



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

May 6, 2017
Local Election
McKinney

Early voting: April 24 – May 2

Election Day: May 6 – Polls open 7 am to 7 pm

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. 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.



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.

McKinney Mayor & 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

Infrastructure: What measures do you support to meet the city's infrastructure needs, including transportation and water, given the expected population changes?

Housing: What should the city council do, if anything, to ensure that appropriate housing is available for all demographics, including seniors and low income residents?

Budget: What concerns you the most about the city's finances, and what changes would you like to see in the budget?

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 Mayor

Danny Bishop, Mayor

No photo
received

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Education: McKinney High School

Experience: I have always been highly involved with my community. Won the Meadows Foundation Cultural award in 1997 for my philanthropic work within the community here in North Texas.

Infrastructure: One item of our infrastructure I am greatly concerned about is our work force. We have high end homes and not enough affordable. We need strong industry and just retail. But industry and we need the infrastructure to fill it. Water is very very serious and we need planing an additional reservoir now. We need to conserve what we do have. We need Dart. Our elderly and our work force need it. The chemo and the doctors are in Dallas and not Frisco like the Denton transportation offers.

Housing: This is a serious problem with the expansion of our city. We need affordable housing to strengthening our work force infrastructure. When I say affordable housing I mean homes and not apartments. Suburbs in Austin and San Antonio have built very attractive affordable master planed developments. Our seniors face many challenges especially those who have lived in this community for years. It breaks my heart to see them not able to afford a home they have been in for so many years. Even if the home is sold they can not find affordable replacement. They need our cities support and care.

Budget: I will say good things for the ones who have served on our city government during the last decade. This has been a big difficult challenge for them during this massive growth we have witnessed and I know they have done the best of any city in our state. They are funding challenges facing our fire and police. This is something our city does need to get highly involved in. Our museums are facing challenges that we can meet with privatization. The Heard is deer to me and I want it to last and grow. This can be done with outside and corporate interest.

Other Issues: The cities growth will continue to be a very important issue for our current citizens. During this campaign I have spoken with several members of our community and the response is slow down. Many say it is not possible to slow down this growth explosion but I believe they are wrong. I have spoken with other communities in Texas that have successfully increased industry while slowing home growth. It can be done with zoning and community wide development involvement. I know it will be difficult to get more of our city involved with our local government. This is a major goal of mine.

George Fuller, Mayor



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Education: Norwich University, Business Management

Experience: I have been actively investing in McKinney for the past 25 years, as a developer, commercial and home builder, small business owner, & co-founder of the Love Life Foundation, a non-profit established in the early 90's that benefits "at-risk" women &

Infrastructure: The most specific measurement that I support is properly accounting and planning for proper the depreciation of the city's existing infrastructure. It's not as glamorous as discussing future roadways but can be the path to better afford the future infrastructure we need. It is far cheaper to fix and maintain items now instead of kicking the can down the road until they break. An example was recently profiled in the Dallas Morning news as it was published that our water waste rate in McKinney was 28%. This was both because of current infrastructure faults and improper budgeting.

Housing: Beyond simply planning for it, the city's most valuable move may be to actually assist in properly educating the public on the issue. Too easily, projects built to address this issue are labeled as "Affordable Housing". This is unfortunate as this term has unfairly earned a negative connotation. As we try to recruit new companies into our great city, one of the main requirements is that they need to know their employees can live near and have transportation to their jobs. The majority of jobs cannot afford the new average home range of \$275,000 to \$300,000 and without places for key employees

Budget: We trail our sister cities in staff and First Responders per 1,000 residents. At the same time, we have excessive "rainy day" fund reserve balances that are disproportionate to the need. I would also support an effective tax rate. The claim that current officials make concerning their successful lowering of the tax rate is laughable. We should be having discussions in terms of tax revenue with consideration for inflation. There is no doubt that if we collect it, we will spend it...not necessarily in the right places (staff and first responders), but we will spend it.

Other Issues: Land plan for expected future growth. The overhaul of zoning and ordinances that will shape the hardscape developed within the confines of the land plan established. McKinney has a woefully deficient depreciation of assets fund balance to deal with the inevitable failing of C.I.'s. The city had no accruing balance two years ago and we are just now beginning to correct that. As a result, we will be faced with more bond issues for failing infrastructure and equipment in order to accommodate the need. We need to reverse the trend of declining commercial tax base to lift residential burden

Randy Pogue, Mayor



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Education: Bachelor of Science Civil Engineering, Texas A & M University, 1992

Experience: Westwood Professional Services, Inc. (2015-Present); Pogue Engineering (1999-2015); Pogue Construction (1997-1999); Pacheco Koch Consulting Engineers (1993-1997); Texas A & M University (NASA Research Assistantship, 1993)

Infrastructure: As a current member of City Council I have participated in a Council Executive Committee to create a 10 year plan of projects and prioritization of the same projects. We also were successful in the creation of a bond committee as well as a successful bond election. Due to our fast growth community our infrastructure needs are continually changing. The population growth has caused a need for a community wide and regional approach to solve the issues that arise from such growth. We have also conducted master planning events to meet the water demand needs for the future as well.

Housing: Housing for all of our residents is always a topic that brings along with it a lot of ideas and discussion. This is an important issue that we need to continually monitor. McKinney has a diverse population base and a diverse solution is needed. McKinney has led the way in Collin County with regards to affordable housing. The McKinney Housing Authority takes the lead on this and manages multiple properties within McKinney to meet this need. A partnership with MHA has aided to revitalize and redevelop their properties to enhance, update and increase the number of units.

Budget: As the city continues to grow, and the properties within the city continue to appreciate along with the increase in commercial base, we will then be able to continue lower the tax rate for all of the citizens in McKinney. The balance of commercial to residential is the most important long term issue when it comes to a sustainable budget. This balance will enable McKinney to be an even better place to live, work and play. Further, we must continue to balance the budget moving forward. We need to be fiscally responsible in representing our citizens.

Other Issues: Economic and strategic growth towards a sustainable and balanced tax base. This will include retail, shopping, dining, entertainment, airport, as well as quality residential developments. Also, we need to have a stable government for a long period of time. This stability includes both the administration body as well as the political body. We have not been able to be effective in the past due to the instability in our management coupled with the Council not always acting in unison. Enhancing the City's reputation as being more business friendly in our ordinances, inspections and processes.

McKinney City Council, District 1

Johnny Moore, City Council District 1

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
Later responses may be on www.VOTE411.org.

Dusttin Pearson, City Council District 1



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Education: B.A. - Texas Tech University B.S. - Texas Tech University Master of Health Administration Informatics - University of Maryland Project Management Professional - Project Management Institute

Experience: Successfully led large scale projects for Baylor Scott and White Healthcare with budgets north of \$15m. Manage teams made up of 20+ multidisciplinary individuals.

Infrastructure: 1. Construction of a downtown multilevel parking garage 2. Adequate street lighting throughout McKinney to deter devious criminal behavior 3. Construction of the outer loop or below ground level roadway to ease 380 traffic 4. Construction to add additional water reservoirs 5. Mindful planning of residential street repairs 6. Construction to provide sidewalks to neighborhoods to ensure safety of our citizens 7. Advocate of businesses building along highway 5 leading into downtown area of McKinney

Housing: 1. For seniors I have always been an advocate of tax limitations and caps 2. There should be adequate and thoughtful planning behind location of senior housing. Currently many senior housing complexes are located on the east side of 75 and not close to urgent care centers, pharmacies, nor grocers. Thoughtful planning is needed. 2. For lower income residents there are plenty of existing multi family unit complexes scattered throughout the city as well as others currently being constructed. Furthermore, there are various housing options available as well as subsidized housing opportunities.

Budget: My greatest concerns surround the lack of adequate planning and execution based on proper planning which leads to excessive spending. McKinney must address the issue of lowering property taxes by bringing more corporate business to McKinney to support the corporate tax base. I would like to see the city be more conservative with the budget by submitting formal RFPs to solution city issues and selecting best vendors based on RFPs. Furthermore I would like bond elections broken down by individual issue.

Other Issues: 1. Leveling the tax base 2. Establish a long term solution to downtown parking 3. Infrastructure 4. Safety 5. Public transportation The 600 character limitation doesn't provide me enough space to state my views. I can email my positions or speak about them during the forum. They are also located on my Facebook page at:
https://www.facebook.com/pg/PearsonforMcKinney/about/?ref=page_internal

La'Shadion Shemwell, City Council District 1



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Education: Champion School of Real Estate

Experience: I have travelled the country as an advocate for our elderly, disabled, minorities, affordable housing, poor, and criminal justice reform. Over the past few years I've mentored underprivileged youth and continue to be a voice for the voiceless.

Infrastructure: Coined one of America's fastest growing cities, McKinney has captured the nation's attention. In order to hold on to that title, the city of McKinney must be able to expand and improve its infrastructure. From widening streets to improve public safety to revitalizing the area along Highway 5 including the testing of lead and other harmful toxins that outdated pipes could transport, the city of McKinney must diligently work to stay ahead of the population influx over the next few years. With solid infrastructure in place, the city of McKinney will continue to flourish while keeping the unique,

Housing: In order to promote diversity in housing, the City of McKinney should implement inclusive zoning for all new developments. If the developers donate a portion (5-10%) of their new developments to affordable housing, it will help ease gentrification and the overpopulating of low income areas. As McKinney continues to flourish, we must remain cognizant of making sure all current and future residents feel welcome.

Budget: The City of McKinney has done a great job budgeting and staying within the parameters of the budget. However, accumulating a significant surplus alarms me. Having a "Rainy Day Fund" is a fiscally responsible practice. However, not utilizing all of tax payers dollars effectively and efficiently is quite irresponsible when there are several unmet needs around the city.

Other Issues: Over the next few years, I believe the most important issues that will come before the council are gentrification, transportation, thoroughfares, and diversity. It would be my pleasure to lead the city council in tackling these issues as they arise.

McKinney City Council, District 3

Scott Elliott, City Council District 3



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Education: BBA Accounting from Baylor University

Experience: Career: 25 years of leadership positions in IT and other organizations. Volunteer: Board member of various non-profits, Leadership McKinney in 2012, and the McKinney Community Development Corporation board for 4 years (2 as chairperson)

Infrastructure: Road expansion: - Accelerate development of the Colling County Outer Loop - Build out planned arterials in the northwest sector - Wilmeth, Custer, and Laud Howell - Examine alternative ways of improving throughput for 380 - Do not build the 380 bypass options that have been discussed Establish a public transportation plan, starting small and addressing the needs of our elderly, disabled, medically challenged, and economically disadvantaged citizens first. Support the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir project, while also strengthening our conservation efforts within McKinney

Housing: We are fortunate to have the McKinney Housing Authority as the city's partner in affordable housing efforts. Their mission: serve the housing needs of low to moderate income families in the authority's jurisdiction in order to 1) increase the availability of decent, safe and affordable housing in its communities; 2) ensure equal opportunity in housing; 3) enhance self-sufficiency; 4) promote community quality of life and 5) economic viability. Continue City Council support of public/private partnerships, enabling certain proposed projects to access available tax credits.

Budget: McKinney is in strong financial shape. Recognizing that serving on City Council is a combination of teamwork, collaboration, and leadership, these are areas I would put forth for discussion: - Base city budgeting (and as a result the property tax rate) on a combination of inflation data, population growth, public safety standards, established service metrics, and our obligation for responsible pension funding. - Seek and reward cost-saving measures put forth by city employees, with a short-term goal of increasing efficiency by 5% - Look for ways to maximize airport financial results

Other Issues: 1) Infrastructure - Covered above, but also accelerate building of parking garages downtown 2) Collaboration - Increase collaboration between City and County, as well as City and MISD - prepare a joint marketing plan for McKinney - If possible, settle the two lawsuits between the City and County prior to trial 3) Balance of commercial and residential tax base - Establish annual goals for the MEDC regarding commercial AVT and jobs added - Do not relinquish current commercial zoning for other uses - Streamline city inspection process to accelerate the pace of new commercial projects

Jeremiah Hammer, City Council District 3



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Education: Stephen F. Austin State University - International Business, MIS studies

Experience: 6 years as President/CEO Sustainable Ventures 7 years of continuous community involvement and improvement across multiple sectors. 20 years of professional experience resulting in over \$1Bn in efficiency improvement and waste reduction.

Infrastructure: Proper planning and infrastructure are critical to our city's ability to attract commercial and retail growth. The increased tax base generated by this growth, will, in turn, lower the tax burden on homeowners. Our history clearly indicates that the city can attract residential growth; however, our success with retail and commercial has been less than stellar. Our current transportation infrastructure is approaching gridlock due to the city's rapid residential growth. This is obvious when looking at the current traffic patterns on 75, 380, 121, Custer and other major and secondary thoroughways.

Housing: I believe we can sustain high property values, lower property taxes, infrastructure growth and affordable housing for all levels of income through proper planning and control. As we continue to evaluate and plan for development in the northwest sector, we should maintain an emphasis on balanced development that will meet the city's needs well into the future.

Budget: My biggest concern is that the city currently budgets for an expected 8-10% residential growth year over year. I do not believe that this growth rate is sustainable and it will diminish at some point in the foreseeable future. This growth rate will require substantial investment in infrastructure and services in the next few years. Rather than being faced with cutting future services and absorbing the expense, due to an overly aggressive population expectation, I believe we should adjust our projections based on decreasing percentages of residential growth.

Other Issues: Concerns relating to taxes, trees, and transportation is what I'm hearing the most from the hundreds of people I've spoken with in the past few months. We have had no residential property tax relief in the 7 years I've lived in McKinney. Based upon our lack of commercial and retail growth, I foresee no relief in the near future. Many families including seniors are moving because their property taxes, in proportion to their income, are too high. As your councilman, I will do everything within my power to ease the property tax burden placed on homeowners.

Margaret Harsch, City Council District 3



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Education: BA University of Texas at Austin MS Texas A&M - Commerce

Experience: Being anchored in the community allows me to represent the needs of the city. I live and work in McKinney so I am in constant contact with citizens and businesses.

Infrastructure: Collin County, according to projections, will be more populous than Dallas County by 2045. A good economy brings its challenges. McKinney needs to do all it can to educate the community on the need for water conservation. Plans are in place to keep pace with population growth, but water conservation will need to continue as more people move to the area. We are not in a position to guarantee that the water supply will always outpace demand. We need a multi-faceted approach to handling increased traffic congestion, including new roads both public and toll, additional public transportation option

Housing: The Council should support a range of housing options to nurture the growth and diversity of our community. The Council should investigate and take steps that will prevent seniors from being priced or taxed out of their homes. We have low income housing, however the need is still great. City leaders can do more to identify and facilitate developers and lenders who are interested in building lower-cost housing and higher-density units, including creating special districts and incentives.

Budget: The number one concern I have is achieving greater transparency, and avoiding conflicts of interest, in the way decisions are made about spending. I see spending and spending requests that are opposed by the citizens but pushed through by special interests. I want to make sure the city is not involved in projects that should realistically be managed by private interests. I don't want to see spending when the majority of citizens have actively opposed something.

Other Issues: We have the typical challenges of a growing, successful suburban town. Our population is still booming, and we are developing new neighborhoods, new retail and commercial zones. This will only put more pressure on how we pay for services. I think we need to pay much more attention to diversifying our tax base and competing for companies and new businesses that are coming to North Texas. Beyond that, we have the intangible things to consider, such as the unique beauty and quality of life we enjoy in McKinney. I want us to be smart about our growth and keep McKinney the unique city we all love.

Sheila Johnson, City Council District 3

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
Later responses may be on www.VOTE411.org.

Gavin Nicholson, City Council District 3



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Education: Graduated from McKinney Boyd High School 2016 Attending Collin College Majoring in Computer Science

Experience: I've run a small tech business in the past and I'm about to launch my newest business which specializes in website development. I've been politically engaged in national politics and want to extend that to the local community.

Infrastructure: It seems to me that the current council and staff like to rush into things while applying a short term band aid solution. I think we need to look at issues we might be facing 5-10 years down the road. If the city actually did this, we wouldn't be running into issues like we are with the expansion of Ridge and Eldorado. I want to make sure we are taking our time with these issues and looking at viable long term solutions as well as short term ones.

Housing: We should work with the MEDC and others to try and incentives lower income and senior housing. Many people believe that lower income equals uglier and less desirable housing but it is actually quite the opposite as you can make beautiful houses that are lower in price. They will just be smaller and won't have as many fancy appliances. I think if the city council add more incentive for lower income housing developers to come and build that it could help. I also believe that part of the incentive could be tax relief.

Budget: What concerns me most is how the big majority of the cities income comes from property taxes. I think we need to get more businesses into McKinney to try and alleviate the tax burden on home owners. One reason why business owners aren't coming to the city is because of all the regulations and inefficiencies amongst the departments. I would like to see lower property taxes overall and lower taxes for incoming and current residents.

Other Issues: Several. To name a few, the drug problem, public transportation, poverty, affordable housing, lowering property taxes and encouraging more business to move to McKinney. Drugs - McKinney has a serious prescription pill problem. I know this because as a student that graduated from a local high school, pills were everywhere. Public Transportation - Every city around us has some sort of public transportation and we need to follow whether it be DART or DCT. Poverty - McKinney has a much higher rate of homelessness and poverty per person compared to surrounding cities and we need to fix it.

McKinney City Council, At Large

Derek Baker, City Council At Large



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Education: BS in Political Science, Business, & Religion from Liberty University

Experience: Prior to my real estate career, I served over 25 years as a political activist, working in Congress for members of the U.S. Senate and House. I served on the staff of then-Representative Mike Pence, Senator Phil Gramm, and Rep. Jeb Hensarling.

Infrastructure: McKinney is experiencing significant growth and there are a number of roadways that must be expanded or created to meet current and future demand. While I am skeptical of current 380 bypass routes, given their significant negative impact to private property owners, I do believe there are options to both widen and improve the current 380 route to accommodate future needs, and pursue plans to complete an outer loop in Collin County. Complex and important questions require thoughtful answers. 600 allowable characters is wholly inadequate and I didn't have room for my water response.

Housing: I believe the role of city government is to set the operating rules for the private sector and citizens - and the market in general - to largely determine the nature, cost, and size of housing needs. To suggest that city government is best equipped to be the central planner and final arbiter of all housing needs or wants within the city is ill-advised. There are certain federal requirements which must be adhered to, and the city has a role in planning and zoning requests for future residential development, and must be careful not to overextend their infrastructure's capacity.

Budget: The front page of the current year's McKinney City budget states that the budget increased by 9.91% over the previous year. While McKinney is enjoying growth, neither our population growth or inflation is close to the almost double-digit budget increase that the City of McKinney has placed on the taxpayers. I intend to bring fiscal sanity and responsibility to the budget process, and will at the very least fight to tie any budget increases to either population or inflation increases.

Other Issues: Budget and government growth, our inadequate commercial tax base, and our growing transportation and infrastructure needs, which I have address above.

Michael Jones, City Council At Large



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Education: MBA -University of Dallas BBA Finance - University of North Texas

Experience: HOA Treasure and President Corporate Auditor Corporate Portfolio Manager Junior Achievement

Infrastructure: The city manager's team is constantly working to improve infrastructure in the city. As a city council member, I will continue to work with our city manager and third party infrastructure studies to plan for the future growth of the city. My goal is to help the city manager develop a better communication platform for the community so citizens know well in advance of road improvements and other infrastructure needs of the city.

Housing: The city council has approved working with other cities and Collin and Denton County to have studies done on the need for more affordable housing. That study is not complete. As a member of city council would be reviewing that study to determine the appropriate housing needed in our community. I think the citizens should not have to endure an extra tax burden to provide affordable housing, but rather use federal funds already allocated to address the need.

Budget: The city council has done a great job in reducing the tax rate for the citizens of McKinney along with keeping a balanced budget. My focus would be to continue on with the past city council has achieved and move to allocate more funds to economic development to help this city prosper.

Other Issues: The most important items dealing with the city today is Infrastructure and economic growth. Improving our tax base on the commercial side will help drive down our property tax rate. McKinney is a great place to live and I'm grateful to be able to live here. I think with the issues that need to be addressed, communication is key. If I'm elected, I will work with our city manager to improve communication with the citizens of McKinney to make sure our message heard correctly and questions are answered quickly.

Charlie Philips, City Council At Large

No photo
received

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Education: Bachelor of Science-Architecture, Masters of Architecture, Doctor of Jurisprudence

Experience: 25 years of practicing law, 23 years in McKinney Texas, 12 years of working my way through College including public relations and operating a shovel, 23 years of service to the children, youth, special needs community and under privileged of McKinney

Infrastructure: Increase the commercial tax base to relieve the burden of funding infrastructure from the residential taxpayers. Development of sustainable and economic public transportation using modern technology to alleviate congestion in high traffic areas while providing needed services for those incapable of transporting themselves. Eliminate the massive wasting of water as exemplified by the City's reported loss of 2.9 billion gallons in 2015, and simply being better stewards of the precious resources entrusted to us.

Housing: The City Council should continue in its endeavors to find and fulfill appropriate housing for all demographics such as the current rebuilding of the Newsome housing complex and the scheduled rebuilding of the Merritt housing complex. Both projects will revitalize McKinney's East side which has sorely been needed for decades. The City should also look to encourage development of mixed-use projects similar to the successful projects at Waters Creek and the Shops of Legacy as those developments provide diversity in housing as well as an increase to the commercial tax base.

Budget: I would like to see the City cut back on funding projects that yield no results. In particular studies and proposals that promote adversity rather than bring the community together. I would also like to see tighter oversight on City services so that the City is not embarrassed by such acts as losing a reported 2.9 billion gallons of water in 2015.

Other Issues: Increasing the commercial tax base to relieve the burden on residential taxpayers while maintaining the first class quality-of-life and public safety that McKinney has always been known for, and appropriately planning for the massive growth that McKinney will see in the next 2 decades and beyond.

Thomas "TJ" Reilly, City Council At Large



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Education: None provided

Experience: None provided

Infrastructure: We need to figure out how we will approach the 380 corridor expansion. I have seen many suggestions, however, I think we should have them pre-approved by TXDOT, because I don't believe they will be approved even if we decide on one of the current routes as a city. We also need to fix the parking problem downtown, so our residents can enjoy the charm that McKinney has to offer. This has to be done with a parking garage and we can have a vote on whether it should be privately or publicly funded. There are plenty of water conservation plans that are not being utilized that can have a major impact

Housing: As there is need, the free market will supply housing. I do believe we should set up tax breaks to develop and renovate our downtown area, including a landlord renovation rebate program. Everyone in McKinney deserves to have a high quality of life.

Budget: Our budget needs to be responsibly set up in a way that will put us in a good position to overcome inevitable financial hardships of the future. We need to be wise stewardesses of our money to prevent high taxing when city services are in danger of being cut. The best way to run a successful budget is to find the median tax revenue of the last 10 years (corrected based on population), tax and spend based on that amount. This creates a surplus during economic boom which will cover expenses during downturn, thus maintaining McKinney's quality of life. As of this point, we are spending every dime

Other Issues: Planning and Development - Previously Addressed Budget- Previously Addressed Commercial to Residential ratio issue- We have an 80-20% split on residential to commercial properties in McKinney. We need to expand our corporate potential. Not creating a suitable environment for new business and corporate offices would put a burden on property tax revenue and not diversifying tax revenue could lead to economic disaster. Public Safety Staffing - For every 1,000 residents, McKinney is understaffed by almost half of what they need to equal the Texas average.

Kevin Smallwood, City Council At Large, Withdrew

McKinney ISD Trustee

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

QUESTIONS

Growth: What should be done to proactively address the education needs of the changing population and demographics in your district?

Testing: What, if anything, should be done by your district to reduce the focus on teaching to standardized tests?

Public School Finance: What changes, if any, should the state make to the public school finance structure in order to benefit your district?

Safety: What changes are needed, if any, to reduce bullying/violence and increase respectful conflict resolution in your district's schools?

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?

McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 1

Maria McKinzie, ISD Trustee Place 1, Uncontested

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
Later responses may be on www.VOTE411.org.

McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 2

Clayton Myhre, ISD Trustee Place 2

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
Later responses may be on www.VOTE411.org.

Kenneth Ussery, ISD Trustee Place 2



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Education: Bachelors degree in Accounting, Masters degree in Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage and Family. Many undergrad hours in music, as well as master level credits in theology. Certified as a life coach.

Experience: Vocational experience includes time spent in the banking industry, computer industry, ministry, life coach, and all things Real Estate.

Growth: MISD has a diversified enrollment, both ethnically and socioeconomically. Current programs already in place to address these needs include ESL, dual language classrooms, AVID, course levels (AP, pre-AP, core), dual credit courses, and trade certification programs. Much resources are devoted to these programs. As our community continues to grow and perhaps shift somewhat in demographics, it will be important for our district to keep a watchful eye on the success of these initiatives. Findings will help guide future expansion or completion of these and other programs.

Testing: Standardized tests are state mandated. To complicate this further, with the new A-F grading system for districts, scores on the standardized tests impact the overall grade given to districts. In fact, two of the four grading categories are greatly impacted by the STARR tests. To not give emphasis to these tests seriously hurts how the state represents the reputation of a district. At best our board and district can continue voicing concerns to legislation in an effort to reevaluate the purpose of standardized tests.

Public School Finance: All districts across the state, not just ours, find themselves at a disadvantage when the state offers aide only to withdraw that aide at an undetermined time. For MISD this withdrawal happened going into the 2013-2014 school year. The removal of state aide put MISD in a position to either cut programming and staffing, or pass the TRE in order to maintain the programming our district had offered for several years prior. This hot/cold type of state funding needs to be marginalized in order to stop creating this tax burden on districts and their communities.

Safety: My best answer to this question is based on my research of what is currently provided. Efforts to proactively and reactively address bullying and violence in our schools include: (1) Campus counselors provide programs such as - Olweus Bullying Prevention, Second Step, Bullying.gov, Character Education Programs like Character Counts, and Six Pillars of Character; (2) We offer student-led campus programs that allows students to actively engage in anti-bullying work which includes - PALS, Peer Mediation, and Conflict Resolution; (3) MISD has initiated Restorative Practices, 411 tip line, SRO's..

Other Issues: One of the most immediate items of interest is the completion of all initiatives from the 2016 bond. The list of initiatives is extensive, and all campuses are impacted. Another important consideration is the collaboration between the city and the district as our community continues to develop, grow, and change. Full awareness and teamwork between these two entities will ensure our community is being served well. As a school district our number one goal is the health of our students: academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Ongoing evaluation is a top priority.

McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 3

Kathi Livezey, ISD Trustee Place 3, Uncontested

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
Later responses may be on www.VOTE411.org.

McKinney ISD Trustee, Place 7, At Large

Curtis Rath, ISD Trustee Place 7, At Large



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Education: Degrees: MBA (Marketing) DePaul University, Chicago, IL BS Food Engineering Technology BS Bakery Science and Management (Chemistry) Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS Associate of Science Dodge City Community College, Dodge City, KS

Experience: Collin County Republican Party, Precinct 129 Chairman; Grassroots McKinney McKinney Tea Party, Collin County Conservative Republicans, Blogging at rathpack.me

Growth: Actually, the enrollment at McKinney ISD has not changed, since 2010. While McKinney and Frisco have had similar population growth of ~35,000 and Frisco ISD has added over 25,000 students, McKinney ISD has added just 1,350 students. Parents are choosing not to send their children to McKinney ISD. Instead, parents are homeschooling or choosing homeschooling, charter schools, private or other ISD's in McKinney. We address these issues by hiring TEACHERS, implementing PARENTAL CHOICE and establishing an OPEN, HONEST AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT.

Testing: Unfortunately, we have little say over testing requirements and are bound by state regulations and requirements. We need to focus on Hiring Teachers, developing Parental Involvement, and providing an Open, Honest and Transparent government. I have a number of programs and initiatives that will put a focus on the educational needs of the individual students, such as Magnet Schools, STEAM Academies, and Trade and Vocational facilities. We should also place an emphasis of working with our local business and citizens for Mentoring, Internships, Volunteer and Sponsorship opportunities.

Public School Finance: After dedicating nearly \$100 million for the "most expensive high school football stadium in the nation", McKinney ISD has diminished credibility, in complaining to the state about funding. We should concentrate on transforming McKinney ISD into a world-class center of academic excellence, that other districts seek to emulate. This will be achieved through initiatives based upon student needs, business/citizen participation and cooperation with neighboring ISD's.

Safety: My suggestions include the formation of a panel of Students, Teachers, Parents, Citizens and Law Enforcement Officials to develop policies and procedures for dealing with these issues. The panel should conduct public forums to hear parent and citizens concerns and recommendations. These recommendations should be formulated into policies and guidelines, that are presented to the public for additional public discussion. Based upon the public feedback, these recommendations should be presented and adopted by the district.

Other Issues: Vouchers, Charter Schools and/or Education Savings Accounts are likely to become a very hot topic in the coming years, particularly with the selection of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education. This signals a reversal of the trend for greater interference and influence of the federal government on our local education. Pew Research determined that the USA ranks in the middle of the industrial nations and an Education Week ranks Texas near the bottom. While McKinney ISD board members are complacent about McKinney ISD academic's being better than the state, I am not. This trend must be reversed.

Curtis Rippee, ISD Trustee Place 7, At Large



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Education: Bachelor of Science in Accountancy University of Missouri 1989

Experience: I have served on the MISD Board of Trustees since 2010.

Growth: The student demographics of MISD have changed over the last 15 years, but growth in students alone should not necessitate any significant shifts in how the district operates. However, one of the biggest challenges facing our district is the rapid advancement of technology and how that will impact the educational demands of the future. School as we know it will look much different in the coming years. What will become more critical is teaching students how to problem solve, think critically and creatively, while working collaboratively in an ever changing technological world.

Testing: When standardized tests are used as an evaluation tool for a teacher, campus, or district, it is only human nature to stress performance on the tests and that can have a negative impact. As long as standardized tests are a requirement, the district and the community must be committed to the philosophy that standardized tests are important but not the most important. If they continue to focus on providing quality instruction in the areas that will help our students achieve the characteristics outlined in the MISD Graduate Profile, the students will also be successful on the standardized tests.

Public School Finance: First, each district should be able to lower its Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rate without holding a Tax Ratification Election. I think an increase in the tax rate should require voter approval but a reduction in the rate should be allowed without voter approval. Second, each district receives a set amount of revenue per student for M&O. For MISD, 68% comes from local taxes and 32% from the State. However, if local tax revenue increases, state aid decreases so the district receives the same amount per student. I believe the districts should benefit from increases in local tax revenue.

Safety: Bullying has always existed, however, the advent of social media has made bullying a bigger issue in our society and in our schools. People write things while sitting at a keyboard or typing on a smart phone that they would never say to someone in person. Civil discussion and debate have become increasingly rare among adults in our society, so we should not be surprised at seeing the same behavior in our students. I believe that the only way to truly eliminate the issues of bullying and violence is to foster a culture where bullying behavior is not tolerated among adults or students.

Other Issues: The possibility of school vouchers or "Education Savings Accounts" could undermine the quality of public education. I understand and support the concept of school choice and the idea that competition can be good. Students in McKinney have a choice today of public school, private school, home school or even charter school. However, parents of over 24,000 students have chosen public education in McKinney and MISD is responsible for educating all children regardless of ability or status. Transferring funds from public schools to entities not held to the same standards would be detrimental.

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