistribution" leads to academic success for students from McKinney's impoverished neighborhoods. It does not. An analysis of test scores show that MISD ECD students do not perform better than geographically zoned districts. In many cases, McKinney ECD students actually perform worse than non-busing districts. MISD must respect the rights of parents, and create geographic zones with parental choice.

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.