



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

**May 5, 2018
Local Election
Prosper**

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.

Prosper 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?

Carl Ackermann Prosper City Council, Place 2



Email: ackermann4prosper@gmail.com

Education: BS Management Information Systems

Experience: 21 Years experience leading Information Management organizations; Skilled in the turn-around of new / under performing data organizations. Driven by the opportunity to increase organizational performance through the use of data and advanced analytics

Growth: The population of Prosper has more than doubled in the last 10 years. - The median household income is \$131,927, more than double the US median household income. The biggest challenge that Prosper is facing going is both the incredible growth we are seeing over the last decade, and are projected to continue

to see. We need to make sure that all of our planning decisions going forward are made with the vision of sustained growth in mind. When dealing with this kind of expansion, any decisions on infrastructure should address our current growth and be able to be incrementally expanded easily.

Property taxes: I do not believe any adjustments should be made at this time until we can adequately ensure that we are optimizing our current revenue and spending.

Demographics: *no response*

Vision: As someone with a background in Information Systems, I am a candidate whose experience uniquely qualifies me to analyze the changes and growth we are going to see in Prosper. Civil infrastructure will be one of my main priorities. In order to successfully deal with growth, a town must plan in a way that not only serves the existing community, but can be implemented for years to come. Increased population will mean increased traffic. We will have an infrastructure plan that will account for the influx of people, and mitigate traffic in such a way that supports efficient travel.

Other Issues: As a member of the City Council, I plan to make every decision with an eye towards the future. I believe that Prosper's expected growth is the single-greatest issue that our town will be facing in the foreseeable future, and it is my civic duty to not only embrace this growth with open arms, but to do everything in my power to make our transition a seamless one. The way we handle this growth will be of the utmost importance in ensuring that Prosper not only remains a great place to live, but becomes an even better one. This growth presents a tremendous opportunity.

Craig Andres
Prosper City Council, Place 2



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Education: Bachelor of Science in International Economics from Texas Tech University

Experience: Two Term member of the Prosper Planning & Zoning Commission. One Term Parks & Rec Commissioner. Member of the Capital Improv. Committee Parks & Rec Masterplan Committee, VP Prosper Youth Sports Comm., 3 Year Commissioner of Prosper Youth Basketball

Growth: There are two key elements that answer this question. Number one is that we must do a great job of protecting and defending the core principles of The Town of Prosper Comprehensive Plan. This plan gives us solid direction for cultivating the kind of balance with reasonable residential density that will support positive commercial growth. The second key element we must support is an infrastructure program that is right-sized and properly focused on our true needs. We need projects that give us the best bang for our buck while causing the least disruption in the lives of our community.

Property taxes: Looking back at 2017, Prosper actually has a very competitive tax rate when you compare it to other high growth cities in Collin County when you look at it aside from county, community college district and ISD elements. So we have done a good job. Because of our growth, we have real and significant infrastructure and Town services needs that must be addressed. We can and will reduce our taxes long term, but we must invest in the proper areas now to make certain that we can get the commercial growth necessary to make that reduction possible.

Demographics: People are moving to Prosper from all over the country as well as from other parts of world. We have a great roadmap in our comprehensive plan that if followed, will make sure that our new residents have the same great experience in Prosper that our long time residents have had. We owe it to our new residents to stay the course while further refining and improving upon the plan. This will ensure that we can offer variety and quality residential options.

Vision: My vision for Prosper is for it to be a place which has managed growth in such a unique and innovative way that it is the most desirable place to live in all of North Texas and model community known throughout the country. Leadership is the catalyst that will make that vision come to fruition. We must have leaders that understand Prosper's past and can connect that past to its future. We must have leaders who have actively held positions on our Town boards and commissions because leaders must have hands on experience to innovate and implement great plans for Prosper.

Other Issues: There is no doubt developmental density, infrastructure and city services will be issues that stay in front of Council. I have spent the last four and a half years addressing some of these issues in the posts I have held. There will also be external challenges. We must have a council person who has a record of working successfully with the ISD. We must have a council person who actively articulates the issues and captures our community's view point on those issues applying those ideas toward a solution. I am that person and would be humbled to serve Prosper once again!

Eve Henry
Prosper City Council, Place 2

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

Norma Hutchins
Prosper City Council, Place 2



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Education: MBA – Webster University

Experience: OIF Army Veteran, Board Member of the Latino Employee Resource Network, Member of the Women Veterans of America, Project Manager

Growth: With the sustained growth that has been experienced in Prosper, it is not possible to eliminate congestion. 380 is the major artery running by Prosper and currently there are no other alternatives to alleviate congestion. Construction, particularly in road expansions is a grueling process, but we must work closely with TxDot to inform our citizens and provide temporary solutions.

Property taxes: As an advocate for competitive salaries for police and fire fighters, I support the reallocation of ½ of a percent from local sales taxes for public safety and crime control. Our town currently offers a 10% homestead exemption and offers one of the lowest property tax rates in the vicinity. I do not support tax increases at this time. We must ensure that our tax dollars are efficiently managed and executed.

Demographics: The Town of Prosper has an average growth rate of 16% with residents moving within Texas and from other states. Prosper is a high-end town and has limited choices for low income households. The development of high density residential options will help housing affordability for residents with fixed incomes such as senior citizens and young professionals. Adjustments to the Prosper Comprehensive Plan will need to be vetted through voter and community participation.

Vision: Based on our growth rate, it is likely that our population may double in size in 10 years or less. Proper planning and development of public infrastructure and services is needed. It is important to ensure the town's departments allocate appropriate resources and manpower to accommodate housing and business development. Additionally, we must preserve and expand green spaces where possible throughout the town and maintain the Town's history and character.

Other Issues: Proactive measures to fix roads throughout Prosper. Postponing road repairs because a larger road construction will happen in the far future, is unacceptable. A more efficient way of executing projects is needed.

Chris Kern
Prosper City Council, Place 2



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Education: BBA Marketing - Georgia State University MBA in Progress - Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

Experience: - Board member of Cornerstone Assistance Network, Prosper Lions Club, and Miracle League. - Serving the Collin County Commissioners Court as a Myer's Park Board Member - Over four years of faithfully attending Town Council meetings and committees

Growth: Infrastructure planning must be a constant focus for Prosper. Residents need to be kept informed to help alleviate concerns, answer questions and get feedback. Short, mid and long range plans should ensure that the right infrastructure investments are made at the right time and with the adequate funding to support them. Through my financial planning roles supporting large organizations, I have the experience needed to help guide these plans and decisions as we grow. I have a proven history of staying on top of current Town issues and communicating with residents to help them stay informed.

Property taxes: Part of the role of the Town Council is to make financial decisions that are strategic and in the best interest of the citizens of Prosper. Understanding property taxes includes looking at the true tax burden on property owners and not just the property tax rate. Prosper is in a high growth mode which also means growth in new property tax values. I would take a serious look at the property tax burden placed on current residents each budget year to assess opportunities to reduce the impact through new tax revenue growth.

Demographics: Our long-range comprehensive plans provide for specific direction on economically diverse components of Prosper. Successful well-rounded communities make a commitment to this type of planning and we have done so. Our land use plans help focus and guide consistent and cohesive developments throughout the town.

Vision: I believe in Prosper. My vision is that we remain focused on families and the small town values that have drawn (and continues to draw) so many people here. We have great long-range plans in place that should guide our growth and development decisions. We should avoid short-term deals if they are not aligned with Prosper's vision. For over four years I have faithfully attended Town Council

meetings including annual strategic planning sessions. I have a firm grasp of the issues that our town is facing and I know that I can offer strategic leadership to keep us on course into the future.

Other Issues: If elected I will ensure that Prosper Values continue to guide Council's decision-making process. I will maintain a Commitment To Safety by supporting our Police and Fire chiefs. Fiscal Responsibility will be at the forefront as we plan for infrastructure improvements/growth and other priorities needed to keep Prosper "a community focused on families, committed to small town ideals, and providing a quality living experience for all residents." My professional experience and commitment to Prosper combine to make me the best candidate for the open Place 2 seat on Prosper's Town Council.

Lucy Towle
Prosper City Council, Place 2



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Phone: (214) 418-9262

Education: Undergraduate from University of Texas at San Antonio Graduate Degree from University of North Texas

Experience: -Serve as an educator for 15 years -Town of Prosper Library Board since 2012 -Prestonwood North volunteer since 2009 (Current table group leader - Young Men's Service League founding board member since 2016 -PHS Band Scholarship Chair

Growth: Recognizing the growth found on 380 and Preston, the town council and town manager have done a great job partnering with TXDOT to develop this intersection to alleviate the congestion found in this area. Where we need to focus our interests in Prosper is to partner closely with PISD to find where the congestion is coming and develop stronger plans to address these needs before it becomes too much to handle. As for the tollway and 380, we can expect to see the beginning stages of preparing this intersection to be developed within the next 5 years, with plans for this to be completed in 2022.

Property taxes: Currently, the Town of Prosper holds a very conservative rate of Prosper 0.520, which is less than our neighboring towns of Celina and McKinney. I feel we are at a good place in our current property tax rate.

Demographics: I feel the town's current plans with respect to demographics and affordable housing are adequate.

Vision: Prosper is doing things right. I believe the town council and manager knew that they needed residential development to support the retail that would be coming in. In the next 10 years we will be experiencing growth in all areas of development. I believe 380 will soon look like 121 and, as our town manager, Hulon Webb, was quoted as saying, we need to compliment both sides of 380 rather than compete for the best 380 will bring to our town.

Other Issues: The development and infrastructure will continue due to Prosper's rapid growth. I look forward to the positive developments and impact this will have to our community.

Jason Dixon
Prosper City Council, Place 6

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

Scott Fisher
Prosper City Council, Place 6

No photo provided

Email: sfisherplace6@gmail.com

Phone: (214) 415-8062

Education: BS from UT

Experience: US Army Captain Operations Management Project Management
Regional Physical Security Manager

Growth: When it comes to planning in our rapidly expanding town, I believe working with developers to build the infrastructure before a new housing development is built, is an option. Invest more in functional roadways with the expanding school district and commercial development. Prosper Trail needs to be widened all the way to Custer. More importantly Frontier Parkway behind the High School needs to be widened as soon as possible.

Property taxes: Property taxes are a delicate balance, but it is incumbent upon the city council and the town manager to spend the peoples money wisely, and in a manner that benefits the residents and the town as a whole.

Demographics: Having neighborhoods with homes/condominiums in the \$250k-\$300k would be preferable to having several apartment complexes built, as apartments add to the density of the town faster than the school district can keep up. Once the PISD has had the opportunity to catch up to existing demand, then apartments would be a consideration.

Vision: The vision is dependent upon what the town's master plan is and what changes we are willing to make to it. Considerable funds have been spent on these studies and master plans and I don't think we should change them on a whim, without understanding the repercussions to the budget and the growth of the town. I also believe it is important not to encumber businesses wanting to come to Prosper with unnecessary regulation. We need sidewalks connecting our town's neighborhoods, as well as, along all of the businesses on Preston Road. A lighted park on the east side of town is needed.

Other Issues: Some of the most important issues before the town in the next few years will be zoning, providing for the first responders growth, training and equipment, to include a Ladder truck for the fire department. Budgeting is always going to be critical, so that the town is spending wisely and not always seeking additional funding for projects. Zoning is important to ensure continuity of the town. Keeping the town's first responders and public works to the highest quality will continue to keep the town a safe and a quality place to live.

Dr. Phyllis Hoffschwelle
Prosper City Council, Place 6



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Education: Doctorate in Business specialized in Global Business, Leadership, and Technology.

Experience: Founder of DRP Business Consulting (DRPBC) and Co-Founder of Phyl the Jukebox Productions. An industry leader with 30 years experience in business strategy, operational process improvements, technology assessments, and competitive market analysis.

Growth: Addressing the residents' concerns regarding congestion immediately and with transparency is critical and highly important; regardless if the city's growth is exponential or slow. In order for a city to strike a balance, the residents' concerns must be taken into consideration when crafting/planning a mitigation strategy to address such concerns. Open communication, knowledge, and transparency is empowering, and helps residents know their concerns are important, valid, and do carry weight when the City Council is making decisions that directly impact the residents and the city they live in.

Property taxes: Property taxes in Texas are controlled at the local level, and Texas is ranked 6th highest overall in the nation. To maintain or reduce property taxes, the City Council should determine what other tax gains can be identified / captured, such as new big business (corporate, hotel, retail). The tax burden cannot continually be placed upon the residents to offset the growth, there has to be a balancing act in order for a city to sustain. Complete due diligence of all development, current and future, including financial projections to determine where relief on property taxes is possible, if any.

Demographics: The city's demographics are changing exponentially, at all levels. Using historical data from the last 5-10 years and capturing similar data from cities of like size and growth is key to build and model city planning adjustments to include: development (affordable and residential housing and commercial), fire/police/safety, infrastructure (roads, sewer, drain-systems, etc.), and telecommunications to name a few. Once adjusted, the city cannot sustain using an outdated or pro quo model as the status quo, it must continually adjust the model, using real-time actuals, to keep up with the changes.

Vision: Sustainability is hard, a city has to think outside its own boundaries. I envision the city cultivating small business (entrepreneurial, nonprofits, startups) and corporate businesses with an influence in arts, science, and technology. Bring new and exciting cultural experiences for the residents. Business/University incubators and/or think-tanks that challenge, help grow, and support young minds, entrepreneurs, and startups with new innovations and technologies. A city cannot sustain simply on retail growth alone, it has to expand its own mind and vision in order to survive the future.

Other Issues: Growth, taxes, and the voice of the residents will continue to come before City Council, and always be important issues. Support for first responders (fire and police) is another concern. As a city grows, so too must its support infrastructure. There has to be a balance within the city budget to support all growth, it cannot just be one-side, but must be holistic. For instance, if a city continually values one growth infrastructure area over another, then failure will happen. Fire and police have to grow in alignment with a city's overall growth to ensure the safety of all.

Prosper 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?

Bill Beavers
Prosper ISD Trustee, Place 4



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Phone: (972) 890-2451

Education: BBA Hardin-Simmons University 2002 MBA Strategic Leadership
Amberton University 2015

Experience: 14 years at Cirro Energy an NRG Company

Vision: My vision for Prosper ISD in 5 years is to maintain a standard of excellence in district personnel, facilities, instruction and student opportunities while meeting the challenges of growth and expansion. In order to accomplish this, PISD must remain competitive and retain and hire only the best, most qualified educators. We must also provide our students with exceptional schools and facilities while being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Wise investment of the funds entrusted to us while being ever mindful of future costs and commitments will serve our community well in the long-term.

The whole child: Our students deserve the best educational experience that will prepare them for higher education, career and life skills. Equipping educators who challenge students to think critically, problem solve and to work well with others will result in productive citizens who can succeed in an ever-changing global society. Providing students with opportunities to explore their interests, to discover and hone personal skills while challenging them to be creative, lifelong learners who are able to adapt and grow is imperative. Such resources will help students make informed decisions for future success.

Finance: Good stewardship of taxpayer dollars and fiscal responsibility with the future in mind is necessary to ensure a high quality education for every student, both current and in the future. While we can continue to strive to make changes to the school finance system at the state level through informed voting and communication with our representatives, we must do what we can to stretch every dollar at the local level. Every dollar we spend now must be done with an eye on the future needs of the district to ensure that we are able to maintain an outstanding educational experience for all students.

Accessibility: Accessibility is very important to ensure that not only parents but all tax payers within the PISD boundaries have their voice heard. In addition to being able to send a message through the superintendent's office to the board, I have my contact information on my Bill Beavers for Prosper ISD School Board Place 4 Facebook page. If elected, I plan to keep this page open after the election as a way to reach out and communicate with our community. My contact information is provided or community members may also reach me by sending a PM on Facebook, and I'm happy to respond.

Safety: I believe the schools of PISD are already doing much to create and maintain an atmosphere of respect and acceptance, placing great value on all students despite any differences that may exist. A zero tolerance policy of bullying/violence must be maintained. Supporting and continuing to develop guidance programs that help students develop life skills, problem solving skills and interpersonal effectiveness while promoting responsible behavior is key. Cultivating an atmosphere of trust is vital to ensure that school personnel are informed and able to effectively facilitate conflict resolution.

Other Issues: The biggest issue facing Prosper ISD is growth and how to meet the needs of an ever growing population while maintaining a standard of excellence. Our students, both now and in the future, deserve the very best educational experience possible that will equip them for lifelong success. We owe it to them to be wise stewards of taxpayer dollars, investing strategically to set Prosper ISD up for great success both now and in the future.

Kelly Cavender
Prosper ISD Trustee, Place 4

No photo provided

Email: Kelly@cavender.us

Education: BS in Finance, minor Accounting

Experience: 20 plus years experience in finance

Vision: The student base of Prosper ISD is also unique in that approximately half of the district is located outside of Prosper city limits. The school district encompasses the cities of McKinney, Frisco, and unincorporated areas of Denton County. Over the next 5 years Prosper ISD will see tremendous growth. Not only in number of students but also in the infrastructure required to support this growth. For the 2017-18 school year the district grew by over 2,000 students from the previous school year. If this growth rate continues the school district will almost double over the next 5 years.

The whole child: Educating the Whole Child goes beyond academics. Children today need to gain a foundation for success not only in academics but in life, the community and the workplace. As more families have 2 working parents, more responsibility has been placed on the school system to prepare children for life outside of academics. School districts need to develop "Life Skill" classes that prepare children for the real world after they complete school.

Finance: Under the current Chapter 41 Wealth Equalization Program, Prosper does not fully benefit from 100% of the property taxes collected for the school district. The State takes a portion of the property taxes paid by Prosper ISD residences and redistributes those taxes to other school districts in the state. This is not controllable at the school district level and must be addressed at the state level. District families need to understand how this program works and takes away money from our ISD. As the district grows more of our funds will leave the district to support other school districts.

Accessibility: School Board member are part of the community they serve and should be involved in discussion with families on issues that are important to them. With email, most members can be easily reach with questions or concerns.

Safety: Bullying is one of my biggest concerns in schools today. With online social media, bullying can be a 24/7 occurrence. Schools need to find ways to reduce this problem. This includes having all teachers, staff, and administrators on board to prevent bullying from occurring. We need to have a "See Something, Say Something" attitude with students on bullying. Schools have professionals in place to address issues both with the bully and the student being bullied.

Other Issues: Other than the tremendous growth that Prosper ISD will have, I feel the most important issue will be student safety. With recent school shootings, schools need to have solid plans in place to prevent this from happening. Working with Prosper ISD Police along with other local law enforcement and experts in this field I feel we can make Prosper ISD as safe as possible while still providing an open and inviting environment for students to learn in.

**Mays Davenport
Prosper ISD Trustee, Place 7
Uncontested**

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

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.