



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

May 5, 2018
Local Election
Anna

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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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.

Anna Mayor and 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?

**Nate Pike
Anna Mayor
Uncontested**

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

**Justin Burr
Anna City Council, Place 1**



Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CouncilmanJustinBurr/>

Education: none provided

Experience: 2015 to present - City Council Place 1 - Mayor Pro Tem 2010 to 2015
- Chairman, Planning and Zoning Commission Anna TX. Anna Downtown
Redevelopment Advisory Group Member - 2015 Represented Anna at ICSC
Conference 2015 and 2016 Active in the TML

Growth: Anna is in one of the fastest growing counties in Collin county. The growth in population is going to continue and we must have, and do have, a solid strategic plan to deal with that growth. We must be economically diversified and have a strong base of primary jobs and retail sales tax revenues. To plan appropriately for the growth that is happening we have our 2015 Downtown Plan, 2017 Strategic Plan, 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update, and the new Neighborhood Design Standards Committee. I'm proud to have been a part of this planning and look forward a great future for Anna.

Property taxes: I'm proud of the fact that we have lowered taxes every year that I have been on the council. As our community grows we will have more demand for city services and programs, city facilities, and a growing city staff to accommodate all of that. To fund this and continue to lower the residential tax rate we must encourage retail and commercial development for more primary jobs in Anna. Anna has the lowest average household tax levy compared to other similar cities in our area. I hope to continue to reduce the tax rate on our residences while still providing high levels of city services.

Demographics: Anna is growing at a rate of about 1,200 people per year and becoming more diverse all the time. This is a great thing and our strategic plans already take this into account. One of the biggest populations that continues to

grow in Anna is young families. We are looking at expanding and improving parks to accommodate this. I have a vision for a comprehensive Recreation Department and programs for our youth and providing summer jobs for our teens. This is a longer-term goal and if elected I will lay the groundwork and outline a strategic plan to achieve a robust recreation program.

Vision: My vision is to see Anna become a more beautiful city in terms of neighborhood design, parks, streetscapes, and our downtown. My proposal for a neighborhood design standards committee is about to get underway. I want Anna to be recognized as a Scenic City within the next three to five years. Winning the Green Ribbon grand from TxDOT will give us a start on instituting our unique streets landscaping plan using Texas native plants. I will also work to encourage or require developers to incorporate more amenities and open space into their plans.

Other Issues: Three main issue we will face in the next few years are continuing growth, the need for municipal facilities, and infrastructure improvement. For all of these we need a council committed to our strategic plans and goals. Municipal facilities will be dealt with soon with a new City Hall including Police facilities and a new main Fire Station. Our site plan also includes room for expansion as we grow. Infrastructure projects such as water, sewer, and streets are in our capital improvement plans. As we grow we will hopefully be able to accelerate funding for these projects.

Stan Carver II
Anna City Council, Place 1

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

John Houcek
Anna City Council, Place 1

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

Bill Morgan
Anna City Council, Place 1

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

Anthony D. Richardson
Anna City Council, Place 1



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YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_uWmEOALNQ

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AnthonyRi>

Phone: (469) 352-4696

Education: Diploma (West Mesquite High School); Bachelors - Applied Arts and Sciences (University of North Texas); Masters - Public Administration (University of North Texas)

Experience: Bachelors - Applied Art & Sciences; Masters - Public Administration; Regional Director of Legislative Affairs - NAGPS; Board Member - Economic/Community Development Corporations (Anna, TX); Commissioner - Anna 2017 Charter Review Commission

Growth: I have two perspectives on this: #1 Land-owners have the right to develop within the standards that the local government has set. Council has the "responsibility" to approve building permits that meet those standards. #2 All families must have access to premium quality housing, safe neighborhoods, top-tier education, & economic vibrancy. This is the greater perspective, and I typify them in these three pillars: Family|Education|Community. My campaign is centered on these three pillars, and they will provide the compass to best balance growth and residential concerns of congestion.

Property taxes: The property tax debate is a symptom of larger, looming issues. #1 Household incomes are being squeezed annually by increases in property tax rates, and a vast majority of these residents are not receiving raises in their income. #2 Texas cities receive little to no aid from the state. These are problems. The reality is that the tax base (residential and commercial property taxes and retail sales tax being the largest two sources) is what creates the revenue streams for the city to provide services (i.e. police) to the citizens. Singularly, adjusting property tax rates is not the sole answer.

Demographics: The city of Anna, TX is growing rapidly. There are over 60 development projects in the queue many of which are residential projects. A changing demographic is a by-product of this and as I've mentioned before, these three pillars must be at the core of decisions centered around development. They are Family | Education | Community and this would definitely dictate that there must be considerable attention paid to development projects that don't provide a

basis for affordable housing. Moreover, I believe in economic empowerment and I'm focused on efforts in this area as well.

Vision: I see Anna, TX as a vibrant, prosperous community where the residents have healthy, thriving families; a top-tier education system, and an engaged and eclectic local community. To get there, all of our efforts have to be centered on these three pillars Family | Education | Community. Therefore, increasing the commercial tax base, providing legislation that supports local community interests, economic empowerment, and ecumenical unification are the major steps that are needed to get there, and the fruitful partnership between the residents and city officials is the bridge to make this happen.

Other Issues: Roads/Infrastructure Improvements - I support improvements; New City Hall Facility - I support a new/combined facility for city services; Increase of Public Safety Personnel - I support an increase; Emergency Management Policies/Procedures - I support updating/expanding these services; Property Taxes - I support responsible/realistic reform

Kevin Matthew Toten
Anna City Council, Place 1

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

Anna 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?

John Matasso
Anna ISD Trustee, Place 1



Email: john4schoolboard@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/John4SchoolBoard/>

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (Psychology & Communication)

Experience: Married with 7 kids. Worked with thousands of kids in my previous occupation. My previous work (20+ yrs) exposed me to several different school districts and private schools and the ways they work to help teens become successful.

Vision: I see three major steps that need to be taken: 1. bring in an Administration with a solid vision and proven track record. 2. Fortify the academics of the school district by hiring and keeping solid yet inspirational teachers and aids. 3. Offer a well rounded curriculum that is based in the core subjects but includes music, arts, sports, and other programs that help our kids become great citizens and neighbors.

The whole child: We need programing that helps our kids become the best version of themselves. Whether that is preparing them for college or preparing them for vocations in other areas. We need to build a strong sports, arts, and vocational programs to encourage and develop a well rounded person.

Finance: First of all we need to be prudent and cautious with the funds the school district has been entrusted to use. Second, we need to be good stewards of those finance. The school board should always be looking for the best way to use the funds to support the full needs of the school district. In general I am very hesitant to raising taxes to give more funding to the school district till it can prove the absolute necessity. I am in favor of salary increases for our teachers as we are one of the lowest paying districts in the area.

Accessibility: with so many ways to communicate with the people of our great city, the school board needs to be more proactive in communicating with it citizens and listening to the needs of its families. The school district as a whole does very poorly in communicating to families and that trickles down to the individual schools and teachers. I personally feel that the school district needs to better clarify its main avenues of communication with families and use those avenues on a regular basis... such as the district app, it's facebook page, and website.

Safety: We need to develop a more comprehensive plan that draws families, administration and teachers into the conversation and development. We need to work on teaching respectful conflict resolution during the early years. We need to

show support and help to those who are victims and work our hardest to ensure the safest possible environment for our kids in our schools.

Other Issues: after working with thousands of teens over the past 20+ years I know that not every kid is college bound. I have seen many teens crushed when they realized they were not headed to college. We need to help our teens see that college is only one of many ways to become successful. There are many avenues to attaining a happy and successful life and we need a school system that helps our teens find the best avenue for their life.

Tiffany Terry
Anna ISD Trustee, Place 1

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

Jason Adams
Anna ISD Trustee, Place 2

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

Allison Carver
Anna ISD Trustee, Place 2



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Phone: (469) 546-9257

Education: Bachelor of Social Work from the University of West Florida

Experience: Educational sales, Teachscape Educational Project, Substitute teacher for CFBISD, AISD, and VAISD, contractor for Texas Virtual Academy.

Vision: Since Anna is currently gaining new residents almost daily, I would like to see improved communication and positive interactions between parents and staff so that a small, hometown feel is maintained in the midst of tremendous growth. Public relations could be improved through technology and periodic social meetings established , such as "Meet the School Board for Coffee" or "Meet the Principal" at the schools. Most parents or guardians probably do not typically interact with school

staff unless there is a discipline issue, so I would like to see planned positive opportunities implemented.

The whole child: I would like to see some type of mentoring program implemented. Many young people are growing up with inadequate parental availability and could benefit from a trusted adult mentor. The mentor program could be designed to cover budget management, meal preparation, grocery shopping, job search, healthy choice instruction such as exercise and diet, crisis management, first aid, and parenting classes. I think that real world education would greatly benefit students and the entire community.

Finance: I would like to see the return of the textbook. Many students no longer have access to actual books, and this can make studying and class preparation more difficult. I would also like to see more classes offered online, especially for high school. This could greatly reduce the overhead cost of housing a large number of students daily, and it will also prepare students for real world corporate experience since many industries are now offering remote work environments. This implementation would decrease discipline issues and bullying, thus reducing safety issues.

Accessibility: An electronic video with a personable board member speaking, simple graphics, and an upbeat song in the background would be convenient for parents to receive through email or text each month. This would be very simple to produce and send each month or as needed as a friendly, affordable means of communication. This will reduce the number of parents who do not read the emails or log into the parent portal each week. It would be a click and play solution. I believe this could significantly improve parent/staff relations as well.

Safety: I would like to see a technology expert on staff whose job is to monitor social media sites of students in the district. The sites could be monitored and an alert sent when certain terms are used which indicate upcoming safety concerns or threats. This could reduce bullying simply by the students and parents being made aware that this is taking place. Cyber bullying is probably an even bigger issue than physical bullying. The past has shown us that students will often "post" about what they intend to do before carrying out a threat.

Other Issues: Our district has opted to have armed staff and police officers at the schools for safety issues. I am in full agreement that children should not have to get an education in fear of bodily harm. I am concerned that the bathroom issue may come up since it has in nearby districts. I believe that students should continue to use the restroom of their gender at birth. I also believe that allowing one gender to compete in another gender's sports competitions is unfair and wrong. Students should compete in the sport for the gender they had at birth, not be social experiment subjects.

David Upton
Anna ISD Trustee, Place 2

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

Wanda Hannah
Anna ISD Trustee, Place 6

No photo provided

Email: whannah50@gmail.com

Phone: (214) 935-7166

Education: BAT from Sam Houston State University MS in School Administration from Texas A&I (now Texas A&M)

Experience: Teacher, Campus Curriculum Coordinator, and Assistant Principal; 27 years in the East Central ISD, San Antonio, TX

Vision: In addition to improving our STAAR scores and working toward a 100% graduation rate, we MUST strive to retain our Teachers and Administrators. As with all districts in the State, needs to improve our test scores. One method that should be put to use is additional task time for struggling students AND paying our teachers to tutor during their off time for the District.

The whole child: Students need to be prepared for many situations they will encounter in life. For those students that do not wish to continue their higher education, life-lessons in areas such as learning to budget finances for monthly bills and preparing to enter the workforce should be a high priority. Students that choose to enter college will also be prepared in these areas. This will ensure all students have a great head start for their future.

Finance: We need to partner with local businesses to help sustain finances needed for the education of our children. These businesses can help with special projects and also advise us on what they will need from our students in the way of job skills. It is imperative for us to be fiscally responsible at all times.

Accessibility: Making sure the lines of communication between the leadership team and the entire education body begins BEFORE the school year begins. Everyone needs to be kept "in the loop" to ensure there is no miscommunication between Administrators, Teachers, Parents and Students. We must also address educators as needed during in-services throughout the school year.

Safety: The best way to address bullying is to address it often beginning with primary students. We must strive to having respectful, kind and helpful students. Include Counselors in the teaching of these programs. A "Bullying Curriculum" for the classroom inspired by Teachers and Counselors will ensure our students will become the best they could be both at school and in life.

Other Issues: Funding, funding, funding. We must have enough money to fund programs we already have in place. In addition, we need to be in a position to fund NEW programs. Students need to keep up with our changing culture and the enormous growth of technology.

Paul Renfro
Anna ISD Trustee, Place 6

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline.
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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.