



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

May 5, 2018
Local Election
Wylie

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.

Wylie 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?

Ned Petersen
Wylie City Council, Place 2



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Website: <http://www.petersenforwylie.com>

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

Education: Brigham Young University (BYU)

Experience: 36 years of community service and leadership

Growth: Wylie is home to 15,000 households and 50,000 residents. Many of Wylie's residents, like me, leave our city each day and travel to jobs in neighboring communities. The ride home is often met with frustrating congestion on FM-544 and TX-78. I'm not a proponent of replacing our existing roads with freeways. Continuing to upgrade existing roads can help. I believe the City, in partnership with our neighbors, can work together to implement technology solutions that will help alleviate the traffic congestion. A new freeway passing through Wylie is not the answer.

Property taxes: After the city was able to pass long awaited property tax relief last year, we need to continue pushing the tax rate down in a fiscally conservative approach to taxation. Wylie is still the highest taxed city in Collin County and that needs to change. Taking steps to expand the revenue base and finding new ways to eliminate wasteful spending will help reduce the burdensome property tax in Wylie, aligning our property tax levels with neighboring communities.

Demographics: The last 36 months have seen a dramatic increase in multi-family housing construction in Wylie. These apartments are meeting a need in our city and the demand has been heavy, resulting in waiting lists to get in. And more apartments are coming, as a new complex was approved by the city in February. That said, balance should be our measure for city planning. An emphasis on the development of affordable single-family housing, as well as senior-focused housing is needed. And it is important that amid all our construction, we safeguard our green space.

Vision: In 10 years, I expect Wylie to be bigger and better, a home for a vibrant and diverse population. To get there, we must continue to grow the Wylie economy responsibly, attracting the right businesses that align with Wylie values. Protect home values by improving road planning, investing in parks and maintaining a top-tier independent school district. We must ensure the 24/7 safety and protection of Wylie thru responsible, yet proper funding of police and fire protection. Do what needs to be done to protect Wylie citizens, Wylie homes and the Wylie way of life.

Other Issues: Key issues to come before the City Council in the next few years include 1) resolving the burdensome property tax rate, 2) safeguarding our green

space, 3) pursuing reasonable congestion remedies, and 4) attracting business development that aligns with Wylie values. Our city enjoys a well-deserved reputation as a great place to call home. Because we have experienced rapid growth as a community, we will continue to face unique challenges that test our tradition and make us revisit our priorities. It will be important to hear the voice of our residents in moving toward solutions.

Matthew Porter
Wylie City Council, Place 2



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Phone: (979) 599-8244

Education: B.A. in History with English minor from Texas A&M University; Master of Health Administration from Texas A&M University System Health Science Center

Experience: Extensive financial and strategic planning experience from working in healthcare management. Former president of the board for the Brazos Animal Shelter.

Growth: There are two ways congestion can be addressed. First, city planning and zoning change requests must be carefully analyzed and reviewed. Adding high density apartments and neighborhoods that were not originally zoned will cause increased congestion and traffic that street infrastructure was not designed to handle. Second, City Council must work with regional, governmental partners to improve traffic throughput on existing roads by using creative solutions. Syncing lights on Hwy 78 and FM 544 is one example of a way to improve traffic on already existing thoroughfares.

Property taxes: Property taxes have become a burden on the citizenry of Wylie and must be addressed. The effective tax rate should be adopted any time property values rise. This ensures citizens do not face a higher tax bill from the city. Additionally, city spending must be carefully controlled (including bond issuance) so that it is not necessary to raise tax rates on citizens to cover a bloated budget. Finally, it is essential for the city to attract commercial and/or industrial interests to create a tax base not solely reliant on residential neighborhoods.

Demographics: Wylie is experiencing tremendous growth with new citizens moving here from across the country. Many families have moved to the area and a college is being added. It is essential to manage this growth to prevent overcrowding issues. Affordable housing is a concern as home prices rise. When the

City Council considers a request from a developer to rezone land, or allow for denser home construction, it should establish maximum size guidelines that keep sale prices lower. It could also require denser zoning to feature single story structures for those looking to downsize.

Vision: Wylie will continue to move forward towards complete build-out over the next decade. It is essential that City Council provide guidance for what that city will look like and how it will self-sustain. Wylie must create a coherent and complimentary plan to integrate new neighborhoods and developments. Population density will impact long-term traffic congestion and property values. Commercial and/or light industrial projects are vital to establishing a non-residential tax base and creating additional local job opportunities for Wylie's citizens.

Other Issues: Wylie will face crowding and congestion issues as it approaches build-out. This issue goes hand-in-hand with public safety issues related to the potential for increased crime and the need for expansion of services, such as new fire stations. The creation of good, local jobs is also essential for the community to grow. Future city planning is essential to anticipating and being pro-active on these issues. Land usage should be scrutinized for long-term benefits, and budgets must be scoured for savings that can be applied to capital projects in order to avoid additional debt payments.

Steve Wright
Wylie City Council, Place 2

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

Candy Arrington
Wylie City Council, Place 4
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.