



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

May 7, 2016, Local Election
Allen City Council & ISD

Early voting: April 25 – May 3

Election Day: May 7 – 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.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates who will appear on the ballot, whether or not the race is contested. Candidates' replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the Voters Guide deadline, then "No response received" is printed. Later responses may appear at www.VOTE411.org. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This guide is available online at www.LWVCollin.org, along with a Voter Information Guide with general information about qualifications for voting, what to take to the polls, vote by mail, and helpful websites.



To see all races for your address, visit www.VOTE411.org.

When & Where to Vote

For Collin County voting locations, hours, and a sample ballot, visit http://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information or call 972-547-1990 (McKinney).

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You may bring this *Voters Guide* into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this *Voters Guide*, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (*Texas Election Code, Section 61.011*)

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.

League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

The LWV never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

Allen City Council

3-year term, elected citywide. Must be at least 18 years old, a qualified voter, and a resident of the city. The City Council establishes city policy through ordinances and resolutions.

QUESTION – UNCONTESTED RACES

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

Development: What challenges will the continuing growth of your city present with respect to commercial and residential development? How would you address them?

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

Poverty: What, if anything, should the city do to meet low income residents' basic needs and address homelessness?

Seniors: What measures do you support to meet the needs of seniors in your city?

Finances: What, if any, changes are needed to the city's finances?

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?

Allen City Council, Place 4

Billy Hanchett – Allen City Council, Place 4



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Education: 4 years At Embry Riddle University 1 year Daytona beach community college 1.5 years pilot training

Experience: During my career, I have led or worked for a variety of organizations ranging in size from small businesses to a large international companies. I have worked with and advised numerous entrepreneurs, business owners, executives and families in IT

Development: We need to insure we make well good decisions effecting the remaining development in Allen. The 121 corridor and our central business district all need to be carefully planned. I think More of the plans need to be researched by council as well as those who bring them to the council

Infrastructure: Water : Availability of water, but availability comes at a cost. The most significant water issue impacting Collin County is the rapid increase in cost.. As our population grows, water providers will be forced to obtain water from sources that are increasingly farther away. We must support the applicable providers to insure an adequate supply and lobby the Legislature and Congress to insure the city has access to supplies. We must also support conservation. Transportation: Achieve a balance between traffic and keeping Allen residents happy.

Poverty: Collin County has programs in place to help give our residents a hand up, rather than a handout. Allen does not have any particular program for affordable housing currently . This should be something we need to address. Brining in new business to Allen will help create jobs and enable residents good pay for housing in Allen .

Seniors: Keeping seniors involved in the community is Ideal. Seniors have so much historical knowledge and have lived through good and tough times. Keeping them happy in Allen will keep our city great. I believe we need to work on transportation needed by seniors to get around . There are many events in the area and not always easily accessible.

Finances: I think the city needs to be more transparent on money it is spending and why. Even looking at the current Bond on the ballot I have a lot of question marks on \$\$ amounts .

I have spoken to other members of the council to find out what's included etc. we also need to closely watch economic signals and maintain a cautious and balanced budget for our city and residents.

Other Issues: High quality public schools enhances Allen's County's desirability as well

as help maintain the value of our homes. I hope to keep Allen's schools to be well know for great education and educators for years to come. The school system is what brought my family and many others to Allen

Robin Sedlacek – Allen City Council, Place 4



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Education: Associates Degree,
Accounting, Western IA Tech, 1983
Certified Public Accountant, State of
Texas, 1990-present

Experience: I am completing my 3rd term serving the citizens of Allen in the position of Allen City Council, Place 4. Prior to Council, I served our community in a variety of civic, school, church and other non-profits. I am engaged and dedicated to Allen.

Development: In-fill Zoning – Many of the new development projects seeking approval have existing, settled neighbors. Clear and timely communication between developers, neighbors and the City will drive a better product and better community relations. Hwy 121 Development– Hwy 121 is our last commercial frontier and it is crucial that we get it right. Allen EDC, City Staff and Council are aligned and we will be selective in projects considered.

Infrastructure: Both water and transportation, I believe, are regional issues. As a Member City with NTMWD, our concerns with "Take or Pay" have been communicated to them. We must find an equitable solution to eliminating "Take or Pay", one that rewards and does not penalize our community for water conservation. A solution to public transportation must to involve our Collin County neighbors. Allen residents will ultimately make the decision on whether to redirect ~\$15 million/year from our community & economic development efforts in order to fund public transportation.

Poverty: Allen participates in the CDBG program which offers financial assistance to qualifying individuals. Additionally, we provide funds to Allen Community Outreach to help residents with assistance needs. We have identified underserved neighborhoods and have or are making investments, such as neighborhood parks & street improvements which , promotes pride in home, as well as keep these areas desirable to families. Our new Live.Love.Allen program matches residents in need to various community

organizations to assist with properly maintaining their properties.

Seniors: Our Senior Center & Library offers a variety of programs at little to no costs. To assist with transportation needs, the City has invested in shuttles to/from varying facilities in our community. For several years, demand public transit has been available to our seniors and disabled citizens at low cost. As of March 1, 2016, DART is providing this service after the loss of TAPS. From a strictly financial aspect, our seniors are eligible for discounts on several city services & memberships as well as property exceptions applied to their property taxes.

Finances: As Allen reaches build out and continues to age, our fiscal budgeting will need to be more focused on maintenance and re-investment. In Allen, we are fortunate to have top notch facilities and services. There is a cost to keeping status quo as well as meeting the expectations of our citizens. We will continue to proactively supplement our income with available grants and matching funds from other agencies and jurisdictions, bringing the best tax value to our citizens.

Other Issues: In-fill zoning has been discussed above and will to be an important and often complicated issue. Allen is financially sound. The City tax rate has been reduced for 23 consecutive years. Careful short term and long term planning as well as continued growth has allowed for these reductions. I believe it is critical for the City to maintain a healthy financial position. As a councilmember, I consider it my top responsibility to the citizens of Allen.

Allen City Council, Place 6

Munia Ahmad – Allen City Council, Place 6



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Education: Bachelor's in Science in Accounting.

Experience: No response received.

Development: People will continue to move to our city for its good schools and beautiful and safe neighborhoods. This will increase price of real estate and eventually lead to a shortage in real estate since Allen is not a big area and we have space constraints. This will also make the traffic situation worse on highway 75 unless we come up ways to address this issue.

Infrastructure: The upcoming CIP bond election addresses many of the growing infrastructure needs of our growing community. Also, policies relating to "Dart". We need to address issues of transportation, traffic and the possibility of offering the Dart service to our citizens or other forms of transportation.

Poverty: Our city currently does a good job in this area. Allen Community Outreach provides low income residents with financial assistance with household bills, clothing, house ware and groceries including providing children from low income residents with school supplies.

Seniors: We need to implement special transportation services designed for seniors

and for seniors with disabilities that are cost-effective for seniors to use. We need to provide computer/technology related literacy courses to seniors.

Finances: Allocate budget to start-up corporations to launch their corporate office in the Allen community. We need to offer financial and tax incentive to these companies to launch their corporate offices. This will provide them with the incentive needed for them to be part of our community. This will generate more tax and sales revenue, create more job opportunities for our citizens.

Other Issues: Water restrictions/shortage is an issue facing our community currently. As more families move here., we will face serious shortage in housing and rising hose prices. Also this will make the traffic worse on the highway. So we will need to formulate a way to create more jobs within the community for our families and address issues relating to transportation and how we can address the traffic issue.

Baine Brooks – Allen City Council, Place 6



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Education: Bachelor of Arts in Communications, University of Oklahoma

Experience: Elected to Allen City Council in 2012 and Re-Elected to Allen City Council in 2013. Past President, Greater Dallas Restaurant Association, Former Board Member N. Texas Food Bank, Masonic Lodge Community Builder Award, Connors State College Hall of Fame

Development: I am particularly interested in two areas of commercial and residential development over the next several years: the SRT corridor and the CBD. It is important to me that we develop these areas consistent with the quality that citizens have come to expect with other parts of our city.

Infrastructure: Our City effectively maintains our infrastructure with top-notch staff and a thoughtful budget. Citizens have supported new and expanded infrastructure through our bond programs. The May 7 ballot includes a \$93 million bond proposal that will further improve and expand public safety, facilities, streets, and other infrastructure needs.

Poverty: The City encourages the work of churches and charitable organizations who serve the needs of our neighbors in need. We also make a concerted effort to attract business, create jobs, and hold down our tax

rate to make life in Allen affordable for everyone.

Seniors: Our Senior Recreation Center hosts a variety of opportunities that serve citizens 55 and over. The Center publishes a bi-monthly newsletter listing health, fitness, meal, travel, and social opportunities. The City also offers discounts to seniors for a variety of services.

Finances: Our commercial and residential tax bases are well-balanced for our community. Allen's services are so cost effective that we have reduced property tax rates every year for more than 20 years. I would expect that we continue to reduce our tax rates every year. I do think we need to re-visit the basis for compensating our public safety employees. Allen is one of the top cities in the state and Metroplex, and our compensation schedule should be well above the median or average of neighboring cities.

Other Issues: No response.

Allen City Ballot Measures

City of Allen Proposition 1

The issuance of \$24,445,000 general obligation bonds for public safety facilities, including fire stations and a police training facility

City of Allen Proposition 2

The issuance of \$27,000,000 general obligation bonds for park and recreational facilities

City of Allen Proposition 3

The issuance of \$16,045,000 general obligation bonds for municipal library facilities

City of Allen Proposition 4

The issuance of \$23,890,000 general obligation bonds for street improvements

City of Allen Proposition 5

The issuance of \$1,770,000 general obligation bonds for public art projects

City of Allen Local Option Proposition 1

The sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption only.

Allen ISD Board of Trustees

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

QUESTION – UNCONTESTED RACES

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

Growth: What issues exist related to population growth and changing demographics in your district, and how would you address them?

Students: Which student populations, if any, are underserved in your district, and what could be done to address those?

Curriculum: What, if anything, should be done to better prepare students for success in the 21st century?

Safety: What, if anything, should be done to increase safety in your district's schools?

Finances: What, if any, changes are needed to the school district's finances?

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

Allen ISD Trustee, Place 4

Amy Gnadl – Allen ISD Trustee, Place 4 - Uncontested



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Education: B.S., Civil Engineering, University of Texas at Arlington – 1982, Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Certified Fire Protection Specialist (CFPS), Associate in Risk Management (ARM)

Experience: Over 25 years experience in the insurance industry. Running for second term as a school board trustee.

As I move into my second term, the Allen ISD School Board will continue to focus on key Strategic Plan initiatives such as; partnering with the District in establishing the Vision of the new STEAM Education Center, provide support for the opening of Elementary #18 & the Lowery Freshman Center, opening the GATE Academy, expanding the scope of our Career Technology Education (CTE) opportunities, navigating through the next Texas Legislative Session and continue to monitor the District Operating Budget's long range view to ensure a "soft" landing for our slowing growth. Go Eagles!

Allen ISD Trustee, Place 5

Ken Lento – Allen ISD Trustee, Place 5



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Education: B.S. Business Services, University of Toledo and A.S. Law Enforcement, Owens Technical College

Experience: 25 years of management experience. Current company role is developing a new business unit for Conveyors and Automation to some of the largest US food companies. I have worked on many programs in Allen to support students, teachers and parents.

Growth: Allen continues to grow and in the recent bond proposal that passed by Allen voters, many of these planned and future needs are being addressed. I was part of Project Kids 2016, where 80 Allen citizens worked together to create the bond recommendations. Allen ISD will get a new STEM facility, which is an extension of the high school, but will serve all students. Allen ISD will also have another elementary school (number 18) on the growing West side of Allen. I will work to with the board to make sure all of the new additions are carried out in the best way possible for the district.

Students: Allen ISD is a great district and works to provide the best programs possible so all students can achieve his/her full potential. Allen is very college prep oriented and for some kids that isn't the path they will take. Allen ISD has plans to add more to the vocations training like auto mechanics and cosmetology. These kinds of programs would be good to work on and offer. Allen students are doing well and if you look at test scores, Allen ranks at the top. There will always be needs that come up and as a board member, I would work to make sure they have a fair chance.

Curriculum: The current board and administration have set goals to transform the traditional classroom, going from lecture and students in seats to more project based and self paced learning. Allen ISD will do a good job planning and staying ahead of the needs for the future like having great IT infrastructure to support electronic devices and classroom requirements. Allen is implementing GATE (I worked on) - an everyday school where identified GT students in grade 1-5 attend for all subjects. The future STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) will provide advanced learning opportunities.

Safety: Allen ISD has done a great job in increasing student safety. Vestibules with double sign in and campus separation was implemented. School playgrounds have been fully fenced in and there are other safety and security measures in place or being implemented. Allen ISD has done a great job in providing safety and security measures without making parents and visitors not feel welcome. Training and continued evaluation of the needs must happen to stay ahead of possible threats. I hold an associates degree in Law Enforcement and worked in Corporate Security which is a plus for school safety.

Finances: Allen ISD has won awards for there fiscal responsibility. Continued transparency of the finances and evaluation by the board are important. The board has voted and approved two consecutive reductions in the tax rate cutting 6 cents, all while providing the needed funding for budgets and debt reduction. Tax rates are the lowest in Allen since 2010. As long as market valuations continue to rise, there may not need to be any changes to the tax rate or they could be reduced more. My B.S. degree major was accounting and in business I have handled all elements of financials and P&L reports.

Other Issues: Implementation of the bond approved projects will be much of the focus. As a new school board member, there is much to learn and understand so the first year is much of that process. Having served on boards, the workings and operations of a board are not an issue for me. As the experienced board and administration offer up needs and requests, I would work the vetting process and utilize my 25 years of management experience and knowledge of Allen to help make the best decisions possible. My experience in business is you never know what will come up, but stay ready and make good decisions.

David W. Noll – Allen ISD Trustee, Place 5



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Education: 1.) Bachelor of Arts - Austin College 2.) Certified Public Accountant (CPA) 3.) Dale Carnegie Leadership Institute Graduate

Experience: I have over 10 years experience in the financial industry sector. I was on the 2015 Project Kids Bond Committee and I have served the past two years on the Allen District Improvement Committee.

Growth: One of the challenges that Allen ISD will face over the next several years is a significant portion of the remaining growth will be on the west side of the district with a decrease in enrollment on the east side. AISD has taken a proactive approach by planning to build a new 18th elementary school on the west side; as well as, introducing the GATE Academy at a school on the east side to help manage the student population in the district. Allen ISD should continue to explore innovative ideas to maintain its commitment to the neighborhood school philosophy.

Students: The one student population group that tends to be underserved in all districts, including Allen ISD, is the student population that are deemed the invisible student, the middle performer, the student who never receive disciplinary action or great accolades for their superior intellect but they are a consistent learner. These students will play an integral part in Allen ISD meeting the student progress index within the state accountability system. By teachers not only focusing on the high and low achievers but also the middle performers, we will stay true to Allen ISD's mission statement.

Curriculum: In today's changing work environment and the age of digitization, it will be imperative that students develop strong problem solving skills. I believe with Allen building the new STEM Academy, upgrading their technology infrastructure, and implementing blended learning through the use of Canvas (i.e. learning management system) in grades 7th through 12th, it's going to allow the Allen ISD students the continual opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to be successful in the 21st century. The next

generation of problem solvers must innovate like technologists and think like entrepreneurs.

Safety: A focal point of the Project Kids Bond Committee was to increase safety and security in the district. The bond that was passed last November allocated funds for the district to upgrade and increase security cameras in all facilities, upgrade controlled access security measures in all schools, include a district wide emergency communication system; as well as, update the technology infrastructure to handle the upgraded securities measures. I also feel the district needs to continue to provide adequate trainings to staff members to ensure safety of Allen's students.

Finances: The district has received a Five Star rating for the last 5 years in the Comptroller's Financial Allocation Study for Texas (i.e. FAST) which measures how spending translates to student academic progress while continuing to keep a low teacher turnover rate and has continued expanding the education opportunities for its students. In addition, the district continues to maintain a healthy general fund balance of around \$70m. As we move into the future, we need to continue with the strong financial discipline that continues to make this district one of the top districts in the state.

Other Issues: Some of the most important issues I feel Allen ISD will face over the next few years will be 1.) Ensuring that students are equipped with the skills sets to be successful in the ever-changing job market; 2.) Continuing to provide cutting edge education with the stress of continuing to fund it; and 3.) Continue to effectively partner with parents in an ever changing environment.

Kelly Rowley – Allen ISD Trustee, Place 5



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Education: BBA in Accounting
from SMU, cum laude, 1988
Earned CPA in 1993

Experience: Sci-Tech Discovery Center
Executive & Advisory Boards Project Kids &
District Strategic Planning Committee Kids
First Allen Treasurer Positions of
responsibility in PTA at all levels, athletic
and band booster organizations, and church

Growth: Allen ISD is doing an excellent job of meeting the facility needs of a growing student population. As the district reaches buildout, the Board must be aware of slowing population growth and ensure we continue to manage resources effectively. Changing demographics can bring disparate issues. Some populations bring an increased hunger for rigor and enrichment opportunities. However, additional low income students and students with limited English language skills require resources such as specifically qualified staff and innovative techniques. The district is managing this change effectively.

Students: Allen ISD works hard to close achievement gaps with significant success as demonstrated by increased achievement in every subject in every sub-population in standardized test data. Our strategic plans outline increased Career and Technology Education opportunities that will reach students who may not attend college but want workforce related experience. Additionally, the vision of the STEM Center is to provide all students with access to sophisticated enrichment opportunities. AISD continually strives to ensure that no groups are underserved.

Curriculum: In today's world, some level of post-secondary education will certainly be required. This may be college, but might also be vocational school, a technical certification, or the military. AHS offers all of the endorsements & pathways recognized by the state. These programs allow students to investigate a number of career opportunities with different education requirements within their area of interest. Students at AHS can graduate with vocational certifications in many pathways. The College and Career Center helps students navigate the testing, admissions, and financial aid processes.

Safety: With the passage of the recent bond, Allen taxpayers secured funding to improve emergency communications throughout the district. The Board separately funded the addition of access control keypads on exterior doors, and installed additional cameras throughout the district. The district has put vestibules in all our elementary & middle school campus entrances as an added layer of protection to staff and students. Recently, the district added a central administration team dedicated to safe and secure schools that will coordinate efforts and make recommendations for continuing improvements.

Finances: Allen ISD has been a five star FAST district for the four most recent reports. This is the State Comptroller's Financial Allocation Study for Texas which examines both academic progress and spending at Texas' school districts and individual campuses. Allen has reduced taxes the past two years with no reduction in compensation or programs. It publicizes its checkbook and all its financial records on its website for transparency. Allen taxpayers get a great bang for their buck, but we need to continue to work for efficiency to reduce the tax rate further without compromising our performance.

Other Issues: The single biggest opportunity in the district today is the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math in grades K-12. The strategic design of the STEM Center, opening fall 2018, which will serve ALL students at some level of either enrichment or core curriculum, is an exciting challenge. At the same time, Allen ISD must remain a district of choice for educators. It is important that we continue to work to ensure that teachers have the resources and autonomy they require to meet the needs of their students and that their compensation and benefits are competitive.

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