



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

June 10, 2017
Local Runoff Election
Plano

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.

Plano City Council

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

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?

Plano City Council, Place 2

Ann Bacchus, City Council Place 2



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Education: Bachelor of Administration Studies, York University. J.D. Texas Wesleyan School of Law now part of Texas A & M

Experience: My experience as a family lawyer and volunteer with the Genesis Women Shelter, Salvation Army and Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program have provided me with the experience and skills to bring people together to achieve results that work for all of Plano

Infrastructure: Expand mass transit options within Plano. Commission a special study to include re-engineering how our streets are initially installed and how we do repairs. Commission a traffic study to look at traffic patterns and light sequencing. Provide citizens a way to report dangerous potholes and give the city a way to provide a rapid response team. Plan with DART to allow free rides from stations within Plano to Down Town Plano. Renegotiate the current agreement with NTMWD. Push the State to complete additional reservoir projects.

Housing: We must manage growth to ensure that a bigger Plano is also a better Plano. We must plan for this growth, carefully balancing increases in density with open spaces and other amenities to ensure that property value and quality of life remain high. Most importantly we must ensure that this growth creates opportunity for our residents at all socio-economic levels.

Budget: The city continues to have an overall tax rate that is below the maximum allowable, but assessed value increases are tax increases. I would like to see cities in Texas have the ability to create a much larger rainy day fund. Create a fixed valuation/property tax freeze for our senior citizens that are on a low, fixed budget. We need more transparency budgeting process. Bond issues need to be explained better with regard to their overall impact on the city's budget, and the obligation of each citizen over the pay-back period.

Other Issues: Three most important issues are Redevelopment, Housing and Mobility. Continued demographic and density changes in Plano are causing citizen concern. This concern has come out in many difficult public hearings with regard to apartments and increasing density. Plano has always had some portion of its population that locates here for shorter periods of time, due, in part, to the nature of the businesses that have located in North Texas. We need to ensure that the education, safety, and economic lifeblood of this town is maintained as we continue to grow and get more diverse.

Anthony Ricciardelli, City Council Place 2



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Education: University of Texas School of Law, 2009 (Townes-Rice Scholar; full merit scholarship)/University of Texas—Austin, 2006 (Honors)/Plano Senior High School, 2002 (National Merit Scholar)/PISD schools K-12 (Christie/Saigling, Haggard, Vines, PSHS)

Experience: Recognized as “Rising Star” in TX legal community two years in a row/Argued in TX Supreme Court and US 5th Circuit Court of Appeals/Vice Chair, Plano Heritage Commission (fmr)/Regional Board of Advisors, Joni and Friends (int’l disability ministry)

Infrastructure: Any discussion of infrastructure is inextricably linked with density, as the overbuilding of apartments threatens to overburden our existing infrastructure. When we build more densely than our infrastructure allows, we can expect to see overcrowding of roads and schools. In addition to stopping the overbuilding of apartments, solving Plano’s traffic problems will require technological innovation. The City is already working on resyncing traffic lights to better manage traffic patterns. Construction of the proposed Lower Bois d’Arc Creek Reservoir could help meet Plano’s water needs.

Housing: Senior housing is a pressing issue. Plano’s population is aging. Many seniors want to remain in the homes in which they have lived for decades. We must facilitate this. Some seniors, however, would like to downsize while remaining in Plano. Senior housing can provide this opportunity and is an attractive housing type because it is low-impact and does not contribute to school overcrowding. Enabling seniors who want to downsize to move out of older, sometimes lower-priced homes will afford first-time homebuyers the opportunity to buy these homes – thereby helping with housing affordability.

Budget: The two things that concern me most about the City’s finances are (1) property tax increases and the concomitant growth of the City’s operating budget and (2) transparency issues reflected in the classification of more than \$30M – almost 10% of the City’s operating budget – as “miscellaneous.” The property tax burden on the average Plano home has increased 28.4% in the past three years. If elected, I will vote to enact the effective tax rate – a mechanism that lowers the tax rate commensurate to the increase in property valuations to avoid increasing the amount of taxes collected – for 2018.

Other Issues: The overbuilding of high-density apartments is the most critical issue facing Plano today. Some schools have already become overcrowded. I recently talked with an elementary school teacher who has 28 students in her class due to overcrowding caused by a nearby high-density development (the limit is supposed to be 22). Traffic is already a major issue and Plano’s director of engineering has stated that we cannot build our way out of it, as most of our major arterials are already three lanes in each direction. Due to traffic, EMS response times are not meeting goals. We need smarter growth.

Plano City Council, Place 8

David L. Downs, City Council Place 8



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Education: Bachelors of Science in Finance, CFP, ChFC, CLU, CASL, RICP

Experience: Plano City Council, P&Z Commission, Parks & Rec Board, Leadership Plano, Plano Youth Leadership, City House, Art Centre of Plano, BSA, Collin College Educ Fndtn, Collin County Healthcare Fndtn Adv Brd., CASA; Plano Citizens Police Academy and more.

Infrastructure: Using a "pay as you go" system, Plano's done a great job keeping debt burden low on citizens and businesses, allowing us to focus more of our revenue on services. As we are retiring older higher interest debt it makes financial sense to take advantage of the current low rate environment to fund major renovations of our roads and public works. Thanks to a AAA Bond Rating we are able to do so in a cost effective manner. Regional growth means a renewed focus on water conservation as well as greater access to mass transit options. Regional coordination will be required to address these issues,

Housing: Council's role should be focused on maintaining high standards for new development and a continued emphasis on revitalization in our older communities. Due to the great quality of life we have to offer, demand for jobs and housing in Plano has never been higher. Unfortunately for those with lower incomes it means ever fewer opportunities for affordable housing, however the City has approved many Senior Living developments in the past few years. Promoting revitalization in our aging neighborhoods is the best way to maintain at least some level of affordable housing in the city.

Budget: We are fortunate to have very talented management on staff in our budgeting department. Our process is setting standards for transparency around the state. I'm concerned that even with that information there is sometimes a voice indicating the City is somehow being wasteful despite having one of the lowest per capita debt burdens in North Texas. We are good stewards with every tax dollar paid by our citizens and are using current high levels of income to reduce debt, pay for our infrastructure and build a reserve in preparation for the rainy day we all know will eventually come.

Other Issues: In the next few years we will experience a normal cyclical slowdown economically. That event will see us suffer significant drops in sales tax revenues and potentially dramatic declines in property tax revenues as well. If we want to maintain the high level of services Plano is known for we must plan now by continuing to be ever more efficient in our delivery methods and in our work to build and repair while we can. Additionally, many of our fantastic staff at the City are at or nearing retirement age and we must find/train quality replacements to continue as a City of Excellence.

Rick Smith, City Council Place 8



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Education: Undergraduate Degree in Journalism, Northeast Louisiana University

Experience: - Over 40 years' private sector business experience - Local business owner in Plano for the last 22 years - Volunteer with numerous community groups - Graduate, Plano Citizens Academy - 2016 - HOA Board Member and Crime Watch Coordinator

Infrastructure: I will work with other City Council members to curtail zoning changes that allow development of high density apartment complexes that increase traffic congestion and public safety response times. Street repairs should be prioritized and City engineering should continue work on updating our traffic signal timing to improve vehicle flow during peak travel hours. We also need to ensure that we have an adequate water supply for the foreseeable future. Additional water supplies such as the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir must continue to be developed.

Housing: We need to encourage development of smaller senior friendly homes that will allow our seniors to have a viable place to live as they choose to downsize. Since a majority of seniors in Plano own their own home they could sell their existing residence and purchase one of the more efficient "senior adapted" ones. Our seniors would have a smaller more livable home with low to no maintenance. Once their original residences are on the market it would provide additional inventory for those wanting to purchase single family homes in Plano.

Budget: There are only two essential services that the City should be concentrating on – Public Safety and Infrastructure. All other budget items are discretionary. By prioritizing these two service areas we should be able to adopt an Effective Tax Rate. For the past five years, the City has not adopted an Effective Tax Rate. This has caused its taxpayers to have higher property tax bills than necessary. I will be a proponent for adopting an Effective Tax Rate thereby lowering the financial burden on our taxpayers.

Other Issues: Land use and taxation. I am a strong proponent of keeping intact the suburban qualities that attracted many of us to Plano. We must not allow the last 6% of developable land in Plano to be turned into huge high density apartment complexes. Our infrastructure is currently near capacity and we cannot support the addition of 30 – 40 thousand more apartment residents. We also don't want the tax increases that would be necessary to provide essential services for developments. On the contrary we need to adopt an Effective Tax Rate to lower the amount of property taxes our homeowners pay.

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