

LWW®

VOTERS GUIDE

BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE AUSTIN AREA

The Austin American-Statesman has partnered with the League of Women Voters on this guide to the May municipal and school board elections in Travis County. Using content gathered from candidates by the League, the Statesman designed and published the guide. In addition to being carried in the Sunday, May 1, Statesman, several thousand copies will be distributed by the League at various locations, and both the League and the Statesman will provide the content on their websites.

ELECTION DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 14
Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

EARLY VOTING

MONDAY, MAY 2 TO TUESDAY, MAY 10

The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through active, informed participation of all citizens in their government. Neither the League nor the Education Fund supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

The *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund. This education organization, associated with the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area, operates exclusively for educational purposes in the general areas of government and public policy, carrying out its objectives through research, publication of educational materials, and other appropriate projects.

INSIDE

CANDIDATES IN MUNICIPAL RACES IN TRAVIS COUNTY		CANDIDATES IN SCHOOL BOARD RACES IN TRAVIS COUNTY	
Austin	2	Del Valle	5
Jonestown	4	Eanes	5
Manor	4	Lago Vista	6
Pflugerville	4	Leander	6
Sunset Valley	4	Manor	7
		Round Rock	8

JOINT GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS

- The *Voters Guide* includes responses to a questionnaire sent to those candidates in contested races.
- All candidates in the same race received the same set of questions and instructions.
- Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification.
- Due to space restrictions, candidates were given strict word limits for replies. Replies exceeding the word limit are indicated by ellipses (/ / /).
- Candidates were also asked to confine their responses to the questions asked and to avoid references to their opponents.
- Candidates without photos failed to submit one.
- This *Voters Guide* lists candidates in local races. Because of the variety of races in different communities and school districts, governmental entities are listed in alphabetical order, and the candidates in those races are presented in ballot order.
- Candidates running unopposed were not sent *Voters Guide* questions. The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area provides answers and resources for all your questions on voting. See “Informed Voters Know” below and “Contact Information” on the back page. Because this election involves a variety of municipalities and school districts, voting locations will vary by area and neighborhood. Your voter registration card shows the political districts in which you can vote.

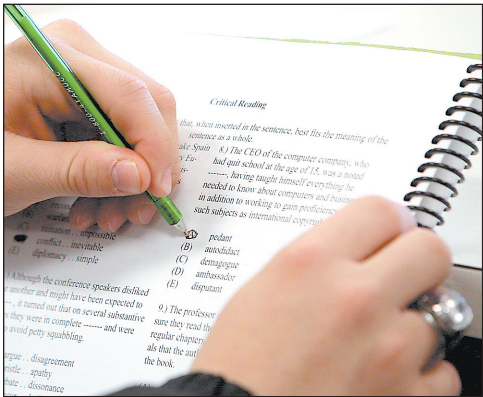
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Informed voters know

WHERE TO VOTE: You must vote in your precinct of residence on Election Day. Your precinct is listed on your registration card, or you may find out where to vote by calling 512-238-VOTE, or by going online with the Travis County Election Division www.co.travis.tx.us. If you report to the incorrect polling place, you will be redirected to the correct polling place, or offered a provisional ballot. You may vote by provisional ballot, but if it is determined that you are not registered in that precinct, your ballot will not be counted by Texas law.

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).



AMERICAN-STATESMAN FILE PHOTOS

City of Austin

Question 1: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50-word limit)

Question 2: What are your priorities for addressing Austin’s traffic problems? (75-word limit)

Question 3: Since Austin Energy annually transfers a portion of its revenue to the City of Austin’s general fund, how do you propose to balance Austin Energy’s financial solvency with the city’s growing revenue needs? (75-word limit)

Question 4: Austin currently has six council members and the mayor elected under a citywide, or “at-large” system. Do you support or oppose a change from the at-large system to single- member districts or another council configuration? Please explain. (75-word limit)

Question 5: Given the city’s budget constraints, what city services, programs, and tax incentives would you reduce? (75-word limit)

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 1

Josiah Ingalls

Answer 1: I have served as President of the School For All Children Act since 2006, dealing with budget concerns while simultaneously working to reach our goals. I have successfully established sub-branches of the SFACA. I ran for Mayor in 2009 and the State Board of Education in 2010.



Answer 2: We need to work to make I-35 four lanes in each direction in the most cost effective way possible. The City should also have a long term goal of turning our under utilized toll roads into roads that are free to use. I would also advocate that we should move in the direction of having a bus system owned and operated by the City in order to bring cost effective mass transit to our city.

Answer 3: As Austin grows, Austin Energy should not have to give a larger percentage to the City budget. Instead Austin should stop subsidizing growth, increase our impact fees and properly document all City spending in order to determine where wasteful spending is occurring in order to bring fiscal responsibility in a manner that will allow us to balance the budget properly.

Answer 4: Our current electoral process of voting City Council members at large ensures that only the wealthy and the special interest groups have representation. This is why I am a strong supporter of single-member districts. As your City Council member, I would continue my work on placing single-member districts on the ballot for November 2011.

Answer 5: I would stop subsidizing growth to large development projects and increase impact fees for development. I will only support budget cuts that don’t affect the delivery and effectiveness of our emergency services or our health and human services.

Chris Riley

Answer 1: Before serving on Council, I spent years serving on various city boards, including six years on the Planning Commission, and on the boards of a number of nonprofits. During the time I have served on the Council, I have also served on the boards of Capital Metro, CAMPO, and CAPCOG.



Answer 2: We need well-maintained roads, and we also need safe, convenient travel options for those who would prefer to walk, bike, or use transit. We should see major improvements to our bus system over the next two years, and a bond election in November 2012 that would include an urban rail element. I also support facilitating positive redevelopment of our transit corridors to accommodate growth and create more walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly destinations.

Answer 3: The upcoming rate case presents an opportunity to adjust Austin Energy’s business model and put the utility on a secure financial footing. With the generation plan recently approved by the Council, the utility can minimize long-term costs and make a significant shift toward efficiency and renewable energy sources, while still respecting the affordability goals adopted as part of the plan. In the process, the utility can strengthen our local economy by supporting green businesses

Answer 4: I support moving toward a mixed system of at-large and geographic districts. A council member representing a geographic, single-member district could be familiar with the entire district and many of its residents, and could have a good understanding of their needs. That degree of familiarity is more difficult to achieve across the whole city, and it will become increasingly difficult as our city grows larger.

Answer 5: I would seek opportunities to reduce operations and maintenance costs by partnering with private-sector entities, as we are starting to do with the YMCA at a recreation center in North Austin. I would also identify city facilities that are currently underutilized, such as the Seaholm intake structure, and explore leasing opportunities that could generate both revenue and

jobs. I would also examine whether fleet costs could be reduced by eliminating underutilized vehicles.

Roger M. Chan

Answer 1: Owned and operated multi-unit, multi-state closely held company, managed corporations with 24 K + employees, DC Mayor Special Project Manager, Assistant City Manager City of Austin directly in charge of: Water Utility, Waste Management and Recycling, ABIA, Economic Development, Convention Center, ACVB, Large Site Development.



Answer 2: Multi-modal cost effective strategies that leverage existing resources, and new technologies. Utilize existing infrastructure, leverage targeted investments in HOV and managed lanes, and invest in critical gap roadway projects, such as the “Y” in Oak Hill, and more bike lanes and sidewalks for safe routes to schools and parks.

Answer 3: Utility side funds are a requirement and necessity for the proper management of the utilities. A General Transfer is in essence a sharing of dividends of a profitable utility. The City must stop using the utility side funds as its Rainy Day Fund and instead exorcise more fiscal restraint and responsibility, and work within a balanced budget.

Answer 4: Favor of single member districts. Current system is set up to favor politicians not the people. Why have Places that do not represent any place in the community. Can anyone honestly say they know the real issues of every part of the city when few people in the city frequently goes to all parts of the city. Without single member districts, no one person is speaking for you and to your specific concerns.

Answer 5: Not all departments are created equal, some can withstand a 15% cut while others are devastated by a 5% cut therefore a 10% cut across the board creates more problems than it solves. All salaries, payrolls, department budgets, programs, and contracts must be revisited. Just like in the private sector right now personal cuts are preferred over furloughs and firings

Norman A. Jacobson

No reply received.

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 3

Kathie Tovo

Answer 1: A 19-year Austin resident, I earned a Ph.D. at UT Austin. I served as Planning Commissioner, Austin Neighborhoods Council Vice President, and on the Families and Children Task Force, Waller Creek Citizens Advisory Board, Community Action Network Community Council, and AISD Facilities Task Force (where she opposed school closures).



Answer 2: It’s time for a new approach to transportation planning in Austin. Unfunded multimillion-dollar wish lists will not relieve congestion. We need to get moving by reprioritizing funding to better maintain existing roads and focusing on faster, less expensive projects that deliver immediate congestion relief—like the recently bonds for the Oak Hill “Y.” Our neighborhoods need sidewalks and safe routes to schools and walkable nearby services to help our seniors maintain their independence.

Answer 3: Austin Energy is considering its first rate increase since 1994. I believe any rate increase must take into account the difficult economy and offer support for people in our community who are most in need. To help balance the budget, the utility should look to cut expenses where possible, review whether there are any unneeded assets to be sold, and look to increase energy efficiency programs that could also raise additional revenue.

Answer 4: I believe changing our current system of government to include a mix of both at-large and single-member seats will ensure more geographic and economic diversity among candidates and encourage greater civic participation. We must be open to examining whether new approaches could create better representation. I will caution against moving forward until we have an open public debate and a plan that ensures representation for African Americans and all parts of our community.

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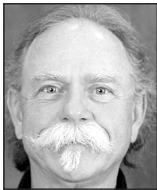
City of Austin

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Answer 5: I consider the city budget the principal policy document of the council. Any decisions require careful study with additional information. Rather than identify specific cuts at this stage, my approach will be to strive to maintain a high quality of life for all Austin's citizens—especially those left out from city benefits in years past. Any reductions must be examined for anticipated savings, impact to service delivery, and the effect on the community.

Max Nofziger

Answer 1: I have a degree in Political Science, and I have participated in local politics for 30+ years, including three terms (1987-1996) on the City Council. As Mayor Pro Tem, I chaired many meetings. I have run ten campaigns, beginning in 1979, learning more about our city each time.



Answer 2: I have an alternative to light rail that is a fraction of the cost, yet several times more effective in reducing congestion and improving air quality. It involves making Austin the Electric Vehicle Capital of the World, providing incentives for people to buy electric bikes and autos. It would bring back Free Fares on buses, and replace noisy, polluting buses with electric ones. It will remove thousands of cars from our streets.

Answer 3: I would reduce city spending in general, and would gradually reduce the transfer of money from the utility to the general fund. The city has become too dependent on this transfer. Runaway spending by the city is driving people out of town, and causing gentrification. I will stop large projects, like the \$2.3 billion chip burner, that are not needed, but drive up the cost of living. I know how to lower electric bills.

Answer 4: I support changing to single-member districts to ensure ethnic and geographic representation on the council. Currently, there is no one from South Austin on the council! I support a mixed system of at-large seats and districts. This will reduce the cost of campaigning and increase voter participation, while still allowing citizens to vote for more than one representative. Low voter turnout makes for bad, unresponsive government, such as we now have.

Answer 5: I would reduce the city's economic development department, stop hiring so many consultants, and give no subsidies to Formula One racing. I would give no more incentives to retail shops, as in the Domain and Second Street projects. I would conduct a department-by-department

review to find savings in each. I have experience in making budget cuts and reducing the size of government while preserving essential city services and public safety.

Kris Bailey

No reply received.

Randi Shade

Answer 1: I graduated from UT where I served as student body president, and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School. I spent four years working in the Governor's Office where I launched and ran AmeriCorps statewide. I later founded and sold an Internet company and led the Austin Entrepreneurs Foundation.



Answer 2: We need a mixture of transportation modalities. I supported the transportation bond proposal for that reason, but also to ensure we had projects in the pipeline until a more comprehensive approach could be offered. I have been pleased to see the creation of a Transportation Department during my tenure on Council and support the Strategic Mobility Planning effort underway, especially as it relates to mass transit, Park and Rides, HOV express lanes, and flex-time ///

Answer 3: The City must reduce dependence on Austin Energy transfer funds the same way it reduced its dependence on sales tax revenue over the course of the recent recession. We must instill better budget discipline across all City operations, including Austin Energy. The current cost of service study will raise awareness about the changing business model for utilities, too. Energy efficiency saves money for bill payers and the utility alike but also necessitates new rate design.

Answer 4: Any change should be by local vote, not imposed by the Legislature. While far from perfect, in the current system I never take a vote without thinking of the entire community versus thinking about one geographic area over another. Before making any changes Austinites must understand the implications of a city government with the majority of council members accountable to only 10 – 15% of the population and therefore not accountable to the other 85-90%.

Answer 5: This is a revenue and expense question. On the expense side, I will prioritize core city services – those services and programs that directly relate to safe, clean neighborhoods and reliable, affordable utilities. Except in response to unexpected emergencies, I would instill greater budget

discipline by preventing new initiatives from creeping into the budget outside of the annual budget process. On the revenue side, I will support reasonable development that increases the City's tax base.

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 4

Laura Morrison

Answer 1: Current Council Member standing strong for Austin's families. Professional experience in engineering, project management and disaster management. Formerly president of Austin Neighborhoods Council, Member, CAN Community Council, HousingWorks Policy Subcommittee. Chair of Council Emerging Technology Committee, member of Audit & Finance Committee. Wife, mother of two sons, new grandmother.



Answer 2: A comprehensive, multi-modal transportation system tied in with proper land use planning is the best way to address the city's continuing traffic and congestion problems. Building roads cannot alone solve the problem. The focus for long-term congestion relief needs to be on alternative modes of transportation, including bike lanes, sidewalks, and improved mass transit. Catering solely to single-occupancy vehicles is not the solution.

Answer 3: Austin Energy's business model needs revamping because of the growing paradox between decreased revenue from conservation and financial sustainability. Rate increases should be fair and sensitive to our most economically vulnerable residents. We must ensure that growth pays for itself with adequate impact fees and costs of service. The city must continue to expand relationship with TCAD that I have promoted, assisting in fair appraisals and everyone paying their fair share of property taxes.

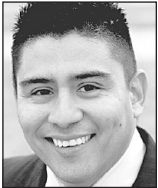
Answer 4: Austin's government structure results in a lack of representation and accountability to some Austin residents. A hybrid system (single member and at-large positions) would bring Council closer to the community and result in more effective governing. Additional potential benefits include lower cost of running a campaign and encouragement of more candidates; enhanced access to Council members by citizens; and potentially increased voter turnout. We need to ensure opportunity districts for minority representation.

Answer 5: We must first look to fairly increasing revenue as noted above. It is essential to Austin's quality of life that we maintain the services that make this a safe, great place to live and work. With scrutiny of each department's performance, we can

identify budget decreases have the least impact. With my leadership, Council now only considers tax incentives with a positive cost benefit using a transparent public process and performance measures are independently verified.

Eric J. Rangel

Answer 1: Having a degree that has a concentration in business, has trained and prepare me to look at things from a different perspective and my experience working with a local business has equipped me with the experience in creating policies and procedures to run a business more efficient and effective.



Answer 2: When looking at other major cities and how they dealt with growth. Urban rail/ Subway were the right and only decision for them. I believe it's inevitable that some form of rail will have to be a major focus of Austin in the near future to help combat our traffic problems. If we are ahead of the curve, the cost will be dramatically less in the long run.

Answer 3: I first would like to look into the current agreement that Austin has with Austin Energy. The agreement Austin has with Austin Energy needs to be reviewed and a possible increase to the amount they are giving to the general fund. Since Austin Energy is the only player in town, they need to put a little more in the basket.

Answer 4: I'm in favor of single member-districts. There are two main reasons as to why I believe single member districts are so important. It encourages accountability and increases political involvement. I would bring the new system in gradually. I would leave the 6 city council seats representing 6 geographic areas of Austin and one at large mayor in place for the first couple of years.

Answer 5: I would first start with the evaluation of my staff and then look outwards from there. I would like to have two full time staff members and one full time intern. I would favor decreasing tax breaks to the historical home owners and give that money to the Schools that being in danger of closing. Finally Austin Energy's increase to the general fund all can help budget constraints.

Toby Ryan

No reply received.

Other Travis County municipalities

Question 1: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50-word limit)

Question 2: Given current budget constraints, how do you propose to manage the needs of your city, such as water, wastewater, roads, and other city services? (75-word limit)

Question 3: What other pressing issues are facing your community, and what actions would you propose to deal with those issues? (75-word limit)

CITY OF JONESTOWN

MAYOR

Deane Armstrong
Unopposed

ALDERMAN, PLACE 1

Bill Nichols
Unopposed

ALDERMAN, PLACE 2

Tom Buckle
No photo received.

Answer 1: I have been a licensed attorney in Texas since 1970. I have been the City Attorney for four cities in Travis County, have been retained by four other cities in Williamson and Travis Counties to represent them on specific matters and served on the Jonestown P&Z Commission and City Council.

Answer 2: Jonestown has been fortunate in that it has not had to reduce or curtail services. Partly that is because there is comparatively a small sales tax component to the city's revenue sources. Jonestown does not provide water and only provides wastewater to a very small area of the city. If collection of real estate taxes continues at a 95% rate, the City should be able to manage the needs of the City without raising additional ///

Answer 3: Jonestown is a rural, primarily single family residential community. Businesses that support the needs of such a community would benefit the citizens by reducing the need to travel five to fifteen miles to access those businesses. The City should provide the infrastructure to enable those businesses to locate within the City. The City should continue and expand its efforts to increase the events being held in the Jones Brothers Park to enhance a sense of ///

Stan Cline
No reply received.

CITY OF MANOR

MAYOR

Jeff Turner
Unopposed

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 1

Jim Hooker
Unopposed

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 3

Rita Jonse
Unopposed

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 5

Stormy Stuard

Answer 1: I've lived in Manor almost 4 years now, and clearly understand the challenges that we face in today's uncertain economic climate. Professionally, I've developed strong business acumen over the past 17 years working for companies like PayPal and AT&T, that will serve me well as a council member.



Answer 2: As our economy has declined over the past few years, so have tax revenues. What revenue we do have should be spent wisely. We should prioritize the maintenance of existing infrastructure to extend service life as long as possible, and at least maintain the level of service our citizens have come to expect. The city should continue to pursue grants that can augment our tax revenue, whenever the grant terms are economically advantageous.

Answer 3: The single biggest challenge we face in Manor is broadening our tax base. We must achieve additional retail and commercial development to sustain our city and meet the future needs of our citizens. Manor is recognized as one of the most technologically-advanced cities in the country. We should leverage that reputation to help bring additional business to our community, by demonstrating our forward-thinking mindset and desire to grow.

Rebecca Davies
No reply received.

CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 2

Brad Marshall

Answer 1: As a small business owner, I am accountable for the livelihood of each employee. That responsibility means creating a company committed to fiscal dependability and long-term sustainable growth, so that employees have job security. Through my proven track record, I will apply the same due diligence to Pflugerville.



Answer 2: The city's utility services such as water, wastewater, and trash collection are funded by the sale of these services through fees which maintain operations and service debt. The Utility Fund is healthy. Roads, police, parks and administration are funded by property and sales taxes and feed the General Fund. Pflugerville's sales tax base continues to expand and increased sales tax revenue will help property taxes. Don't change a formula that is working.

Answer 3: Recruiting new businesses to Pflugerville will expand the property and sales tax bases, which will generate more revenue for road construction, police protection, and park improvements. A larger tax base will also allow future Councils to continue to reduce property tax rates for homeowners while improving General Fund services for our citizens.

Jason C. Wilson
No reply received.

Denise McGillivray

Answer 1: I am new in the area of municipality government. My experience comes from my military background as an officer that understands leadership as well as understanding how to build strong relationships.



Answer 2: I would be proud to be part of what our city officials current goals and objectives within the budget. It is the cities priority to provide high quality utility services, and the conditions of our streets of our community. By balancing the needs of our citizens, our city budget, along with

the economic climate affecting our taxpayers. We are heading in a good direction.

Answer 3: Our city is proud to be a safe community. Keeping up with the growth of our city and adding the necessary services and continue to keep our community safe is always a priority. Not an extremely pressing issue, but I feel that our city is ready for and deserves a new animal shelter that Pflugerville can be proud of.

COUNCIL MEMBER, PLACE 4

Starlet Sattler
Unopposed

CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY

COUNCIL MEMBER

Rose Cardona
No reply received.

John Moore
No photo received.

Answer 1: I have served on a number of city committees, and am currently serving in my third term as a city council member. I have also served as Mayor Pro Tem, Chair of Public Safety, and Chair of Community and Economic Development. I have been effective at writing and passing meaningful ///

Answer 2: I am going to be bringing forward a proposal for the city to undertake detailed long range planning to develop a sustainable budget for the next 5, 10 and 15 years. Our revenue sources are primarily from sales tax, and the city is mostly built out now so the focus will be on prioritizing and controlling ongoing and recurring expenses.

Answer 3: Some of the issues that we face are traffic congestion along Brodie and 290, long term fiscal planning, maintaining a strong and healthy economic environment and supporting our businesses, protecting and caring for our environment; trails, wildlife, water quality and preserving a vibrant and meaningful community that is actively engaged in a participatory government.

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Other Travis County municipalities

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Forrest Arnold

Answer 1: I have extensive experience and training in decision making in my previous career as a professional engineer. I served as President of the Austin Organic Gardeners Club several years, as Chair on a Church Board of Trustees, served on a home owners association, and on other community committees.



Answer 2: In our City, revenues are rebounding somewhat to beat expectations used for the current budget. We have the opportunity to fund all our vital programs

and services while prioritizing our list of desired programs so that we can fit the most important of those into the existing revenue, while postponing the least important. We must continue to manage the vital programs efficiently to get the most for our money.

Answer 3: Safety and security: our police force must continue its high level of effectiveness by hiring the most qualified personnel affordable and continuing their professional training. 100 Year floodplain: some further development is possible as long as projects are held to reasonable restrictions to limit adverse impact to flooding. Quality of life: we must protect those special qualities of our City and its extensive public works programs that drew us here to live.

Rudi Rosengarten

Answer 1: I have owned my own business. I have been active with the Texas Real Estate Political Action Committee and the Austin Board of Realtors Government Affairs Committee (subcommittee Chair for the remodeling ordinance) and with the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan Housing subcommittee.



Answer 2: I will evaluate citizen requirements and requests as well as engineering and fiscal constraints in order to strike a balance. I will research opportunities for revenue enhancement and promote the attractiveness of our area to visitors and

thereby retail business owners. Retail sales tax is a major revenue contribution. Selling the Sunset Valley experience to maintain these businesses and keep or attract retail business is a major City Council function.

Answer 2: Sunset Valley must sustain limited resources in order to maintain and improve quality of life for residents. I will work to improve stormwater runoff quality while keeping Williamson Creek and its tributaries flowing to minimize flooding potential. I will seek to enhance revenues by attracting tourists rather than increasing taxes. I will fight for private property rights. I will promote enhancement of the city living experience through preservation of green belts.

Travis County school districts

Question 1: What training and experience qualify you for this office? (50-word limit)

Question 2: What strategies would you use to stretch your school district's funding to maintain educational quality? (75-word limit)

Question 3: What other pressing issues are facing your school district, and what actions are needed to address these issues? (75-word limit)

DEL VALLE ISD

SMD 5

Steven B. Hart

Answer 1: I have served as a Trustee for 14 years with 392 hours of training. I have earned the TEA Master Trustee designation. I was picked by TASB to represent our Congressional district in Washington D.C. at the FRN Conference in 2010 and 2011.



Answer 2: I would look at each of our programs, and figure out which ones are benefiting our students the most and weed out the ones that are not quiet up to the standards we set for getting our students ready for college. I would make sure that we were putting a lot of effort into applying for as many grants as we could get. I would also make every effort to keep a healthy fund balance.

Answer 3: Our infrastructure continues to be a challenge because our families are spread over 174 square miles and no single entity is responsible for roads, utilities, and services. As a board we must be willing to take on these challenges and advocate for the families in Del Valle so that health and safety issues are addressed.

Nancy Ann Wilhite

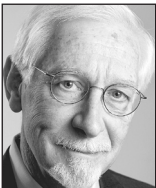
No reply received.

EANES ISD

TRUSTEE, PLACE 1

William R. Allensworth

Answer 1: I have been [in order of appearance] a Marine officer, a lawyer, happily married spouse of Kay Allensworth, PhD, parent of 2 WHS graduates, Westlake volunteer firefighter [later Fire Commissioner], Chairman of the Board of St. Andrew's Episcopal School and Adjunct Professor of Construction Law at UT Law School.



Answer 2: I would commission a management audit to identify ways we could more efficiently achieve our core mission of educating the District's children. I would limit, insofar as possible, the diversion of resources to "teaching to the test" and other State metrics. I would attempt to balance our operating budget without nonresident transfers and accounting gimmicks, and would consider raising taxes to wean the District from its addiction to long-term debt to finance its operations.

Answer 3: The Board should allow and encourage meaningful public input by (1) organizing itself into committees to address finances, facilities and instruction; (2) placing our finances and contracts online; and (3) refusing to vote on any agenda item that has not been clearly posted on its

website for at least a week, except in emergencies. It should prepare a meaningful long-term plan to match our resources with our Mission, and redefine it, if necessary.

Ronna Walker Martin

Answer 1: I have 3 children attending EISD schools since kindergarten, 2 Westlake graduates and a 10th grader. I have resided in EISD since 1989. I have attended school board meetings for more than 10 years. I developed and led student and parent group projects for 20 years at every level.



Answer 2: I would look at creating revenue streams and increasing current ones that are not subject to state recapture. I would consider temporarily compacting programs and employee benefits to decrease costs and to avoid cuts. I would look for ways to centralize and streamline campus and district services to reduce costs.

Answer 3: Community team building is needed in Eanes ISD. The educational experiences our students receive prepare them to compete on a national and global level. Yet, the ability of residents to work together face to face and resolve or negotiate solutions to problems is lacking. Uniting residents to provide the best educational environment for the students and the community is a powerful force that provides educated, dedicated citizens,

keeps neighborhoods safe and maintains property values.

TRUSTEE, PLACE 2

Robert Hargett

Answer 1: As a parent of three students, including two high schoolers and a kindergartner, I have a long-term stake in our District's continued success. I am an objective, inclusive problem-solver who will work to preserve Eanes' exemplary status.



Answer 2: I support the existing plans to draw down a portion of the current fund balance, increase revenue and reduce expenditures. This is the wrong time to cut teachers or academic programs if we want to maintain our District's standing. Despite the unprecedented financial pressures we face, we must also undertake responsible long-term planning to prepare for inevitable cyclical downturns.

Answer 3: This is a watershed election that promises to define our District for many years. Eanes ISD enjoys an unparalleled academic reputation because of a historic commitment by our students, parents, teachers, administration and taxpayers to the highest educational standards. Our

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Travis County school districts

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top priority is to preserve Eanes' tradition of excellence by working together as a community in a transparent manner for the sake of our children.

Clint Sayers

No reply received.

TRUSTEE, PLACE 3

Beau Ross

Answer 1: We face serious financial issues. As a CEO, I have successfully managed through economic downturns by analyzing financial options, gaining employee support, taking immediate action and communicating well. As a board member of corporate, academic and charity organizations, I know how to be active, constructive, independent and respectful.



Answer 2: Eanes' academic excellence is challenged because 55%, \$53 million, of our property taxes are recaptured by the State and the State's funding obligation shortfall will be up to \$11 million next year. I support a plan to resolve our deficit by cutting non-educational expenses, raising new non-tax revenue, reducing non-classroom headcount/costs, and reasonably using the rainy-day fund to minimize reductions to educational programs.

Answer 3: Eanes failed to pass a \$150 million bond in November 2010. The Board addressed voter concerns by a) drastically cutting back the bond to \$54 million, b) approving an audit of the 2006 bond, and c) instituting a bond oversight committee. Also, 100% of Trustees voted for this new bond. We need to gain voter trust and support to pass this bond, because we still have crucially-needed capital projects.

Robert "Bob" Reetz

Answer 1: I have an accounting degree, a law degree, a CPA certificate and am board certified in tax law. I have practiced law for almost 30 years and have been a member of numerous community boards including Ronald McDonald House, Greater Austin Development Corporation and the Austin Bar Association.



Answer 2: I would work to challenge the recapture system along with the following: a. Canvass all district employees for cost saving ideas. b. Review transportation utilization c. Review the administration overhead d. Review custodial functions e. Check whether grants are available f.

Review fees and contributions g. Do cost comparisons with other school districts

Answer 3: First priority is to work at regaining the community's confidence in the Board's oversight of the District. Segments of the community question whether the trustees are adequately supervising the District's finances and assets. The financial challenges are not limited to this year, but will be a continuing problem and long term solutions need to be developed. The trend has remained consistent that reimbursement from the state is diminishing with no alternative sources for revenue.

LAGO VISTA ISD

PLACE 4

Tom Rugel

Unopposed

PLACE 5

Mark Abbott

Answer 1: I am a sales manager for an international company, where I am responsible for budgeting, sales planning, contract negotiations, and financial results. I serve on the LVISD facilities planning task force and have been involved in the schools as a parent and volunteer since my daughter started kindergarten in 2000.

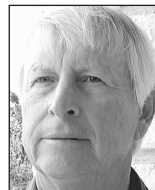


Answer 2: A healthy school district is supported by a health community. I would encourage more partnerships with the city, POA, and our community organizations to enhance educational offerings for the students. Increased revenue is vital to the growth and health of the Lago Vista schools and community. Shared facilities will support community involvement in the schools and encourage economic growth by giving us the ability to host UIL competitions in academics, music and athletics.

Answer 3: Currently our schools are at or over capacity, while student enrollment continues to increase yearly. The schools have achieved exemplary status and we as a community need to enable the schools to grow and offer increased educational opportunities. The community has a vital interest in the schools success, as an expanded tax base and stable property values both are influenced by the appeal of the school to attract new community members and businesses.

Gene Uecker

Answer 1: I have been attending LVISD school board meetings for two years and have served on the Facilities Review Committee. I have a degree in Project Management and spent my career overseeing the construction of multi-million dollar projects ranging from housing to schools to oil facilities.



Answer 2: I will work to continue the fiscally responsible course the district has set, while helping to ensure a high-quality education is provided to all students. I will advocate a zero-base budget approach that will require programs to be evaluated yearly for their effectiveness and cost-per-student served. I will look for opportunities for bulk purchasing of supplies and competitive bidding. Also, I will promote shared use and maintenance of facilities with other ///

Answer 3: LVISD will soon need additional facilities to support our growing student population. The construction of a new high school and realignment of classes at the existing campuses is the best long term solution. With the anticipated state funding cuts, LVISD will be challenged to provide adequate facilities within a limited budget. My experience in construction management will help LVISD get a high-quality facility for the lowest possible price.

LEANDER ISD

PLACE 6

Gene Fruge

Answer 1: I have been active in the community for more than 20 years, including a strong commitment to public education. In addition, I graduated from USC with a degree in Public Administration and also have a Master's Degree in Political Management from George Washington University.



Answer 2: I plan to stretch LISD's funding to maintain educational quality by: 1) restoring booster clubs at the primary level to supplement income for important programs cut from the budget; 2) improving the vendor selection process to enable schools to choose vendors with lower prices and higher quality, regardless of whether they are on the district's "approved" vendor list; 3) ensuring responsible oversight to guarantee that new bonds are only issued in response to justifiable needs.

Answer 3: We need to give our kids a competitive advantage because getting a standard education is not enough. We can do this by focusing on new fundraising solutions and fresh ideas, which are needed to tackle the high demands of our growing district. I plan to will bring quality, out of the box ideas that will expand education opportunities for our children and give them the edge they will need to succeed.

Aaron Johnson

Answer 1: Because my mother is a teacher and my sister has special needs, I grew up appreciating the value of education and educators, and have earned degrees in law and economics. My wife and I have four children, and I have closely watched board operations since 2005.



Answer 2: Realistically, we know that we will have to make budget cuts. While funding challenges will inevitably present difficult choices, the classroom will be my first priority. The most important ingredient in a successful classroom is an effective teacher who inspires students to learn. Our precious resources should always be used to offer our children the greatest possible educational advantage as they compete with students and professionals across the globe.

Answer 3: The accountability system has done many good things for public education. However, LISD students are capable of more than the current system was designed to achieve. As we reconsider education funding priorities, we should seize the opportunity to ensure that our services are helping each student achieve their full individual potential. We do this by adapting our instruction to the way individuals learn, by developing master teachers and by further promoting a college-going culture.

James Spires

Answer 1: I have lived in the district for eleven years, participated two years on the CPHS site board, completed Leadership LISD training, served on district wide committees, and volunteered at the schools. I have developed a working relationship with most of the current board and several of the highest district administrators.



Answer 2: I am interested in improving educational quality not maintaining it. Our focus must always be the education of students as represented in the LISD Learn-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Travis County school districts

ing Model. I do not support declaring a financial emergency at this time in order to alter contracts. I do not want to cut athletics or fine arts. Studies show the benefits of these student options. I will continue the district approach of community involvement and input on the budget issue.

Answer 3: LISD continues to be the second fastest growing district in Texas. Managing that growth in the current economic climate is a challenge. Raising the bar for all our students needs to happen. Students will rise to the level expected of them. Let's use that behavior to improve the culture of excellence in LISD. We need to convince the legislature to return some local control to the district and that student education is paramount.

Nacole Thompson

Answer 1: As a mother of three children in LISD, I'm intimately aware of our districts' strengths and challenges and leadership needed to make policies to move us forward. I have earned a Bachelor and Masters Degree and I have expertise in financial services, non-profit board service, mentorship, and community leadership.



Answer 2: To stretch our ever important education dollars, LISD must disciplined it properly allocates resources to curriculum, training and programs that prepare our students for college and career alternatives while supporting teachers' development. We must give careful consideration to eliminating resources from programs that are expensive and ineffective. Potential strategies include finding more creative ways to use technology to deploy resources and implementing more efficient energy, transportation and people management competencies throughout LISD.

Answer 3: As LISD continues to grow and become more diverse, concerns about college readiness, technological advancement as well as school safety will require our utmost attention. As a community, each of us should take some responsibility in helping to provide the best learning environment for our children. This begins by electing policy makers that show leadership, have a vested interest and concern for our students and represents the diverse student body our district serves.

Kyle Ward

No photo received.

Answer 1: My professional/volunteer interests for two decades further the advancement, health and safety of children and families. As Texas PTA Executive Director, I advocate for Texas students every day. As a

Certified Association Executive, I understand governance. Leadership Leander participation provided the "big picture" of how our school district operates.

Answer 2: Tough times require tough measures. Board trustees must review the budget with a microscope. With fewer employees, parents and concerned citizens must renew their commitment to volunteering to help support schools. Civic and youth groups must be encouraged to assist with projects LISD currently pays fees for service. I believe an independent study of district efficiencies, benchmarked against other districts, should occur periodically, including personnel and all operations, with a full report to the board.

Answer 3: LISD is experiencing tremendous growth. We must manage it like a business. It is imperative decisions result not only from data, but balanced with taxpayer and parental input. LISD is not just enrollment numbers, test scores and buildings. It's about students, families and employees. Board decisions have a direct impact on the academic achievement and "look and feel" of the district. Core values, not personal agendas, must set the direction. After all, it's about kids!

PLACE 7

Will Streit

Unopposed

MANOR ISD

Allen Ambuhl

Answer 1: Experienced Manor ISD Board Trustee, former Board President of Camp Fire USA Balcones Council, active community involvement, BA, MBA and over 24 years of public and private sector work experience. An understanding that a business model approach to reforming education may provide some, but not all, of the answers.



Answer 2: The most cost-effective strategy to maintain and improve educational quality is to successfully identify and retain the quality teachers who are having the most positive impact on our students. Greater use of supervised on-line learning can expand educational opportunities by offering classes that would not be cost efficient in a traditional setting. Reducing overtime expenditures that could be resolved with more efficient scheduling. Continuing cost containment initiatives in the areas of energy, transportation ///

Answer 3: Maintaining and increasing high school graduation rates will become

increasingly difficult as the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is implemented in the coming school year. A primary factor will be the loss of instructional days due to an increase in testing days. A move to a trimester schedule across all three Manor ISD high schools will aid in credit recovery opportunities. Increasing student attendance rates and parental engagement will also be necessary.

Tracy Reyes Medearis

Answer 1: My employment history has provided me with business and communication experience in both the non-profit and private industries. My relationships with customers and volunteers has given me valuable insight into the success of an organization and the expectations of board members and personnel who drive that success.



Answer 2: I would begin by evaluating the districts expendable costs as a primary focus to eliminate unnecessary spending. Eliminating inefficient expenditures to invest in the value of our teachers is a benefit to the districts report card. Providing quality education consists of the districts investment in quality educators. Secondly, examination of the current budget to identify areas where reduction, deletion or reallocation of monies could possibly increase the value in other essential departments.

Answer 3: Student population continues to increase within the district. The board needs to ensure proper funding is in place to eliminate maximum capacity classrooms with minimum attention to course instruction. Also, discipline among students needs to be addressed to eliminate classroom distractions. The district needs more accountability on behalf of students and parents.

Desiree Barnes Cornelius-Fisher

Answer 1: Current Manor ISD Board President, Master trustee, serving twelve years, Director for Texas Association of School Boards (TASB), Graduate of Leadership TASB, Former Chair of Finance committee, Member of the team that negotiated with Governor of Texas and Samsung to obtain \$5 Million for Manor ISD, Graduated Concordia University



Answer 2: As Current Board President I can honestly say that, Manor ISD has taken a proactive approach. Prior to this year and even last year, we have taken a look at our budget to review areas that we could realize efficiencies and effectiveness at the same time. Our approach ensures that we keep the core mission of what we are

about: educating our children to their fullest potential.

Answer 3: Like most school districts, reduced funding from the state will create challenges. We are also faced with meeting increased standards with next year's new STAAR exam. With budget challenges and looming perditions of significant cuts for school districts, it is important to keep stakeholders informed about our budget and our challenges. We have created a Budget Information webpage to provide information from the legislature and information on our current budget and a budget calendar.

Melinda Tumlinson Fiebig

No photo received.

Answer 1: 2 years - Manor Board of Trustees; 4 years - Board of Manor Chamber of Commerce and president in 2007; Graduate from Manor High School; Employed as CFO for Voelker Welding & Construction Inc. for 33 years; 44 years - member of the Manor Community.

Answer 2: Continue to look at student to teacher ratios in order to maximize the use of staff. Review areas of district funding that are not mandated and are not directly linked to the classroom. Evaluate all programs to insure that they are being successful and benefiting student performance. Investigate innovative means of funding.

Answer 3: The biggest issue is how to meet the needs of a diverse population with limited funding from the State. Insure all campuses in our district are attempting to achieve an exemplary level of education for all of our students. Continue to attract the most qualified classroom teachers.

Ezequiel (Zeke) Lopez

No reply received.

Yvette Meiche

Answer 1: I volunteer throughout the Manor school district, which helps to provide me with a keen insight into how our district operates. My volunteer activities include involvement in many PTO groups, volunteer softball coach, band supporter, tennis supporter, and an avid volunteer with the district's Family and Support Services Group.



Answer 2: In my opinion every school district needs to be viewed as a business with the product of that business being an education for our children. There are many documented expenses that do not add to the value or quality to the education our

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Travis County school districts

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children receive as such those expenses should be viewed as excess and eliminated. Our teaching workforce is a valuable resource that should not be reduced until all other avenues have been exhausted.

Answer 3: With the recent media focus on school funding, environmental issues have taken a backseat. Being a parent and residing in a “rural” school district means you must always consider the environmental impacts of future development. We must continue to attract environmentally friendly businesses to our district while resisting those that would do harm such as a landfill expansion or a power plant.

SPECIAL ELECTION

Isaac J. Ruiz

No reply received.

Ben Arellano

Answer 1: Having previously served on the board I had the opportunity to attend many workshops and have met with many organizations, companies, and individuals where I gained much knowledge about school business. This training helped me make the right choices that would benefit the students and staff of Manor ISD.



Answer 2: I would review how our district funds are being invested. We need to make sure that we are gaining the most interest so that we could apply the money earned for the educational needs of our students. I would also look at ways that we could make money with our own district's resources, such as advertising on our buses or other means of using what our district has in order to make more revenue.

Answer 3: Low attendance rates at our secondary campuses are a big issue. We need to reach out to students and parents to make them aware of the importance of attending school. Perhaps awarding incentives for school attendance or offering zero hour attendance, night classes, selfpaced classes in order for these students to get their education. Student attendance equals funds for education. We cannot give up the hope that all students can obtain a high school education.

David Burgos

No reply received.

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ROUND ROCK ISD

PLACE 1

Matt Stillwell

Answer 1: I believe I am the only candidate who holds a Texas Teaching Certification, so I know what the inside of a classroom looks like from a teaching standpoint, I've seen the hiring process and know the educational theories being practiced in our schools. I've volunteered on several other professional and ///



Answer 2: 87% of RRISD's \$330M budget is people, so the 13% spent on all other areas illustrates efficiency is already in place. That leaves the tough choice to cut staff. To maintain quality, I would only use a merit based system and cut the teachers who are under-performing, not base the decision on tenure first, and keep the best teachers in front of our kids. The partial use of the RRISD fund balance is something ///

Answer 3: RRISD grows by over 1,000 students a year, meaning more schools will be needed, bigger classes may result and not necessarily more teachers or support staff added with the current hiring freeze. No other issue will determine the future of RRISD than the budget gap caused by the reformed property tax rate and corresponding underperformance of the business tax. Pressure needs to be put on the Legislature to fix that problem by our superintendent, his ///

Brian Sellers

Answer 1: I have over 40 hours of training through the Texas Association of School Boards. I have served on the RRISD School Board for the past 3 years and have experienced first hand two boundary changes, book issues, a bond election and currently the unprecedented budget crisis and unavoidable teacher layoffs.



Answer 2: Central administration should run as lean as possible to preserve teaching staff and student programs. Alternate revenue sources such as renting additional district facilities during off hours should be considered. In addition, we should limit technology expenditures by allowing students to bring in outside devices for learning and go to less expensive cloud based

email and software clients as opposed to large licenses. More efficient transportation methods should be considered as fuel costs climb higher.

Answer 3: School Finance: Fiscal conservation is crucial. We should insure hires and purchases are directly linked to the student learning experience. Rapid Growth: A bond will be necessary in the near future to build facilities to handle the 1,000+ new students RRISD receives annually. Academic Status: We are currently at the Recognized rating and must continue efforts to grow toward the Exemplary rating. This is a key component for companies looking to locate in RRISD.

PLACE 3

Diane Cox

Answer 1: I have served in this position for 5½ years and have completed hundreds of training hours with TASB (Tx Association of School Boards), CRSS (Center for Reform of School Systems), etc. Leadership TASB Master Trustee Graduate. Co founder and current President of CTSBA (Central Texas School Board Association).



Answer 2: Thoroughly research and apply efficiencies in the district while priority is given to providing resources focused on student achievement. Involve all stakeholders in decisions regarding cuts. Research and develop new revenue sources. Use RRISD fund balance to lessen impact of state cuts: I recommended front loading first year use to allow teachers to remain in the classroom longer. This allows us to use two years of attrition instead of one thus using a phased approach.

Answer 3: RRISD is a fast growth district and as such has a challenge of meeting the facility needs along with meeting the operational needs. Continued focus on educating the community to the difference between Bond elections (Capital budget) and Tax rate elections (Operational budget) will be needed under the current state funding model. Staff development and resources to support teachers must be made available to assist with the rollout of the new state accountability system.

David Dziadziola

Answer 1: Since majoring in Finance (minor Economics) at Central Michigan University, I've analyzed all sizes of companies, advised successful asset allocation strategies for large teacher pension plans, started

two companies from nothing in boom and bust economies, and work with NAFIA to help educate lawmakers about impacts of public policy.



Answer 2: I would utilize a strategy of overall community involvement with a longer term outlook. This encompasses a 3 pronged approach. Press for more in-district vendor participation at or below current costs during the economic downturn, push for deep temporary cuts to save as many current education jobs thru the economic downturn, more judiciously utilize reserve funds (\$40 million) over a 4 year time frame rather than the proposed \$25 million plus this year.

Answer 3: Proper policy formation of the proposed academy system is cause for concern. Special consideration needs to ensure parents and children are not forced to choose and be locked into a career path at an age where most are uncertain of their future. Also, proper attention and planning is needed to address potential district wide property valuation since this can have a much larger impact on school budgets compared to state funding.

PLACE 6

Glen H. Colby

Unopposed

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