



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

February 18, 2017

Special Election

Frisco City Council Place 1

Early voting: February 1 – 14

Election Day: February 18 – 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. 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.

Frisco City Council, Place 1

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.

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?

Brandon Burden



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Education: Bachelor of Business Studies (May 2017) -Leadership Frisco Class XVI (June 2013)

Experience: Business Strategist for Fortune 5000 and Small Businesses - Strategic Business Development for EpicPay -CFO of Basco Group, LLC -Member of the Frisco Chamber of Commerce -Member of the Board of Directors of KingdomLife International

Infrastructure: I support reducing the projected urban density in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan city by at least 25%. I do not believe we have the infrastructure in place to support the 375,000 population the plan calls for. Plano, which is almost at maximum residential build out, is leveling off at around 280,000 residents. With slightly less land mass than Plano, I believe Frisco must do the same. I support the widening of 380 as much as possible to alleviate traffic on our northern boundary, and I also support the widening of 423. I also support opening up new avenues for water beyond Lake Lavon.

Housing: I believe Frisco can do more to serve seniors and low income residents. Creating more developments like Frisco Lakes and Parkview would be a blessing to our seniors. Unfortunately, there's not a lot of choice for low income residents, even though Frisco has multitudes of mixed use developments going in all over the place. The starting rent on some of these new units is \$2,000, which is not only out of range for some seniors and low income families; it is also out of range for our younger population as well. I think Frisco needs to offer more affordable housing than it is currently doing.

Budget: What concerns me the most about the city's finances is the amount of financial incentives the EDC keeps giving out. The EDC gave out over \$600 million in incentives to the \$5 billion mile project. My feeling is that these businesses would have come here and developed anyway. Why are we giving away all this money? Why isn't this money going into more infrastructure to support the 375,000 population that the city is predicting? My main concern is with the lack of infrastructure in the budget to support our continuing rate of growth.

Other Issues: I think that water will continue to be one of the most important issues that will continue to come before Council. I also think that relieving traffic congestion will become a major issue. I also think we're going to have a fight on our hands as to what the remaining 50% of Frisco's build out is supposed to look like. Some are advocating for a Dallas-type city. Others are advocating for a Suburban-type city. We're in a tug of war because the 2015 Comprehensive Plan calls for a half urban/half suburban city. I think Council has its work cut out for it deciding what the future will look like.

John Keating



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Education : Bachelor of Science, Mass Communication, 1997 -- Towson University, Towson, Maryland; Associate in Applied Science, Criminal Justice, 1990 -- Central Texas College, Killeen, Texas

Experience: 1982-1995, US Army Senior Counterintelligence Agent, Desert Shield/Desert Storm veteran; 1990-2006, Registered Principal, Keating Financial Services; 2010, Elected to Frisco City Council; 2013, Re-elected; 2015, Elected Mayor Pro Tem by City Council

Infrastructure: The City of Frisco has done well developing a quality road system. We have established thoroughfares to ease traffic, and we expand sidewalks and hike/bike trails as part of our master plan. We must look 3-5 years "down the road" as development expands in our northern area, as to how it will impact our resources. We should continue to sell our voter-approved road bonds before others, while construction costs remain competitive. I also support recent efforts by Frisco (as a member city of North Texas Municipal Water District) to expedite progress of the Bois D'Arc reservoir in Fannin County.

Housing: Over the last ten years, Frisco has grown from a quiet farm town to a city of thousands of young families. We also have thriving populations of retirees, teens, empty nesters, and young professionals. City leadership must allow the free market to work, while remaining focused on the needs and interests of all of those demographic clusters. We must ensure we are providing relevant services, jobs and consumer opportunities. This will lead to different price points and diversity of housing product, to naturally meet the demand of Frisco residents.

Budget: I am most concerned with continuing to keep Frisco's amenities high, while keeping our tax rate low. In every endeavor, I serve the hardworking Frisco taxpayers who fund all levels of city government. As Collin and Denton Counties continue to grow, our fiscal responsibility will become increasingly important to Texas as a whole. It is critical Frisco stands steadfast against reckless and irresponsible fiscal policies. Working with the Mayor, my fellow Council members, our city staff, and our residents, I will continue to promote long-term responsible leadership to keep our city strong.

Other Issues: We need to protect our economic development tools! While any city would love to boost about \$1 billion dollars in development, Frisco has over \$5 billion in projects underway. Our city is fortunate to have state-authorized 4A/4B Economic Development (EDC) and Community Development Corporations (CDC), which allow us to reinvest sales tax revenue into city development. These entities have been a strong source of public funding for our growth, while allowing us to keep our tax rates competitive. Frisco's EDC and CDC provide the foundation for our successful public-private partnerships.

Stacy Plummer



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Education: Metropolitan State University of Denver, BS Political Science, Minor Military Affairs United States Air Force Academy New Mexico Military Institute

Experience: Community volunteer, swim instructor, marketing, retail buying and store management

Infrastructure: If the we move forward with the 2015 Comprehensive Plan, the Type B tax of a .5% sales tax (19m LY) would need to be approved to transfer funding to public transportation including light rail. The last study from 2008 is no longer current, needs and cost projections must be reassessed. It does not appear that public spaces (schools) are synchronized with the urban and mixed-use area increase. I do not fully support the plan as presented. If this is the path the city of Frisco elects to take, it will put further pressure on our water resources. Population below 370,000 projection is necessary.

Housing: I generally agree with the City's efforts to support affordable home ownership and rental options for families that work in Frisco. Use of FCDB Grants, other funding source, \$1 per capita to fund social services and housing rehabilitation. Waivers for all permit fees to non-profit developers and purchase and donation of lots should be continued in order to spur affordable housing development. Low income housing can be added in a way to fit the needs of the citizens without diminishing any aesthetics to existing neighborhoods. I support The City's tax exemption for elderly and disabled.

Budget: I approve of the drop in tax rate to .45. As revenues increase through additional sales and property tax receipts, it is important to pay down debt and add to our reserve fund in order to protect against any potential market downtrends. Frisco maintains a balanced budget with half its general funds going to public safety. The largest increase to the budget for 2017 is 25 members to the police department. The city employees are an incredible asset. We must continue to make Frisco a competitive employer to attract talent and prevent turnover. Support technology for more efficient processes.

Other Issues: Currently 40% of Frisco remains undeveloped. The 2015 Comprehensive Plan calls for large urban and mixed neighborhood increases without commensurate increases in public spaces. We must manage growth during this time of inflated construction costs and land values. As population reaches build out, I would recommend asking the voters to change the current City Council structure to adjust to a district style city government. This 4 district and 3 additional council seats proposal would be a better way for city residents to have representatives that understand their positions and needs.

John Redmond



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Education: University of Illinois - Urbana BS - Business Administration/Marketing

Experience: None provided

Infrastructure: Infrastructure is roadways, power and water. But in this town...it is roads, roads, roads! Our surface streets are struggling to handle the current traffic loads. I want to make sure that we are prepared to handle the current 'growing pains' with a mindful eye on the future. It is a delicate balance to ensure the best (and proper) use of capital in the moment. I expect Frisco to be a regional leader and a good partner with our neighbors with regards to water and power.

Housing: Apologetically, Frisco is an upper, middle class suburb. There is currently diverse housing stock within the city limits. The current desire to pivot towards a more 'urban' locale with lots of multi-family housing is not the direction I would support for Frisco. With assessed property values and taxes where they are...the challenge will be managing the burden we will be placing on the current citizens of Frisco. I believe there is high quality independent, assisted or nursing home facilities for seniors...and if we need more, we should look to the zoning ordinances

Budget: I am not a financial analyst or accountant, so leveraging my business experiences and common sense to stand on fiscally conservative principles will be key in my role as a city councilman. A balanced budget is necessary. Digging into the nearly 400 pages of the budget, I trust that the City Manager and staff have allocated their funds appropriately. My only concern is one of size and scale. Are we managing our resources in the most efficient manner possible? Do we have the best and brightest talent in the right role? Are our capital expenditures truly necessary and valuable to the city?

Other Issues: The primary challenge I see are the changes in culture and the "family first" values Frisco was built upon. I am proud to live in Frisco and want some of that 'country charm' we fell in love with to remain. I also note our public safety and health. We have world-class services in both our fire and police departments and exceptionally low crime rates. Can we sustain that going forward investing in personnel, training, facilities, and equipment? Finally, will fiscally conservative leadership manage our debt going forward...

Dan Stricklin



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Education: BSBM-University of Phoenix MBA-University of Phoenix

Experience: Dan believes in a strong economy and understands the challenges faced by other Business Owners. He knows how to run a company and has been the founder of a successful startup. Dan is a veteran and served in the United States Marine Corps.

Infrastructure: As a City Councilman, one of my top priorities is making sure Frisco is prepared for the future by keeping a close watch over our cities infrastructure. Our population will continue to grow significantly for the next decade so I will be proactively working to make sure traffic congestion is minimal, water service is uninterrupted and we are using the latest technology to care for our city while reducing costs.

Housing: There has recently been an influx of multi-family housing into Frisco which provides housing for all demographics. For seniors, Frisco needs to continue to provide accessible amenities such as parks and green areas.

Budget: The budget needs to be continually revised and expenditures kept in check so our city does not have to keep increasing our bond debt.

Other Issues: Many voters have expressed their opinions regarding the rapid urbanization of Frisco, as a Councilman, I am committed to making sure the citizens of Frisco's voice is being heard in City Hall.

Hal Thomas

No photo
provided

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Education: Mediator Training, Advanced Management Program - Wharton, Juris Doctor, BS Law, BS Electrical Engineering & Associates;

Experience: 30+ years corporate management; mobile broadband industry, wireless telecommunications; Professional services sector, 9x awarded entrepreneur; international operations manager; Leadership provided for 2500+ team, 300+ vendors, \$400Million+ revenue

Infrastructure: First, make infrastructure a high priority, recruit local volunteer experience to contribute to correcting and defining strategic objectives and workable plans for infrastructure; to collaborate with adjacent authorities in the 380 corridor to create a 380 Corridor transportation and water solution independent of DART and complementary to the regional infrastructure plans, and seek to gain wide scale voter support to petition the Texas Legislature to pass legislation to allow the collaborative efforts to build local solutions.

Housing: I support local strategies without Federal Funding through block grants; I support local solutions that are sustainable and durable. I support finding ways to impose luxury convenience and use fees on Urban Living developments to fund necessary expenses attributed to adverse impacts to the community resulting from the extensive allocation of UL within Frisco. I believe the City Council can provide leadership and actions to better define requirements to make Frisco attractive to broad spectrum jobs, encourage supply chain development and attract more housing development to support this work.

Budget: I am concerned about the level of future commitments for use of funds like the 1% sales tax commitment to CDC and EDC; the TIRZ obligations of tax reinvestment into such a limited area of Frisco and the Exide remediation obligations; which, in my opinion, are essentially additional long term debt on the economy and residents of Frisco. I would like to see key performance indicators required of every department; new efficiency goals established to reduce cycle times and overall cost per task to deliver services; revised staffing plans to build diversity in every department.

Other Issues: I believe we are over regulated and susceptible to challenges that could distract time and money best spent elsewhere. We have not yet resolved the county divide which is deepening and will make infrastructure growth more challenging. We must find workable solutions to recruit manufacturing and service jobs to Frisco. We must find a better alternative to building a local economy based on service staff commuting into Frisco. I believe we must align our thinking to accomplish the desires of the community to build a resilient and durable community where families want to live, work and play.

Damon Vinci



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Education: Graduated high school in 1994. Various industry specific training. Some college courses. Certified Information Systems Security Professional

Experience: Over 20 years working in Information Technology, primarily in infrastructure, but more recently in Information Security

Infrastructure: The first thing that is needed is a light re-timing and traffic flow analysis. There is no flow at the rush hours, especially in the mornings when the school zones are active. I also think we need to revisit the option of joining DART and building light rail into Dallas and DFW. For water, conservation efforts need to be continued and expanded and the education of the citizens about conservation also needs to continue. We will also need to work with the communities in the NTMWD to build more reservoirs where possible.

Housing: I think that one possible solution would be to limit the amount that rents can go up in one year. Similar to how the property taxes are capped with the homestead and senior exemptions. There would be income, age and/or family requirements for this exemption, but we need to ensure that our low income working class families and seniors aren't priced out of their homes.

Budget: I'd like to see our debt number get lower.

Other Issues: Traffic and congestion will be the biggest issue, which I've highlighted above. Infrastructure issues, like water, power and internet access, will also be a challenge with the growth rate that we are experiencing. We have to get ahead of the resource constraints before we are overwhelmed by them and become a less popular place to live, work and build businesses.

Stanley Wang

No photo
provided

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Education: Ph.D., Chemical Engineering, Yale University; One-year full-time study at Dallas Theological Seminary.

Experience: 14 years in financial industry, 8 years in scientific research. Currently working as a data scientist at Intuit.

Infrastructure: The city has been doing this just fine. I would support a continuation of the past effort, matching the population growth expectations

Housing: We need to limit the high-density and multi-family housing because both the city and FISC are under tremendous financial stress. For the quality of life and education, I prefer single-family housing and limit the subsidized housing for low-income residents.

Budget: Rapid growth of debt. The city should seriously consider budget control and its spending plans. Please see my website for details.

Other Issues: Debt growth and high cost associated with refinancing the existing debt. For detailed presentation of my views, please visit my website.

Khurram Warach

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

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