



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

June 10, 2017
Local Runoff Election
McKinney

Early voting: May 30 – June 6

Election Day: June 10 – 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).

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 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 City Council, District 1

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

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.

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.

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.

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