



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

**June 13, 2015, Runoff Election
McKinney City Council**

Early voting: June 1 – June 9

Election Day: June 13 – 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 in a Runoff Election, as shown in the table of contents. It is available online at www.LWVCollin.org. Candidate responses for all runoff 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 appeared on the ballot for the May 9, 2015, election. This *Voters Guide* reprints the responses from candidates who will appear on the ballot for the June 13, 2015, Runoff Election.

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	2-4
McKinney City Council District 4	4-6

When & Where to Vote

Early Voting

June 1-3: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
June 4: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
June 5-6: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
June 8-9: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Election Day

June 13: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

During early voting and on Election Day, you can vote 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.

QUESTIONS

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 (2):

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

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.

McKinney City Council, District 4 Candidates (2)

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.

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.

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, McKinney City Council, and Wylie City Council Runoff Elections are available on the League's website at www.lwvcollin.org and at www.VOTE411.org

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.