



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

**May 5, 2018
Local Election
Allen**

Early voting: April 23 – May 1

Election Day Polls: May 5 – 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.

This guide is available online at www.lwvcollin.org, along with guides for other offices that include all or part of Collin County. Candidate responses for all races are also available at www.VOTE411.org, where you can enter an address and view a personalized ballot with races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates for each office, whether or not the race is contested. Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response received" is printed. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This Voters Guide is organized by office sought, with candidates listed in alphabetical order.

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

Allen City Council

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

Questions

Growth: How should the City Council best balance the growth of the city with the concerns of residents regarding congestion?

Property taxes: What adjustments should be made, if any, to property taxes?

Demographics: How are the city's demographics changing, and what adjustments are needed to city planning? What, if any, plans are needed for affordable housing?

Vision: What is your vision for the city in 10 years, and what steps are needed to get there?

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?

Uncontested

Even though your race is not contested this time, please share with voters your priorities for the next term and how you will address them.

Kurt Kizer
Allen City Council, Place 1
Uncontested



Email: kkizer@sbcglobal.net

Education: BBA Accounting, Baylor University MBA, Baylor University

Experience: Financial professional with experience in banking, insurance, consulting and investments

Uncontested: With the efforts of my fellow councilmembers, I hope to continue to make Allen a great place to live, work and play.

Lauren Doherty
Allen City Council, Place 3



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Education: Princeton University, BA in Astrophysics

Experience: Management Consulting, Financial Analysis, President of Beverly Elementary PTA, CASA for CASA of Collin County, President or Board Member of Multiple Volunteer and Nonprofit Organizations

Growth: A common concern among our residents is unchecked population growth. There are still many areas that are ripe for development and many of those already under development are being built up with higher density residences. City council should work with developers to create more gathering spaces for the community. The more we offer, the more united our city will become. When I am elected I vow to listen to the residents about how they want to see Allen in the future. Allen has the right of self determination and our first responsibility is to our current residents and their quality of life.

Property taxes: The city has been lowering their portion of the residential tax bill every year. We are able to do so because property values are rising. We can continue to lower them incrementally while also thinking creatively about the services we offer. We might think about ways to beautify neighborhoods without HOAs, plant more trees, or purchase more open land.

Demographics: The city of Allen has certainly become a more diverse community as the surrounding county has brought in more companies from other states and countries. These new residents have the same rights to feel comfortable and welcome as any of the existing residents. It is the duty of City Council to ensure it. Fortunately, I think our residents DO feel comfortable in Allen. There is no one definition of an Allen, Texas resident. My main goal would be to maintain the atmosphere of inclusion and welcome.

Vision: In ten years Allen will be a gem among its neighboring cities in Collin County. Allen will lead in environmental stewardship, infrastructure, and quality of life. We must focus on creating a clean environment by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. We should incentivize builders to use sustainable building practices. We should reduce our water usage, by using native landscaping. We should leave

land undeveloped to create more green spaces. We should also increase our cultural offerings, from museums to more places of worship. We will have a welcoming atmosphere for new arrivals!

Other Issues: We still have the opportunity to create a unique downtown area that embodies the style and culture of Allen. Perhaps a walking district connected to our renowned Allen Station Park on the North and our Heritage Village on the South. The older homes in Allen's Central Business District will continue to be repurposed into offices and retail, with developers filling in the surrounding land with classic looking storefronts and restaurants. Like Watters Creek, this walking district would become a gathering center for the residents and the surrounding communities.

Luke Hollingsworth
Allen City Council, Place 3



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Education: Bachelor of Arts

Experience: I served for about two years on the Public Arts Committee and on the Planning and Zoning Commission for over three years both in Allen. I have also severed in different capacities within our PTA board.

Growth: I believe that we need to have responsible growth with housing and businesses on the remaining available land here in Allen. That being said, residents are who the city council represents and if they aren't listening to the residents, then they need to be voted out of office. Communication and education are always the best option and should be the first step in any situation. I believe there is always a solution and that doing something because we have or haven't done it in the past is not a reason to do so again.

Property taxes: The city is just a little over 20% of the total property taxes taken, which is three times smaller than the one above it. I think there is always a reason to evaluate taxes and find creative ways to save the residents money. At the same time, it is the City Council's job to continue providing the same level of service and security that the residents of Allen have become accustomed to over the years. The City Council has found creative ways to lower taxes for over 20 consecutive years, and I would like to continue that if elected.

Demographics: I believe the city council has already begun the process to create more affordable housing with the apartments that have been built or are being built. Along with some of the new mixed-use properties, I believe Allen is headed in the right direction. This will of course need to be continuously evaluated going forward. Allen has had a shortage of hourly work force for years and as it continues to grow, that need will only continue to grow. Allen needs to prepare for an influx of much-needed young professionals who will need affordable housing as they begin their careers.

Vision: We need to have our 6th fire station completed and fully staffed along with looking at the possibility of increasing staffing at the current stations. This would help move us to from ISO 2 to ISO 1, which would be a cost savings. Additionally we need to complete the Rowlett Creek Park Rec. and Athletic Center. This will be accomplished with various partnerships and the continued support of residents. We also need to continue to look at public transportation options for all residents, which will take some creativity to make it fit into the small-town Allen feel.

Other Issues: I think we need to have competitive and fair pay for all city employees from top to bottom, and I think that starts with finding a way to pay our officers and firefighters as top tier vs. average or below other area cities. The level of service that both of these organizations provide residents deserve that level of pay. This can be accomplished by educating residents and what an average cost per household would look like on an annual basis. Allen has prime real estate available to create some significant projects, but we have a duty to ensure it is what Allen residents want.

Shirley Mangrum
Allen City Council, Place 3



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Education: Leadership Allen Graduate, Graduate of REALTOR Institute, Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR)

Experience: Small Business Owner in Allen - Ebby Halliday Realtor, 2007 - 2017
Allen Planning and Zoning Commission, 2006 - Present, Allen Public Safety Recovery Fund, and 2008 - 2009 - Allen Rotary Club President

Growth: The City of Allen comprehensive plan provides an opportunity to balance and diversify the community's land uses for current and future residents, and create high quality, distinctive places. It is very important we continue to balance

our growth as we continue to build out. We will need to manage the traffic congestion by prioritizing the impact of traffic delays within our transportation planning. For example, improve intersections with dedicated right turn lanes, implement better traffic signal alignment for traffic to flow and expand our sidewalks and hike/bike trails.

Property taxes: For 24 years, the City of Allen has lowered the tax rate. As a suburb, our tax base has historically been based on residential. With 70% of the vacant land in Allen designated for commercial purposes, we need to increase our commercial tax base over the next several years. The work of the Allen Economic Development Corporation in providing incentives for companies to invest in Allen is critical for tax base efforts. I will continue this tradition of keeping Allen's amenities high, while keeping our tax rate low.

Demographics: Demographics in Allen have certainly changed in the last twenty years. One of the challenging demographic changes Allen has been experiencing is the increased number of seniors moving into the area. We are seeing a trend of the grandparents moving to be closer to the grandchildren. We need to create opportunities for developers to meet the needs of active senior living, beyond traditional apartments. It is important that we continue to attract developers who can build affordable housing for all people who wish to live the quality of life in Allen.

Vision: As we look to complete our build out of our community over the next 10 years, my vision is to see quality commercial projects, especially on Sam Rayburn Tollway and at the 121/75 corridor, great parks and a city where people will want to continue to live and raise their families. To obtain this, it is imperative that the City Council continues to work with City staff, land owners and developers to create these projects as well as having vibrant working opportunities and entertainment options.

Other Issues: I believe the most important issues for the City of Allen in the coming years will be primarily growth. We will need to focus on bringing quality commercial development along Sam Rayburn Tollway. We must aggressively manage our Tollway corridor by working with land owners and developers to create a vibrant working and entertainment corridor. We will also need to focus on the development of our Central Business District and infill development in our established neighborhoods. By bringing quality commercial development to Allen, it will help us remain as one of the best cities to live and work.

Gary Caplinger
Allen City Council, Place 5
Uncontested

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
Later responses may be on www.vote411.org.

Allen ISD Trustee

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

Questions

Vision: What is your vision for the district in 5 years, and what steps are needed to get there?

The whole child: What should your district do beyond academics, if anything, to better prepare students with career and life skills?

Finance: Given the current school finance system, what actions are needed to ensure a high quality education for every student?

Accessibility: What methods should be used to provide clear communication channels to/from the school board?

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

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?

Sarah Mitchell
Allen ISD Trustee, Place 1



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Education: Bachelor of Nutrition and Food Science, Auburn University; Registered and Licensed Dietitian

Experience: Leadership Allen ISD Academy; Top 25 Women In Business Award; Children's and Community Health Clinic Board Chair; Foundation for Allen Schools Board; Texas PTA Lifetime Member Award; Metroplex Aquatics Board; School Health Advisory Committee

Vision: My vision of Allen ISD is where students are excited about coming to school and easily see the relevance of their education. Our district obviously has many opportunities for students to discover their talents and explore their options, but more can always be done. We need to continue to cultivate an environment where learning requires a component of innovation that drives instruction forward. Using the latest technologies and encouraging "outside the box" thinking, we can explore ways to introduce content in innovative ways that inspire, excite and educate our students.

The whole child: Our students will be building their futures in a diverse, global marketplace. In addition to the broad range of Career Pathways education and certifications already offered at AHS, we need to develop a strong culture of inclusion and work to instill broad communication skills. Educating the whole child means being mindful of their physical, social, and emotional well-being in addition to their academic curriculum. AISD must work in partnership with families to help children develop the knowledge and skills to keep themselves physically fit, emotionally strong, and socially engaged.

Finance: Our top fiscal priorities must be supporting Allen's extraordinary teaching staff with sufficient resources to do their jobs, fair compensation for their work, and strong advocacy for financial reform from the State. Allen ISD has reduced the local tax rate by 10 cents in the past 5 years, but we know that is far less than the increase taxpayers see due to property value increases. We must continue the work of lowering the tax rate while collaborating with public and private partners to maximize taxpayer value.

Accessibility: The Allen ISD Board operates with tremendous online transparency. Meetings are televised with all agendas and materials available from the district website and each trustee has a public email account. That said, there is no

substitute for face time. I plan to continue my volunteer work both in the schools and throughout the community so that my sense of the district is formed by direct interactions with students, teachers, and taxpayers. Trustees need to have a visible, impactful presence.

Safety: Schools can keep students safe by providing an environment where students are secure both from physical harm and emotional toxicities as well as being nourished by environmental assets such as connections to caring teachers and students. The most effective approaches combine the following elements: promotion (a welcoming environment and supports for social-emotional learning), prevention (positive behavioral interventions and supports bullying prevention) and early intervention when students appear to be at risk (students who have poor attendance or display problem behavior).

Other Issues: Keeping pace with growth in Allen continues to be a challenge. Allen ISD will increase instruction options with the upcoming opening of the STEAM Center and expanded partnership with Collin College. I hope to continue creating innovative ways like these to manage growth. In the next year or two, the district will most likely convene a community group to look at facility needs – primarily updating older campuses to maintain parity. I will prioritize staging projects to maintain a flat, if not decreasing tax rate.

Wayne Terrell
Allen ISD Trustee, Place 1



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Education: Allen High School, Class of 1990, Texas A&M University, Class of 1994
- Business Analysis and Information Systems

Experience: VP Communications Allen Band Board, Escadrille Photographer, Principal Tuba - Allen Community Band, Former Escadrille Member, Former Allen Yearbook Editor, Former Allen Broadcast Producer, Allen High Alumni, Moved to Allen in 1986

Vision: Amazing things are happening in the Allen ISD, and the future looks bright! In the next 5 years, we will be completing the new STEAM Center, Lowery Freshman Center, and Collin College site. Our next focus will be to find ways we can

alleviate overcrowding at the high school as a large bubble moves through the lower schools and will briefly push us over capacity. Most importantly, we need to focus on security to keep our Students safe. Students need smart badges in order to verify their ability to be on campus. The days of a picture on a lanyard with visual identification will no longer work.

The whole child: I am excited with our new facilities starting to take shape and becoming available to our Students. The Collin College Technical campus will give Students the opportunity to become engaged beyond our traditional pathways of today. Along with the STEAM center, we will be able to expand our number of Professional Certifications provided currently, as well as increase the number of students accepted into those programs. Finishing High School with not only an Associate's Degree, but also a Professional Certification or Trade, provides our Students with an amazing advantage and unlimited potential.

Finance: Financing will continue to be a struggle with the State of Texas continuing to tighten funding to us. Fortunately, we have a great City and Community that continues to support us in the form of Bond Elections or other donations when needed. The current Board has done a great job keeping their promise in reducing the tax burden for our homeowners after these bonds. I am a big supporter of continuing to reduce the Tax Rate as homeowners have been hit hard over the years. With already great facilities in place, we can focus more on the Teachers so they can continue to focus on the Students.

Accessibility: As the Communications VP for the Allen Band Boosters, I have learned you must use a variety of communication channels to reach both Parents and Students. This especially holds true as technology continues to evolve and our young people embrace the newer applications, even as parents continue to stay in their comfort zone. We as a District must also evolve and utilize all communications channels available to us. I am also a big proponent of public involvement and feedback. We need to encourage dialog and make it easy for citizens to reach out to the Board, even if anonymous as all is important.

Safety: At our High School where we have 5000 Students trying to make it to class on time, or needing to go to travel to other campuses, safety becomes more of a challenge. Student's badges need to work the same way as the Teacher's ID's. They need to have a chip that can be turned on or off based on the accessibility needs of the Student. Scanning the badge can activate a revolving door, a turnstile, or even a red/green light. Armed security is also important and needs to be a visible presence. Teachers with guns is not the answer. We also need Social Counselors to work with troubled Students

Other Issues: In the next few years my focus areas include the Success of the Students, Needs of the Teachers, Responsibility to the Taxpayers, and the Transparency of the District. Teachers who are free to do what they do best are able to engage their Students and make them excited about learning. Removing unnecessary burdens along the way and providing them with the best technology, working environments, and a support framework is critical for Teacher empowerment which leads to Student success. Security will be the most important issue to be addressed, as we must keep evil out of our schools.

Neil Fonville
Allen ISD Trustee, Place 2

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
Later responses may be on www.vote411.org.

David W. Noll
Allen ISD Trustee, Place 2



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Education: Austin College - Bachelor of Arts, International Economics & Business/
Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

Experience: David Noll has worked in the public accounting industry for over 10 years, serving a variety of clients. He currently serves on the Allen ISD Board; as well as, other local committees.

Vision: My vision is to execute the five-year strategic plan which will set our students and staff up for long-term success. This entails expanding educational opportunities for our students and professional learning for our staff. The steps needed to achieve this vision is through continued partnership with our students, staff, parents and community; as well as, maintaining a strong financial plan for the district and by providing adequate taxpayer transparency.

The whole child: In today's changing work environment and the age of digitization, students need to develop strong communication and problem-solving skills. The next generation must innovate like technologists, think like entrepreneurs and act like social agents. I believe education and businesses should consider strengthening their partnerships; in order, to better prepare the upcoming students for the challenges that await them. Allen ISD is building a STEAM Center, upgrading their technology infrastructure, and implementing blended learning which will provide students with 21st century skills.

Finance: The district has received numerous accolades for strong financial stewardship of the district's resources and transparency with our stakeholders. We continue to maintain a healthy general fund balance. Also, we seize opportunities to

lower the tax rate and decrease the original bond obligations. As we move into the future, we need to uphold this type of strong financial discipline at the local level. Working in collaboration with state legislators, we need to be advocates for a sustainable state funding vehicle where taxpayers are not bearing the majority of the education burden.

Accessibility: Transparency between the board and all stakeholders requires purposeful and intentional communication to and from the school board. This school year, we started the Allen ISD Leadership Academy to provide an opportunity for our community to learn more about our school district. We will continue to make the board meetings available to all stakeholders through live broadcast of the meetings or recordings to be viewed later. We will continue to utilize and expand our social media footprint as a way for stakeholders and the board to communicate with one another.

Safety: It is important we are pro-active in our communication with our students, staff and parents of the district resources available and in place to provide the safest environment possible for both students and staff. Two such resources utilized in the district are Be the ONE, a character education program and tip411, an anonymous tip program. It is imperative that strong partnerships and relationships are developed between all stakeholders to create an environment of trust and safety which will encourage a pro-active approach to bullying/violence and conflict resolution.

Other Issues: Two of the most important issues I believe our district will face over the next few years will be to ensure that students are equipped with the skill sets to be successful in the ever-changing job market and to provide cutting edge education with the stress of continuing to fund it. We will need to be intentional in our forward thinking on what and how we expand educational opportunities for our students and staff. We will need to work together to find a sustainable vehicle to fund future education endeavors to ensure students and staff are setup for future success.

John E. Montgomery
Allen ISD Trustee, Place 3
Uncontested

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
Later responses may be on www.vote411.org.

Kareem D. Elsay
Allen ISD Trustee, Place 7

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
Later responses may be on www.vote411.org.

Vatsa Ramanathan
Allen ISD Trustee, Place 7



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Education: Bachelor of Engineering - Computer Science

Experience: 25 Years in IT, Database / Data Warehousing applications and 10 Years of School Management

Vision: My personal vision is aligned with that of the Allen ISD. Every student must be prepared for success through graduation and beyond. In order to achieve this, we need to focus on: 1) Engaging students in rigorous and relevant learning experiences 2) Cultivating a strong culture in our staff that fosters academic success for all students 3) Implementing a strong system where students can explore and pursue their college and career opportunities with guidance from staff 4) Building strong relations with colleges and corporations to promote our children 5) Promoting Global education

The whole child: Academic success is first priority, but education must go beyond that. In addition to academic proficiency, the Allen ISD graduate profile speaks to students who are effective problem solvers and communicators, as well as being responsible and engaged citizens. Plans already in place serve to develop the skills of critical listening and accurate speech, understand and appreciate diverse cultures, develop leadership qualities, demonstrate ethical decision making, and instill a culture on service to others. These plans must be adjusted over time with a formal process of continuous improvement

Finance: A strong and conservative financial plan that properly prioritizes resource allocation, maintains financial integrity, and provides transparency to the taxpayer is key. Our state funding has been reduced again this year – to 22% of operations. The finance team examined each and every account and made necessary adjustments to the budget while keeping student success as the focus. That said, the roots of the systemic problems in school finance are in Austin. We must join together to be relentless in our advocacy with lawmakers to create a system of school finance that is sustainable and fair.

Accessibility: I firmly believe that the District will be stronger if the community actively collaborates with the Board in directing our future. Electronic information only goes so far. Cultivating personal relationships is the key and I will continue to make myself as visible and available as possible. As trustees, we should be inviting

people to attend the school board workshops and meetings, arranging town hall meetings with the community, hosting meet and greet events with the Board, and reposting and sharing district information on personal social media pages.

Safety: As a parent of a high school student, I understand and relate to the sentiments of thousands of dads and moms who are constantly worried about the safety of their children in school. Keeping school children and staff safe is "NON-NEGOTIABLE". Period. Proactively identifying and stopping violence is the key. As a school board member, my commitment will be to work with the department of Safe and Secure Schools to establish priorities, make necessary policy changes, and to ensure funding of personnel, training and/or facilities modifications as recommended by the experts.

Other Issues: 1) Looking to the future, it is clear that our students must be equipped to compete and succeed in a global marketplace. Developing a global mindset in students means inspiring conversations and collaborations with international schools on shared content, introducing them to multi-cultural environments, and helping them develop critical relationship skills with peers from other backgrounds. 2) Each legislative session brings further erosion of local control. The trend must be reversed to restore control of our schools to parents and taxpayers through their local elected officials.

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.