



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

**May 9, 2015, Local Election
Plano 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 Plano 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, McKinney 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 Plano 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.



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When & Where to Vote

Early Voting

April 27-29: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 30: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

May 1-2: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 4-5: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Election Day

May 9 – 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

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

Plano City Council

4-year term, elected citywide. Candidates for Places 1-4 must live in their respective districts. The City Council does strategic planning, approves annual budget, sets policy, enacts ordinances establishing municipal law, regulates zoning and development and appoints board and commission members.

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?

Plano City Council, Place 1 Candidates (1):

Angela Miner – Candidate for Plano City Council, Place 1



Contact Information:
(469) 363-2637
angelaminer.org
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Education: No Education information received.

Experience: Past President of Plano ISD Council of PTAs, HOA Board President, Plano ISD Education Foundation board member, Plano Symphony Orchestra Education Committee member, the Womens' Auxiliary of Children's Medical Center Plano, Women Making A Difference In Plano, and the North Texas Pioneers Rotary Club.

Priorities: Fiscal Responsibility: I will work with staff and councilmembers to maintain our low rate. Public Safety: I support a strong public safety system. Maintain City Infrastructure: This current fiscal year the city is projected to fund \$32 million in Capital Reserve projects for streets, parks and

municipal facilities. Build the Business Base: We must continue our pro-business environment. Preserve Neighborhood Integrity: I have firsthand experience in understanding what our neighborhoods face. I know the importance of maintaining the integrity of our neighborhoods.

Plano City Council, Place 3 Candidates (1):

Rick Grady – Candidate for Plano City Council, Place 3



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(214) 728-2274
GradyForPlano.Com
RickGrady@GradyForPlano.Com

Education: Executive studies at Babson College - UNC - SMU & Penn State, Formal studies at University of Wisconsin

Experience: Chairman - Plano Planning & Zoning Commission, Chairman - Plano Community Relations Commission, Chairman - Friends of Consumer Freedom, Regional Liaison - Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Managing Director - CTG Corporation, VP - ACS, Inc., VP - EDS Corporation, Noncommissioned Officer - U.S. Army

Priorities: Water - Work closely with the North Texas Municipal Water District for broader solutions, Infrastructure - Rejuvenate streets and neighborhoods and developments like Collin Creek Mall, Security - Maintain the ISO One rating and police and fire force strength, Growth - Manage new development

through my extensive smart growth strategies, Transportation - Significant focus on U.S. 75 and other major corridors while encouraging new rail services, Economic Development - Help attract high-quality employers of all sizes and enlarge skillsets of our workforce using my business-building experience.

Plano City Council, Place 5 Candidates (3):

Mike Mansfield – Candidate for Plano City Council, Place 5



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Education: Highland Park High School, 1962 North Texas State University, BBA, 1968 Numerous computer and tele-communications classes

Numerous real estate classes and accreditations

Experience: Plano P&Z, Sign Board of Appeals, Board of Adjustments, Dallas Citizens Police Review Board, Landmark Com., Treas/Pres, Roehampton Court HOA, Collin County Grand Jury, County Salary Grievance Comm, Dallas Citizens Police Academy, Collin County Sheriffs Citizens Academy, Board, Green Extreme Homes

Finances: Personally I believe that State caps do not make sense for Texans because the needs of each City, County and School District and the will of the residents in each of these areas should determine the level of taxation needed and supported by the residents. The loss in city services is greater than the small tax benefit a homeowner might receive.

Growth: We have very little commercial and residential land remaining for development. Our challenge is to insure we are attracting the very best developments to our city and that these new developments compliment what we already have on the ground. We have ample open space and need to continue connecting

that space together for the enjoyment and pleasure of our citizens. Affordable housing is a challenge but we do have non profits that are working with the city to insure we are making our best efforts. The comprehensive plan will be the basis of my action plan.

Homelessness: Plano is working with both governmental and civic organizations both locally and regionally such as City House and the Samaritan Inn in McKinney. All organizations in the city from government, to law enforcement to civic and religious organizations need to continue to work together to address this problem. The solution to homelessness is broad and may never be

completely resolved. Therefore Plano, in conjunction with other governmental bodies will continue to need to evaluate and create programs to ameliorate this problem.

Infrastructure: Transportation and water are not only local issues but regional and as such I will make every effort to be involved at all decision making levels. We need to continue our local conservation initiatives and insure that all new developments meet the highest standards of conservation. Plano has a good plan in place for updating our aging infrastructure which I support.

Needs of Seniors: Plano has some exemplary health and recreational facilities for Senior citizens. The changing demographics of our citizens will dictate the needs that Plano, as a city, must address to continue to improve residential, medical, transportation and other

attributes of the city for seniors and all citizens. I will continue work on these issues.

Payday Loans: I believe that statewide work is needed to address and limit the expansion of this commercial activity. As I see it this is a banking and consumer protection issue that the state needs to regulate. In addition, the federal consumer protection department has taken some recent action to address the issue.

Other Issues: I see the following as the most important issues over the next four years: transportation, economic development, water, redevelopment, maintenance of infrastructure and employee turnover. My view is that they are all serious issues that will require dedicated council people to work with local and regional partners to address these issues and provide effective solutions. That's what I plan on doing over the next four years.

Ron Kelley – Candidate for Plano City Council, Place 5



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ronkelley.org
ron@ronkelley.org

Education: Appalachian State University Bachelor of Science, Business Management Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, Master of Arts, Theological Studies

Experience: I was an executive-level businessman for 20 years with vibrant, growing companies. I was able to develop and use skills in the areas of strategic planning, managing capital and operating budgets, contract negotiation, business start-up experience, and personnel management.

Finances: The current 10% cap hurts many hard working families and older couples who have invested many years in our city as this will only increase their annual property tax expense. I am in favor of a more reasonable 3% to 5% cap as this will still provide property tax revenue adjustments if needed. But with that said, I am not in favor of any increased taxes or fees to be placed on our citizens. Government has to do more what businesses and households do every day in terms of being better stewards with the resources they have.

Growth: I salute the work that has occurred on the commercial side. On the other hand, I strongly oppose the current residential plan where we are making multi-tenant rentals (apartments) the method of having more people live in our city. Citizen input from the Plano Tomorrow survey clearly stated that our available land should be used to develop general office and other employment opportunities; meanwhile, dense midrise apartments were the least desirable to add to our city. Our City Planners and the developers did not listen to this input.

Homelessness: So many in our city are living the American Dream, but unfortunately in our midst are many who are suffering. In my current work, I meet with people all the time who are hurting. I salute the work of City House and Hope's Door here in our city. The sad fact is many of our homeless are in their current situation due to domestic violence or abuse, which is heartbreaking. One of my missions on city council is to mobilize our faith-based organizations to meet the needs of our community in this area.

Infrastructure: The city of Plano cannot solve water and transportation on our own, as we must work with the North Texas Municipal Water District and with our State Government officials. I have a great relationship with our State Representatives. I have been endorsed by State Reps. Jeff Leach, Matt Shaheen, Scott Turner, Jodie Laubenberg, and Collin County Judge Keith Self. Our citizens did an incredible job saving on water consumption by 40% last summer, and I expect they will do the same in the coming months. Again, this is why I am for strategic growth .

Needs of Seniors: The city of Plano is a great place for Seniors to live with our multiple Recreation Centers that offer many outstanding activities for our Seniors. I am so pleased that the Plano Senior Center on 16th St is in line for renovation to better serve our Senior Community. My big concern for our seniors though is in the area of housing as they transition from their larger homes to something that is smaller, less costly, and less required maintenance. Building communities in Plano that cater to our seniors in this season of life would be a plus for our city.

Payday Loans: The nonprofit I lead serves people with their personal finances in terms of developing spending plans, eliminating harmful debt and saving plans. I have experienced countless people who have fallen into the trap

of payday type loans and I have seen just how destructive they can be. The fact is though, these businesses are not illegal and they have a right to do business in our city.

Other Issues: The development and renewal of parts of our city is the biggest issue and challenge we face. I would like to address another issue and that has to do with the process of how the Equal Rights Ordinance (ERO) was passed by our City Council because it reflects a dangerous precedent. I am concerned that a significant issue like the ERO was passed without it being placed on the ballot to allow the good citizens of Plano to decide. 'We the People' have a right to have our vote and our voice to be heard. So what is the next major issue that comes up where the people will be bypassed?

Matt Lagos – Candidate for Plano City Council, Place 5



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Education: Associate in Business from Collin College, May 2009 Bachelor's of Science degrees in Finance and Accounting from UT-Dallas, December 2010

Experience: Leadership Plano (Class 28), Plano Sunrise Rotary, Live Green in Plano Advisory Board, Junior League Community Advisory Board, City of Plano Self-Sufficiency Cmte and Youth Advisory Commission, MCOR Leadership Reception Cmte, LULAC Council 4537 member, Volunteer-in-Plano (VIP),

Finances: I do not support revenue caps being enacted by the Texas Legislature. Cities should continue to control how much property tax they collect through the ad valorem tax rate (Plano is currently at 48.86 cents per \$100 valuation). In terms of city finances, it may or may not have an effect based on budget assumptions in the City of Plano Three-Year Financial Forecast (<http://plano.gov/221/Budget>). On page 21, it projects existing property values will increase 5.0%, 4.0% and 4.0% over next three years which fall within the caps proposed by state legislation.

Growth: The relocation of Toyota North America and others to Plano brings new jobs but also creates new challenges. It has created a shortage of housing, driving up housing prices and making it unaffordable for many to live in Plano. I support allowing renters to use a portion of paid-up rents over five years toward down payment on a new home. We need to push for redevelopment at under performing shopping centers like Collin Creek Mall and encourage mixed-use development. We need to ensure open space purchased by

the City at Park Blvd and Alma Dr becomes a future park.

Homelessness: In collaboration with our Police and Fire depts, we must ensure collaboration between them and our local churches to address this issue. We also have great local partners like City House, the Assistance Center of Collin County, and Minnie's Food Pantry to address hunger and other issues that homeless families face. As someone who has participated in the Homeless Point-in-Time Count, I have seen the face of homelessness in Plano upclose.

Infrastructure: We need to over-fund our Capital Reserve Fund in the City Budget and ensure the most critical infrastructure projects are brought for voter approval in the next 2017 bond election. It is projected that Collin County's population will double in size over the next 20-25 years. I would seek collaboration with state and local transportation partners to address traffic congestion. For example, the City of Plano partnered with TXDOT to create the single-urban-point-interchange at US 75 and Parker Rd so traffic moves more smoothly through that intersection.

Needs of Seniors: As the senior population increases in Plano, I support mass transit options like paratransit, express buses and other private sector solutions to ensure seniors can move around Plano with ease. This helps seniors, reduces traffic congestion on our major thoroughfares and reduces wear and tear on our road infrastructure. In terms of affordable housing, we should explore private-public partnerships with existing property owners and educate seniors on existing HUD programs that provide loans and grants for low-income seniors.

Payday Loans: Yes - there has been an explosion of title and payday lenders through much of the central and eastern sections of Plano. As a financial advisor, I am well aware of the long-term consequences these type of loans can have and the devastating financial

damage they cause. This issue is best addressed by the Texas Legislature, but I would advocate for payday and auto title reform like capping APR rates.

Other Issues: We will need to adapt our high-quality city services to address the needs of our two fastest demographics: seniors and millennials (born after 1980). I would seek input via town hall meetings, social media and visiting various community groups to understand both groups' needs. As stated before, we must reinvest into our aging infrastructure and promote responsible economic REdevelopment. Finally, we must embrace our City's changing diversity through the Multicultural Outreach Roundtable (MCOR) and support cultural events that celebrate that diversity.

Plano City Council, Place 7 Candidates (2):

Jim McGee – Candidate for Plano City Council, Place 7



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Education: one year of college

Experience: Over 22 years of active involvement in the City including Planning and Zoning and City Council. I have also served and chaired numerous County and Regional boards. I have been a business owner and worked for large corporations.

Finances: No, I do not support revenue limits. The schools are funded from property tax funds and the City to a lesser extent. The City revenue is mostly sales tax receipts. The negative effects would be huge for Plano.

Growth: The challenges of continuing growth and our maturing city present many challenges. Plano has done a good job of creating open space as it grew. We will look for other opportunities as we reach build out. The issue of commercial and residential development is really more a question of commercial and redevelopment. There will be some four corner retail that needs to be rezoned and there will be other commercial corridors that may change. Residential redevelopment will bring challenges and issues as well. All of these will include affordable housing issues. All will require informed study and inp

Homelessness: The city has confronted this for years through organizations like City House and others. It is a growing problem as the recently completed survey proved. Housing needs can be addressed by affordable or subsidized housing as one important aspect. Some of the other issues are lack of transportation, inadequate income, healthcare and childcare cost. The city needs to look at ways to address the causes and provide what support they can through whatever system.

Infrastructure: These are huge and vital issues but unfortunately most of the solutions require support of State and Federal funding. The biggest detriments to providing water sources are regulatory and the timeline for approval is way too long and is often blocked for years by lawsuits. This needs to be addressed. Roads are and will be a growing issue. We need to consider all options. This may include toll roads, though they are being

over used, increased fuel tax or other revenue streams. I also think the State should release more from the "rainy day fund" to help jump start the process.

Needs of Seniors: You mentioned the two obvious measures. Transportation and housing are always issues. We have a good supply of assisted and self sufficient facilities but not enough for the lower income citizens. The Senior Center is an incredible resource but we need to do more to assist our aging demographics. I think an increased local transportation system of some sort is also needed. We need to study all the available resources and create a fully integrated system.

Payday Loans: I am not aware that is it a big problem. I see the stores but not aware that there is a huge proliferation of them. They do provide a needed service to a portion of our citizenry. They simply prefer or are

accustomed to this form of banking. That being said, I feel that there needs to be controls on their charges and actions, just as there are in the banking system. The extremely high interest charges and misuse of title loans need to be addressed. These, also, are State and Federal issues more than City.

Other Issues: The issues of redevelopment, transportation and water infrastructure will be front and center for the next several years. The days of looking at the zoning map to make decisions is quickly coming to a close. There will be requests to approve new uses for older tracts of land or development. My view is that we must engage the development community, the economic development board and, of course, the citizens to guide our decisions. We are all in this together and we all want to continue being the City of Excellence we have always been.

Tom Harrison – Candidate for Plano City Council, Place 7

No photo provided

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not completed at Wichita State Univ

Education: BS degree
Rochester Institute of Tech MBA

Experience: 20 years Xerox Corp attaining Director, Sales and Marketing 20 years Telecom Industry as Exec officer of two companies

Finances: I support setting limits on property tax. The state goes through both short-term and long-term budgeting to determine what revenues are required to fund the projected budgets for up to the next five years. If tax revenues exceed projected expenses, why should the State keep what is overpaid in taxes when any unexpected costs are covered in the Rainy Day Fund? Plano has a long-range budgeting process to evaluate tax revenues needed to cover the future expenses. It's no different than a household budget or long-range business budget. You budget for savings for unexpected expenses in your hom

Growth: Looking towards the future, Plano growth is currently being directed in the wrong direction. There will be unexpected land needs for economic development that will be diverted to surrounding cities due to Plano's limited desirability if we irresponsibly use most of the open space now available. There are many alternatives to maintain Plano's desirability as a vibrant city, but increasing population by 25% to 30% with hi-density housing has unintended consequences on school, police and fire services, and raises water and traffic concerns. Much of our current commercially zoned open space is be

Homelessness: Plano does well in feeding and housing those in need who want to better their lives. Jesus even said "the poor will always be with us," although we should do as much as possible to help them. I attend Custer Road United Methodist Church where we and other religious and non-profit organizations respond to homeless issues with "Family Promise," a program housing and feeding people working to obtain jobs and housing for themselves. Another program, called "Bed Start," provides beds and furniture to people who moved out of shelters but cannot furnish their new home. This is done at completely no

Infrastructure: Infrastructure is more than just water and traffic. It involves many issues exacerbated by the high-density direction Plano is following; Overcrowded schools, over taxed services (police and fire), increased water usage and traffic congestion lead to more street repairs and lower property value from these issues. Before Plano City Council continues their push for rampant growth and ignoring residents, the council must listen to Planoites' input and concerns and address the issues together. Plano is known for its highly educated population, and they should be consulted with on every issue since

Needs of Seniors: For Plano seniors and their families seeking local accommodations, encourage more locations like Old Shepard's Place, which has been converted into senior-living residences of great value at reasonable pricing. Also, subsidized housing similar to Section 8 housing should be investigated as an option for seniors with limited income.

Payday Loans: Are in my opinion loan sharks that need to be heavily regulated by the city

and county. With more locations than Starbucks and McDonald's, PayDay Loan companies prey on the elderly and military service members by charging 300% - 1,900% annual rates and hidden fees. This usually leads to an ongoing cycle of debt for a borrower already financially struggling.

Other Issues: No response received.

Plano ISD Board of Trustees

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

QUESTION – UNCONTESTED RACES

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

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

QUESTIONS – CONTESTED RACES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plano ISD Trustee, Place 4 Candidates (3):

Michael Friedman – Candidate for Plano ISD Trustee, Place 4



Contact Information:

(214) 668-5816
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Education: MA Degree from Harvard University and BS Degree from UNT

Experience: I have been a sitting school board trustee for almost 4 years. I was hand selected by the chancellor of UNT to sit on the selection committee for the new president of the university, which gave me experience in selecting the last 2 superintendents for PISD. I've sat on many boards over the years.

Finances: Our PISD trustees watch every penny, and we take that responsibility very seriously. As a trustee, I've seen Mr. Matkin &

Mr. Fortenberry be conservative and transparent with all expenditures. PISD is focused on all financial matters, including the

best ways to update facilities, technology, employee benefits, and financing our schools. I am so proud that PISD has earned for many years Texas's "Superior Achievement" financial ratings and the U.S.'s "Achievement for Excellence" in Financial Reporting Certificates. PISD delivers services in the most cost-effective manner to our taxpayers.

Vouchers: I'm opposed because I believe we have one of the best education systems in the world. Every child deserves a state of the art education. Our public schools need every tax dollar possible to provide this outstanding education. I believe there's a place in our education world for both public and charter schools. I strongly support our public education system. That said, public education is not for everyone. I have dedicated my adult life to public education. I am, as our PISD Board of Trustees, are opposed to taking funds away from public education in the form of vouchers and tax credits.

Students: A priority of mine is increasing our 96% graduation rate. PISD students have a wonderful, positive record of graduating and moving on to college, military, or career paths. We have many classes available to keep our kids interested/focused on graduation: tech, culinary, auto, etc. Though these programs must be funded by strong support from our Austin officials, we can still do more. We must develop programs with hands-on curriculum for kids who want to obtain a trade/certificate but still graduate. PISD strives for a 100% graduation rate with every student being college or career ready.

Growth: PISD strives hard to close the achievement gap with rapid growth & changing demographics of 28% economically disadvantaged. The DBIC reviews principal written campus plans approved by SBIC's each year. PISD outlines how to reach these diverse groups which includes After School & Saturday Tutoring, Make-ups, Transportation and more. I encourage each school to continue to develop unique & meaningful strategies to reach out to each specific child. A great program that I support is AVID, which engages/encourages kids to strive for success. The PISD staff also engages kids in our Academies.

Curriculum: The recent House Bill #5 created sweeping reform in curriculum, assessment and accountability. The new bill has increased

the amount of time required by our counselors to guide each student to graduation. PISD now has a wide spectrum of courses that help students gain experience to prepare them for post-graduation. The new curriculum and courses are based on student's goals and interests in future career goals. For over twenty years our student performance was based on the 4 x 4 plan. Today, our students choose courses of interest earlier in their education path.

Teachers: I am so proud to say that our Plano ISD does an outstanding job developing, recruiting, training and retaining our wonderful teachers. Because Plano is such a top rated school district, we attract the brightest and best teachers from across the metroplex. I am proud to say we pay our teachers well. Most importantly, we offer a very supportive community, we try to limit the amount of paperwork, whenever possible we offer designated classrooms, and we support and honor our teachers every single chance we get as a district. Without question our teachers are loved and are our best assets.

Testing: HB5 created changes/reform in the area of education & testing. EOC testing was reduced down to 5 tests. PISD measures a child's progress at the first & end of the year by MAP testing which tests their progress. The STARR test is used as a readiness prediction for the next grade/course level. The STARR exam is a measure to see if the learner is on track for college or career. PISD knows the current system of testing is not working effectively. Education Chairman, Senator Larry Taylor, has filed SB1200, which calls for revamping public school accountability & student assessment.

Other Issues: Other issues I deem of importance: PISD having our students 21st century ready with state of the art technology & instruction. Technology is in everyone's lives and we must send our graduates out into the colleges/work force with world class knowledge of technology. I believe our PISD Trustees should support/partner with our new superintendent as he rolls out his vision for the future of our district. This is an important time for the future of PISD. It's critical that we continue to have an experienced on the job training Board of Trustees to help lead us to continued world class success.

Sharon Hirsch – Candidate for Plano ISD Trustee, Place 4



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Education: Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences, University of North Texas, summa cum laude; Associates Degree in General Studies, Collin College, summa cum laude

Experience: Three decades as a parent volunteer and twice awarded Texas PTA Life Membership; twelve years as Plano ISD Campus Officer Manager; three-year member of School Health Advisory Council; college degree program concentration in public sector work; Outstanding Student in BAAS program at UNT for 2013-14.

Finances: The district made numerous cuts in response to the huge reduction in state funding that occurred in 2011, which included over 200 teaching positions, and is spending less than they did in 2008-09. Several longstanding programs were eliminated. The district reduced its support staff and professional development opportunities. Further cuts in personnel and programs would significantly impact the instructional quality that PISD has historically maintained. We must pursue legislative action to ensure the level of school funding necessary to provide excellent programs and services is appropriated.

Vouchers: I agree with Plano ISD's position opposing vouchers. Vouchers would funnel much-needed resources away from public schools and into systems that are not held to the same accountability standards as public schools. Voucher systems do not address the underlying problems in underperforming schools, i.e. poverty, inadequate housing, food insecurity, lack of supervision, and lack of healthcare. Choice already exists within the current public school system – the choice to invest in excellent neighborhood schools. I oppose all legislation that diverts money from public schools.

Students: PISD schools offer many career education programs that provide opportunities for students to explore different career options. In the 2013-14 school year, the district's Career and Technology Education students earned over 1,500 certifications and licenses. Partnerships with area businesses and civic organizations to provide internships, mentoring, and career advice would help students who are not college-bound make good decisions about their career paths. Our goal should be to provide students with the educational experiences they need to be successful in their chosen post-secondary path.

Growth: It is important that our teachers receive professional development to learn how to address the needs of an increasingly diverse student population. We also need to develop

appropriate communication tools in order to encourage the participation of our families. We have the capacity to offer more learning opportunities for adults and increase their engagement in the learning community. Investing in our families significantly increases the success of our students. It is our responsibility as a school district to seek input and respond appropriately to the needs and desires of our community.

Curriculum: Plano ISD currently offers a broad range of courses to students that meet the requirements of the new graduation endorsements. In addition, three academies serve our high school students giving them additional opportunities to prepare for a successful future. PISD remains committed to providing students with the educational experiences necessary to ensure success beyond graduation. We should continually be looking to the future to develop additional possibilities to enhance the learning experience of our students.

Teachers: A supportive work environment emphasizing strategies that encourage successful teaching is a primary way to attract and retain good teachers. We should promote opportunities for leadership roles and professional development. We must offer a competitive salary structure and benefit package that rewards innovation, collaboration, and personal growth. Seeking teacher input in all decisions affecting district operations is essential. We should work in partnership with institutions of higher education to ensure that new teachers are properly prepared and regularly mentored in their new assignments.

Testing: The outcry over standardized testing has become increasingly louder from students, parents, teachers, and school administrators. Test preparation and administration of the tests reduce quality classroom time and increase stress. Trained professional teachers regularly assess their students to determine whether or not they understand the material

and are progressing at a rate that is appropriate to the individual. I don't believe the standardized testing provides schools and parents with enough additional, meaningful data to warrant their overuse as a single indicator of campus performance.

Other Issues: Plano ISD's mission is to provide an excellent education for all students. The most important issue facing our district will be to continue seeking new opportunities

to enrich the learning experience for our increasingly diverse student population. In addition, we must give our teachers and staff the time and resources to engage in productive professional learning that enables them to address their students' needs. Encouraging the active participation of families and community partners is another key component to continued success.

Yoram Solomon – Candidate for Plano ISD Trustee, Place 4



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Education: Ph.D. Organization & Management (research in Creativity), Capella University; MBA, University of Colorado; LLB (Law), Tel-Aviv University; E-Tech, Ort Singalowsky; Marketing Management

Program, Stanford University Developing the Strategic Leader, Center for Creative Leadership; Leadership Plano;

Experience: Sr. Director, Technology Strategy, TI; VP & GM, PCTEL; CEO & Founder, Solram Electronics; Adjunct Professor, UTD Business School; Board member, Alliance for Higher Education, NTX Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization, Texas Israel Chamber of Commerce, Plano Youth Leadership, and more

Finances: Adopt a pragmatic approach and measure ROI in education. Start with what we want to achieve, use evidence based approach to determine the most cost-effective way, and then determine how much we really need. When I conducted my PhD research I found that a minimum level of resources is needed for a person to be effective and creative, but I also learned that at some point the relationship becomes negative: you can have too many resources that will cause you to try less to be creative. If after a pragmatic approach we find that funding is insufficient—that's when we need to lobby for more funding

Vouchers: It is my goal to have strong, competitive public schools, but I don't think that they should be a monopoly. Where public education is strong and effective, there will be little opportunity to open alternative schools, unless they offer something unique that public schools can't (e.g., auto-repair or aviation). Wherever public schools are ineffective there is no reason to block the alternative. I believe in giving more choices in education. At the same time--diverting public funding to alternative schools (vouchers or otherwise) should be subject to the same criteria as public schools

Students: The district should spend more time assessing students strengths, passions, preferences, and offer choice programs regardless of whether they need to be followed by a college degree. Funding should be the same as it will be offering the same number of

hours, but only focused on strengthening their natural strengths. It's just a matter of what do we teach them. Teach less "4 by 4" and more of what would put a student on path for a 47-year career. Integrating online and distance education of highly specialized topics that may not justify having an in-district educator should be considered

Growth: Equity is an issue, but it cannot mean giving the same to all schools, but rather allocating resources according to the different needs. Students from different economic levels have different needs. Resources should be allocated according to need and not an arbitrary "equal" rate. Another issue is ESL students. By accommodating teaching in their native language rather than driving them hard to learn English we put a ceiling to their ability to succeed in life. I don't know any executive team or board of directors that conduct their meetings in the US in any language other than English

Curriculum: It's too early to determine what the effect of recent curriculum requirements has been on high school graduation, nor should graduation be the only factor in curriculum. The district should get autonomy to develop curriculum that focuses on success in life regardless of whether college/job/business is involved. It needs to be more flexible, and adopt the latest technology available (such as distant learning) to provide highly differentiated/specialized paths for graduation

and career. Beyond curriculum we should focus on offering the different learning and testing styles for different students

Teachers: Teachers should be compensated well to deliver best education. There is little difference between PISD pay and that in other NTX districts that will attract teachers to one district. Research done on motivation (including my PhD) showed that creativity (e.g., teaching) is positively affected by intrinsic motivation through being part in the success of a school, realizing how what you do affects students' lives, etc. Involving teachers in making strategic school decisions, developing curriculum, and giving them autonomy can affect their effectiveness and creativity much more than better pay

Testing: Standardized testing should be limited to the basic knowledge and skills students need to become self-sufficient, contributing members of society (basic finance should be included). Schools should be

required to administer DIFFERENTIATED/SPECIALIZED tests that will provide students with knowledge and skills that will be required to be strong in areas they intend to pursue. When 10 of 15 EOC tests were removed by HB5--they should have been replaced with differentiated, district independent tests

Other Issues: CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS: identify demographic trends and plan for them to assure that ALL students will be successful in life, accepting that all of them are different and learn/test in different ways. GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS: stop accepting PISD's strong position in the US and start focusing on delivering globally competitive education. CAREER PLANNING: help students identify their passions, strengths, and weaknesses and help them plan and learn for their future, whether it includes college, job, or starting a business, rather than focus on college.

Plano ISD Trustee, Place 5 Candidates (1):

David Stolle – Candidate for Plano ISD Trustee, Place 5

No photo provided	Contact Information: (214) 642-4518 dstolle@jw.com	University of Texas at Tyler JD St. Mary's University School of Law
	Education: BA English Texas A&M University MA English	Experience: Plano ISD Board of Trustees - 4 years

Priorities: I would like to see our district expand on the academy programs we currently have in place and offer more choice within our district. Specifically, I would like to see the development of a business program in partnership with a local college or university, similar to what we have done with the Plano

Health Sciences Academy. I would also like to see choice programs expanded down into our middle and elementary schools. With the success of our three new academy programs, we know our students have the appetite for more. We need to get new programs in place.

Plano ISD Trustee, Place 7 Candidates (2):

Missy Bender – Candidate for Plano ISD Trustee, Place 7



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Education: BBA, Marketing
from Southern Methodist
University (cum laude),
Graduate of Plano East Senior
High's charter class

Experience: 9 years as Plano ISD Trustee -
Place 7, Board of Directors with Plano Metro
Rotary, PTA, Plano ISD Education
Foundation, Junior League of Collin County,
Chairman's Council for Texas Health
Resource. Graduate of Leadership Plano,
Leadership Texas, Leadership TASB

Finances: Plano ISD is participating in a lawsuit against the State of Texas for its lack of adequate funding. Our funding was reduced by \$53 million in 2011 with only 20% of that restored in 2013. The Board made significant cuts to the the operating budget, but more cuts were needed. We presented the Plano ISD community with the choice of either making significant cuts to programming or raising local taxes to make up the difference. The community chose to locally fund the difference. We annually scrub our budget line by line and redeploy funds into priority programs.

Vouchers: No, taxpayer-funded private school vouchers should not be allowed. 1. The amount of a voucher would not be enough to cover tuition at most private schools, so only more affluent families would be able to afford that balance. 2. School choice already exists in Texas with transfers, magnets, and charter schools. 3. Private schools wind up with the power of choice because they get to decide who they want to admit. Private schools do not exist in every part of Texas. 4. Economically disadvantaged students need access to transportation and meals, yet private schools do not provide either.

Students: Plano ISD provides students with an education that allows them to choose a post-secondary, workforce, or military path. Eighty-eight (88) different career and technology courses are currently available, and many include opportunities to earn a workforce certification. Last year, students earned a total of 1,540 certifications. As the cost of college continues to increase, the district needs to and is providing new options that prepares students to work immediately, if desired. In fact, the District is currently collaborating with College to provide a new welding program.

Growth: Plano ISD's enrollment is relatively stable around 55,000, so our issues are not related to overall growth. Instead, they are more related to matching school capacities with student density while maintaining the neighborhood schools concept. We use Programs and Schools of choice ("academies") to engage students in new ways and manage these capacities voluntarily. We provide 2 weeks of pre-kindergarten, parent education, connections with families with a mobile learning lab, Saturday school, and free use of district surplus computers at home.

Curriculum: Implementation of HB5 allows students to take more core classes that are in line with their interests. Specifically, there are more choices in math and science in years 3 and 4. Counselors must work closely with students and parents to help them select a pathway (similar to a major) that matches their course work to their interests. We no longer have an exclusive one-size-fits-all approach to the high school series of courses leading to graduation. Some of the teachers may need to be assigned to different courses to support the course selections made by students.

Teachers: Attract good teachers with a competitive salary, the opportunity to be a continuous learner, and the opportunity to be creative in the classroom. We differentiate our district by also providing high quality childcare for children younger than 5 as well as the opportunity for older children to attend school in Plano ISD. Retain good teachers with a supportive principal, robust professional development, a culture of continuous improvement, the opportunity to have a career, and an attractive compensation model.

Testing: A testing model that uses its results to improve instruction would be more useful.

This means measuring what a student knows in the beginning of the year with a formative assessment and concluding the year with a summative assessment. This allows a teacher to create more of an individualized learning experience for each student.

Other Issues: Maintaining our role as a leading education innovator while successfully

navigating the natural evolution of our school district's student demographic composition is key. We can accomplish both of these goals by successfully scaling up the best practices that work on a large scale. Supporting this scale-up effort with district wide systems, processes, professional development and rewards can make this happen.

Paul P. Kaminsky – Candidate for Plano ISD Trustee, Place 7



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Experience: Substitute Teacher

Education: AAS Criminal
Justice BS Law Enforcement
Administration MBA

Finances: PISD has an obligation to prepare for reduced state funding. We all know funding reductions are inevitable. This being the case, careful prior planning is required so the education of students is not affected. These plans must be centered around protecting teachers from being rifted. Teachers are the key to our student's success. The time is now for a line by line budget scrub, identifying essential items and those items we can do without when money is short.

Vouchers: I absolutely believe vouchers should be allowed. Parent must have the ability to ensure their children are properly educated should a school fail. As a parent, I cannot imagine not having an option should a school fail. Having said this, vouchers should only be allocated when there is indisputable proof of a school failing. It is incumbent on a parent to prove such a failure has occurred. No school in PISD can be allowed to fail. Any failure should result in the removal of the superintendent and bar every sitting trustee from reelection.

Students: I do not believe the district is meeting the needs of the 30% of students who not going to college. This 30% is based on PISD's annual report stating 70% of our students are college ready. I think the actual percentage of those not attending college is closer to 40%. PISD is a college oriented school system. I am a strong believer in establishing a technical academy for meeting the needs of all of our students. This academy should teach a variety of skills which can best serve our community while providing job-ready graduates.

Growth: Population growth brings the question of how do we satisfy our obligation of a public education to everyone. The choice is either consolidating assets or building new schools. The increased number of homeless children will create a greater need for more special education programs and teachers. Changing demographics, the increase in lower income earners, will further increase the need for alternatives to college. I would address each of these issues with a proactive planning process aimed at identifying problems and finding solutions.

Curriculum: The impact of the college-oriented curriculum is a rising drop-out rate and graduating students with no skills. This must change. Public education is for the entire public not just those who can afford college.

Teachers: The best way to attract and retain good teachers is with good pay and good benefits. Also, teachers must be well supported by their administrative staffs and the school board. This means ensuring teachers have the tools to do their jobs and supporting their decisions even if it means disagreeing with a parent.

Testing: This is an odd question considering any changes to standardized testing must come from Austin. Politicians are making the testing rules. In fact, as you read these answers our politicians are discussing ways to ease the academic requirements for graduating. If it is possible to change testing, I would begin by stopping the modified STAAR test for our special education students. Many of these student are simply not capable of taking any test.

Other Issues: Over the next few years the population of Plano will grow as our city expands beyond its resources. This expansion will have a lasting impact on our public education system which is obligated to provide a public education for all students. PISD must

adapt to this challenge by planning today for the realities of tomorrow. Part of this changing reality must be providing students with alternative paths to educational success. Students need skills to make a living and for better serving the community as a whole.

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