



Voters Guide

2009 GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

MAY 9, 2009

JOINT GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Early voting - April 27, 2009 - May 5, 2009

Election day - Polls open 7am to 7pm

THE LEAGUE of Women Voters 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.

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The 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 slashes (///). Candidates were also asked to confine their responses to the questions asked and to avoid references to their opponents. Candidates who are not opposed are listed, but questionnaires were not sent to them.

The Voters Guide lists candidates in local races. Candidates appearing with no photo failed to submit one. 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.

Early voting begins April 27, 2009 and runs through May 5, 2009. If you have questions about your voter registration, visit www.traviscountytax.org or call Travis County Voters Registration at 512-854-9473.

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- Nada Lulic
- Julia Marsden
- Janice May
- Patricia Oaks
- Arnold & Margit Orange
- Diane Radin
- William and Susan Reid
- Kathy Rider

CITY OF AUSTIN MAYOR

Question 1:

What do you want to accomplish during your term as a member of the Austin City Council? (75 word limit)

Question 3:

If the economic downturn continues, how would you adjust the City of Austin budget? (75 word limit)

Question 2:

What programs would you support to improve access to affordable housing, transportation, and social services. Please explain. (75 word limit)

Question 4:

What are your priorities for the upcoming long range comprehensive plan for growth and development? (75 word limit)

LEE LEFFINGWELL



EDUCATION:

Austin public schools: Becker, Fulmore, Travis High; BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas at Austin; Graduate, Officer Candidate Training School, U.S. Navy

EXPERIENCE:

Commander, U.S. Navy, Retired; Captain, Delta Air Lines, Retired; Chair, City of Austin Environmental Board; Member, Austin City Council, Place 1; Board Member, Capital Metro; Chair, Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee; Member, Audit and Finance Subcommittee; Chair, BCCP Coordinating Committee

Answer 1: Im running for Austin mayor to focus on the fundamentals. That means saving and creating jobs, especially by helping our local businesses succeed; delivering real solutions to our transportation problems; improving public safety and protecting vital social services; fighting for clean air, clean water, and clean energy; standing up for the interests of neighborhoods; making city government more transparent and accountable; and maintaining fiscal discipline to keep taxes low while delivering reliable basic services

Answer 2: To improve public transportation, I support holding an election to authorize expansion of our commuter rail system. To create more affordable housing, we need to continue and expand the most effective City efforts, like the SMART Housing Program, and make judicious use of the 2006 voter-approved affordable housing bond funding. To protect our community's safety net, I've pledged to oppose budget cuts that would negatively impact the delivery of social services or public safety services.

Answer 3: If tax revenues continue to decline dramatically, the City Council will need to work with the City Manager to identify possible budget cuts at the department level. I've pledged not to support budget cuts that would negatively impact the delivery of social services or public safety services. I've also suggested that if non-contract City employees are ever forced to accept salary freezes or salary cuts, then contract employees should be asked to do the same.

Answer 4: I believe Austin's new Comprehensive Plan should speak to a broad range of issues including economic development, transportation, neighborhood planning, public safety, social services, and environmental protection. I also believe the new Comprehensive Plan should have "teeth" and that future policy decisions by the City should be made largely in the context of the plan. Thanks for the opportunity to answer these questions and I ask for your vote on Saturday, May 9th.

CAROLE KEETON STRAYHORN



EDUCATION:

University of Texas at Austin, Bachelor of Arts with Honors, with Special Honors in Government; Recipient, University of Texas at Austin Distinguished Alumnus Award.

EXPERIENCE:

Public School Teacher; President Austin Independent School District School Board; President Austin Community College Board; Three Term Mayor of Austin; Small Business Owner; Texas Railroad Commissioner and Texas Comptroller. Austin has given me a lifetime of joy; it's time to give back my lifetime of experience.

Answer 1: I will be a leader, I will be accountable, I will energize this city's government. Completely change the way this city does business: we will have an Austin city government that Austinites can afford; get traffic moving, stop studying and start fixing; create, leverage, retain paychecks and jobs in Austin; build medical school now, creating 14,400 jobs, \$1.5 Billion a year for Austin. Start police cadet class now; put patrol cars in neighborhoods.

Answer 2: Immediately launch an independent external investigation of Capital Metro. Capital Metro reserves plunged, and \$85-\$110 million for essential traffic improvements and public transportation in Austin vanished. Government spending cannot outpace the incomes of Austin families as this council has allowed. Austinites should be able to buy a home, live in that home, and sell that home without a Mayor and Council standing in their way.

Answer 3: Having been Texas Comptroller, I understand fiscal responsibility. Austin needs leadership. Pass a real budget, using real numbers and not approve a budget, as the council did this year, that spends \$137 million more than the revenue everyone knew would be coming in this year. Cut the city's army of outside consultants and high paid lobbyists. Appoint Mayor's Budget Task Force of academics, entrepreneurs, and policy experts. It will not cost taxpayers a dime.

Answer 4: Get Austin moving, require higher standards for road maintenance and traffic reduction. Improve safety at major traffic areas, 290 East, the Y at Oak Hill, 71 East. Provide boost-ups for small Austin businesses. The city put \$2.3 Billion in Nacogdoches for only 100 megawatts of biomass; for \$1 Billion we can build a medical school now. Put healthcare over headlines, biotech over biomass, and provide a safety net for the uninsured.

BREWSTER MCCrackEN



EDUCATION:

LBJ School, 1995, master's degree; University of Texas Law School, 1995, graduated with honors; Princeton University, 1988, graduated with honors

EXPERIENCE:

Austin Mayor Pro Tem; Chair, Emerging Technologies Committee; Chair, Land Use-Transportation Committee; United Way Safety and Security Committee; Founded mentor program, Johnston HS; Army Reserve; Former Assistant District Attorney; Past board member, Austin Public Library Foundation

Answer 1: I have set forth my four-point plan on my website, www.brewstermccracken.com. We should build on the city's nationally recognized Pecan Street Project that has brought together businesses like Dell, IBM, Freescale, and the Environmental Defense Fund to promote clean energy and save jobs. I will also promote policies that encourage the film industry to create more jobs in Austin.

Answer 2: We should implement the Envision Central Texas vision of mixed income, mixed use development along major corridors, protect the character of Austins historic neighborhoods, promote density and mixed income housing at rail stops, and greatly expand our city's network of neighborhood parks, trails, sidewalks and youth athletic fields and swimming pools citywide in the 2012 bond election.

Answer 3: With plummeting sales tax revenues, we cannot afford to give the city's public safety unions new pay raises. They are already the best paid in the state, and giving them additional pay raises could trigger tax increases as well as significant budget cuts to after school programs, libraries, parks and road maintenance. Moreover, honoring our job creation agreements with companies like Samsung must be a higher priority than giving pay raises to public safety unions.

Answer 4: I want to implement the Comprehensive Plan through the 2012 bond election by funding quality of life investments in Austin neighborhoods: neighborhood sidewalk, small neighborhood parks, trails and bike paths, and youth soccer and athletic fields and swimming pools. For neighborhoods that have neighborhood plans, we should implement the quality of life improvements in those plans. For neighborhoods that don't yet, we will need to spend the next three years through the comprehensive plan.

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.

JOSIAH JAMES INGALLS



EDUCATION:

From third grade to age eighteen I was legally denied an education. From 18 to 28 I pursued an education and earned my diploma.

EXPERIENCE:

I am the President and Founder of the School For All Children Act. I understand what affects all levels of society therefore I understand what it will take to fix the problems within the different levels of our society in a way that will protect the citizen's rights.

Answer 1: Establish low income housing in all areas of the City, reform our tax laws to give equal funding to all our schools based on enrollment, to establish better mental health and regular healthcare programs as well as substance abuse programs, to reduce the power of the city manager, to bring recycling to all areas of the City, and to amend the City Charter to effectively do away with contradictory language within our laws.

Answer 2: To ensure that the City owns, operates and maintains a percentage of low income housing; to stop giving money to Capital Metro and instead invest it into a secondary company because competition leads to better service and lower prices for the people; to enact a four year ban to prevent the City from giving money to any corporation but instead help support local businesses; and to get our social services to work together more efficiently.

Answer 3: I would not cut spending from the Police Department, EMS, or the Fire Department due to the fact that people's lives depend on those services. Instead I would cut the Mayors salary and insure that there is no wasteful spending within the budget and that City employees who waste money are held accountable. I would work to pass an amendment to the City Charter guaranteeing transparency in all levels of local government to prevent waste.

Answer 4: I would work to get the neighborhoods without neighborhood plans to create one instead of the city creating one for them and then I would demand that the neighborhood plans be the foundation for the comprehensive plan to ensure that all progress represents the needs of the community instead of the needs of the special interest groups.

DAVID BUTTROSS



EDUCATION:

I graduated from Johnston High School in Austin, received an economics degree from the University of Texas and an MBA from Texas State University.

EXPERIENCE:

Successful businessman who knows the value of hard work, of keeping your promises and providing good customer service. First hand knowledge of finding innovative ways to succeed at affordable housing, support for small business and in finding solutions to tough situations.

Answer 1: My priorities are simple: good, quality basic services and developing and maintaining the necessary infrastructure to make our city the very best in the country. Most of all we need a city government we can trust. We shouldn't have to fight city hall for a quality neighborhood or basic services. I want all citizens to have a voice at city hall. For too long we have been governed by special interests instead of the best interests of the people.

Answer 2: As a businessman who has helped turn over 1,000 renters into homeowners, I support public/private partnerships that encourage affordable housing, increase our capability of energy efficiency and that give people a hand up instead of a hand out. Our current system is not working. Our city needs to work more with faith based organizations, charities and private enterprise for needed social services.

Answer 3: The city should ensure good basic public services, maintain our city facilities and open spaces and ensure our public safety. After that everything is negotiable. When Austin families are hurting and have to tighten their belt, City Hall needs to do the same. Cuts need to be made across the board and every effort has to be made to ensure that taxpayer money is being spent wisely.

Answer 4: We need to ensure that our public buildings and spaces are well maintained and that we have the right kind of zoning and permitting that encourages civic improvement and investment in our city. We need neighborhoods that we are proud of and smart growth that builds upon the infrastructure we have already created in our city. We need to keep dollars spent in Austin invested in Austin and adopt priorities are not guided by special interests but by what is good for the city as a whole.

CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Question 1:

What do you want to accomplish during your term as a member of the Austin City Council? (75 word limit)

Question 2:

What programs would you support to improve access to affordable housing, transportation, and social services. Please explain. (75 word limit)

Question 3:

If the economic downturn continues, how would you adjust the City of Austin budget? (75 word limit)

Question 4:

What are your priorities for the upcoming long range comprehensive plan for growth and development? (75 word limit)

MIKE MARTINEZ

NO PHOTO

EDUCATION:

PLACE 2

I Attended Temple College, Austin Community College and UT Austin, and graduated from Leadership Austin and the LBJ School of Public Affairs West Point Military Leadership Program.

EXPERIENCE:

I was a firefighter and emergency medical technician from 1993-2006, President of the Austin Firefighters' Association from 2003-2006, and was elected to City Council in 2006. I also served on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters and was a diversity trainer with the National Coalition Building Institute.

Answer 1: I will continue my leadership role on important issues like transportation (Capitol Metro), the environment, and affordability. Austin is the largest city in the United States that does not use a geographic representation system, better known as single member districts. I personally believe that Austin would benefit greatly from a hybrid system of at large and single member districts, and I will work to get this measure on the ballot so voters can choose.

Answer 2: As a Capital Metro Board member, I will advocate for reduced fees for the vulnerable members of our community. I will continue to work towards creating true affordable housing options by advocating for a Homestead Preservation District and expansion of the City's S.M.A.R.T. housing program. Also, I serve on the Health and Human Services Subcommittee, and will work to ensure that our social service contracts are maintained or increased despite the downturn in the economy.

Answer 3: A shotgun approach to budget cuts at this point is irresponsible, and could further jeopardize critical City services that could otherwise be kept intact during one of the most difficult economic recessions in our nation's history. My position is one of protecting the core services and values of our community while understanding and maintaining the fiscal restraint necessary to not burden the tax payers further.

Answer 4: Our plans moving forward should question and determine if this growth trend is sustainable and viable. I agree with a full assessment of our infrastructure and how it relates to land use and growth. The plan should also take into consideration the years of work that have already been put into our neighborhood plans, and should continue to include a strong public input component as part of the planning process

JOSE QUINTERO - NO RESPONSE

PLACE 2

BILL SPELLMAN - UNOPPOSED

PLACE 5

SAM OSEMENE



EDUCATION:

I studied government at the University of Texas and received a B.A. I earned my Masters Degree in Political Science from Texas State University.

EXPERIENCE:

I served in the United States Navy, USS Jarrett, FFG, Missile Cruiser in Long Beach California. I worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. I'm currently an Investigator with the State of Texas and also a government teacher at Austin Community College. I've worked in different political campaigns. I worked with Linda Curtis and Brian Rogers on Prop-2 to end the corporate subsidies and to support local businesses.

Answer 1: Transparency , accountability and oversight of government activities. Comprehensive transportation plan for all by reforming Capital Metro and standing up against tolling existing roads we have already paid for. Affordable Housing for the poor, the needy and the elderly.

More resources for social and human services. Stop the police chief's blood draw policy. Supporting local businesses in Austin by ending the corporate subsidies that have put the city in debt. Represent those that have been neglected by the city council and lobbyists.

Answer 2: Use some of the vacant city lands to build affordable housing and also partnering with the private sector in building affordable housing for all. Reform Capital Metro to improve services. Support connecting the whole city with Commuter Rail, build more bicycle and pedestrian lanes in the city, more resources for social services in order to address mental illnesses and drug addiction. Build a permanent humane living quarters for the homeless . Homestead exemptions for our Seniors who live on a fixed income.

Answer 3: I will never support cutting social services for the poor, the needy and the elderly as proposed by Council Member Cole. One of the ways to adjust the budget is to stop giving corporate subsidies to big corporations. Council Members have to take a pay cut . Leadership by example is needed. I will partner with Travis County and see what services it can provide on behalf of the city at a cheaper rate . Both the City and the County have to absorb each others services in what I called consolidation of services with citizens oversight.

Answer 4: I do not trust the City Council to produce a comprehensive plan. I'm afraid the same lobbyists will be the ones that write this comprehensive plan. Currently, these lobbyists write our environmental and zoning laws. This is what I proposed. We can derive our comprehensive plan from neighborhood plans .We need neighborhood plans because what is good for one neighborhood may not be good for other neighborhoods. We must then encourage neighborhood associations to send delegates to a Neighborhood Plan Convention where the final comprehensive plan would emerge.

PLACE 6

CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL UNEXPIRED TERM

CHRIS RILEY



EDUCATION:

After attending Austin public schools, I graduated with honors from Harvard College, and then received my J.D. from the U.T. School of Law.

EXPERIENCE:

My city board service includes the Planning Commission (Chair), Downtown Commission (Chair), Water Conservation Task Force, and many others. I have also worked with the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (co-founder/president), Austin CarShare (co-founder/vice-chair), Austin History Center Association (president), Austin Parks Foundation, and the Alliance for Public Transit (co-founder) .

Answer 1: I want to strengthen our economy and environment by supporting local businesses, creating green jobs, cultivating our tech sector, and enhancing our local food supply. I want to improve transportation by promoting a truly multi-modal network that includes roads, rail, buses, and improved conditions for bicycles and pedestrians. And I want to preserve our city's character by focusing on law enforcement, human services, affordable housing, our arts & music scenes, and our local history.

Answer 2: I would support a central-city circulator, the Green Line to Manor and Elgin, an improved bus system, and better conditions for bicycles and pedestrians. For affordable housing, I would clarify our goals & incentives, make better use of city-owned land, utilize Community Land Trusts and Tax Increment Financing Districts, and work with private-sector providers. I would maintain strong support for social services, including mental health, especially during this time when demand for services is up.

Answer 3: To identify additional efficiency measures, I would encourage input from staff at all levels, and I would take that input seriously. I would defer capital projects with significant operations & maintenance costs. I would renegotiate the contract for the processing of our recyclables. And I would consider salary reductions for higher-level employees, including Council Members. I would avoid short-term savings, such as cuts in social services, that would result in higher-long term costs.

Answer 4: The Comprehensive Plan should address the city's expectations for each neighborhood regarding affordable housing, population growth, transit, public facilities, and other city-wide needs. It should also address our long-term needs for water, wastewater, conservation, open space, health, and human services. It should steer growth toward our transit corridors, and provide a basis for shaping that growth through the use of form-based codes. The public process for the plan should be inclusive, collaborative, and transparent.

PLACE 1

PERLA CAVAZOS



EDUCATION:

I earned a BA from Stanford University and a master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin.

EXPERIENCE:

I have both local and statewide experience in public policy in the areas of affordable housing, business and commerce, education, economic development, land use, taxes and women's issues. I have served on the City's Planning Commission, Commission for Women and as a Senior Policy Analyst in the Texas Senate.

Answer 1: If elected, the top three things I want to accomplish are 1) providing immediate steps to address the impact of the economic downturn for Austin families and small businesses 2) dedicating my leadership to addressing affordability issues in Austin, such as following through on the proposals outlined in the Children and Families Task Force and 3) committing to creating a long-range comprehensive plan to position Austin to lead Texas' economic comeback.

Answer 2: I am a strong advocate for multi-modal public transit, specifically commuter rail and bus rapid transit. We must increase Austin's affordable housing stock city-wide by prioritizing publicly owned land for affordable developments, creating incentives for developers to incorporate affordable housing into their projects, and expanding the use of land trusts in Austin. I also believe we can strengthen our most vulnerable communities and increase economic opportunity by investing in small businesses and micro-business lending programs.

Answer 3: There will be no easy choices. Three things I will consider are: 1) how do we relieve as much pressure on the budget without negatively impacting our most vulnerable communities; 2) how do we responsibly eliminate inefficiencies; and 3) how can we increase revenue. It is critical that all departments continue partnering with City Hall to propose creative solutions that address budget shortfalls without compromising the critical services we provide to Austin residents.

Answer 4: The first priority for the upcoming long-range plan is ensuring strong public participation to identify the needs, goals and values of Austin's unique communities. Based on my conversation with many Austinites, it's important to create broad city-wide and regional partnerships, carefully plan for growth in our desired development area to protect our unique environment, address issues of affordability and increase economic opportunities by diversifying and strengthening our economy and revenue streams.

PLACE 1

STUDENT VOTERS

If students consider their parents' address to be their permanent address, they may use that address as their voter registration address. However, if they would like to register to vote at their college address, they may do so. Students cannot be registered at both places. The general rule of thumb is that wherever the student claims residency, that is where they should be registered to vote. Students who will be away from home on Election Day and during early voting may request a ballot by mail.

CITY OF BEE CAVE CITY COUNCIL

Question 1:

What effect is development having on your community and how do you propose to manage growth in your area, such as infrastructure improvement? (75 word limit)

Question 2:

What pressing issues are facing your community and what actions would you propose to deal with those issues? (75 word limit)

JACK MCCOOL - NO RESPONSE

STEPHEN ENGLAND



EDUCATION:

UK educated, 13 years school, 3 yr University – B.Sc. with Honors degree in Microbial Biochemistry

EXPERIENCE:

Extensive international business experience; Director at age 26, CEO at age 29; Helped build a Fortune 1,000 company in under six years; Managed 2,000+ people and \$2billion budgets; Partner in a technology consulting practice.

Answer 1: Bee Cave is a burgeoning retail center with extensive growth to its West – driving substantial traffic pressure on its roads. Major improvements have been made and are planned. It will be important to work with TX DoT to make sure Highway 71 and other expansion takes place. Subject to city budgets there will also be a need for internal roads connecting through the retail areas to Austin.

Answer 2: Bee Cave's new retail center brings in sales tax revenue to keep city property tax at one of the lowest levels in the state. It will be vital in these tough economic times to support the filling out of the retail areas with quality stores. We must also maintain a conservative fiscal and management approach to city expenditures to avoid budget shortfalls that can only be met by substantial local property tax increases.

RUSTY KILGO - NO RESPONSE

BOB DORSETT, JR - NO RESPONSE

BILL GOODWIN - NO RESPONSE

Useful Telephone Numbers and Websites

City of Bee Cave	www.beecavetexas.com	512/263-2151
City of Lago Vista	www.lagovista.org	512/267-7952
City of Lakeway	www.lakeway.org	512/261-5203
City of Manor	www.cityofmanor.com	512/272-5555
City of Pflugerville	www.cityofpflugerville.com	512/251-3076
City of Rollingwood	www.cityofrollingwood.com	512/327-1838
City of Sunset Valley	www.sunsetvalley.org	512/892-1383
Village of Webberville	www.webberville.org	512/276-1865
City of West Lake Hills	www.westlakehills.org	512/327-3628
Village of the Hills	www.villageofthehills.org	

CITY OF LAKEWAY MAYOR

Question 1:

What effect is development having on your community and how do you propose to manage growth in your area, such as infrastructure improvement? (75 word limit)

Question 2:

What pressing issues are facing your community and what actions would you propose to deal with those issues? (75 word limit)

DAVE DEOME



EDUCATION:

Engineering Degree from Northeastern University. MBA (Finance) from Tulane University.

EXPERIENCE:

Lakeway Mayor Pro Tem, Lakeway City Council (3 years), Building Commission, Economic Development Committee, Friends of the Parks (past Board Member), City Council Liaison to Arts and Beautification Committee, Finance Evaluation Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission and Zoning and Planning Commission.

Answer 1: Growth in the general Austin area has made access to hospitals and doctors that are located near downtown Austin more difficult and time consuming. The development of the Lakeway Regional Medical Center will provide the citizens of Lakeway with convenient access to high quality medical care. I have been a champion of this project for the last three years and will continue to vigorously support it during my term as Mayor.

Answer 2: The most pressing issue for the City of Lakeway is the current downturn in the economy. The City wisely reduced expenses in the 2009 budget by approximately 5%. This step has proven to be beneficial to the City's financial situation. Even though revenues dropped over the first five months of fiscal year 2009, the City's budget is essentially in balance. I have the financial background necessary to lead the City through difficult economic times.

JERRY STEIN



EDUCATION:

Graduated Cum Laude in 1977 from Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX, with a BA in Accounting.

EXPERIENCE:

CPA for 30 years, Real Estate Broker for 20 years, worked for 15 years as a CFO for 3 different multi-million dollar companies managing people, negotiating contracts, and developing and overseeing annual budgets. Owned and operated own business for the last 15 years.

Answer 1: Growth in Lakeway continues to increase every year. The City has many projects on the horizon including a new Medical Center, new roads and several housing subdivisions. I will promote the success of new and existing businesses in Lakeway by working closely with Community business leaders. As our demographics continue to change, I will make sure all residents of Lakeway are represented and have a voice on the city council.

Answer 2: Lakeway is currently spending tens of thousands of taxpayer's dollars on Legislation to allow them to annex the Lakeway MUD. I am against any Legislation that would affect the current operation of the MUD and will stop wasting taxpayer's money. Lakeway's Police Department is not fully staffed because the Council has frozen 3 positions. I will work to fully staff, better equip, and reduce the costly overtime and turnover of the Lakeway Police Department

CITY OF LAKEWAY CITY COUNCIL

ALAN TYE



EDUCATION:

Bachelors and Masters Degree from Oklahoma State University. Certified Public Accountant and Ethics and Corporate Governance Instructor for International Institute of Internal Auditors

EXPERIENCE:

Currently serving Lakeway as City Councilmember. Previously, served as Zoning & Planning Commissioner, Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Assistant City Treasurer and Economic Development Chairman. Professionally, enjoyed career as an international financial executive with ExxonMobil Corporation ; having lived on three continents and worked in over fifty countries.

Answer 1: Lakeway's stature as a great place to live can best be assured by proactive review and enforcement of our development and building ordinances and the Comprehensive Plan. Longer range financial planning is also needed to address infrastructure improvements and replacement. Our most significant development opportunity is the successful completion, consistent with our ordinances, of the Lakeway Regional Medical Center. This facility will bring much needed medical facilities to Lakeway and the Lake Travis Region.

Answer 2: We must address the challenges presented by the current global financial crisis while taking steps to assure a bright future. The cost control and budget discipline I have demonstrated will be absolutely essential to ensure that Police and other quality City services are maintained. At the same time, we must reach out to all expanding areas and age groups within Lakeway to ensure that they not only enjoy but enhance our quality of Community.

CHRIS WOOD - NO RESPONSE

DENNIS WALLACE - NO RESPONSE

JOE D. BAIN, JR. - NO RESPONSE

INFORMED VOTERS KNOW:

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)

CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Question 1:

What effect is development having on your community and how do you propose to manage growth in your area, such as infrastructure improvement? (75 word limit)

Question 2:

What pressing issues are facing your community and what actions would you propose to deal with those issues? (75 word limit)

DARELLE WHITE- UNOPPOSED

PLACE 3

ERICA ANNE GRIGNON



PLACE 5

EDUCATION:

I graduated from Necedah High School in Necedah Wisconsin. I attended College at the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point (Sociology Major).

EXPERIENCE:

I founded a local activist group to promote Liberty, low taxes, and government accountability. We are called the Pflugerville Liberty Lovers. I was elected to the steering Committee of the P.A.C. Texans for Accountable Government. I serve the community as a meal's on wheels volunteer.

Answer 1: The TTC coming through the Pflugerville has dramatically changed the landscape of our community. I was one of the many Texans who opposed the building of the toll roads and destruction of farmland and taking of private property through eminent domain. Now that the roads are here and the city has seen tremendous growth we need to make sure we have good sound infrastructure.

Answer 2: One of the most pressing issues in our community is high taxes. I am firm believer in smaller/leaner government and very low taxes. The American people have a right to keep more of their own money and decide how they want to spend it. I will work very hard to sensibly and gradually reduce the size of local government and do what I can to make sure that tax money is not misused.

VICTOR GONZALES



PLACE 5

EDUCATION:

Graduate of the University of Texas and post graduate studies Texas State University.

EXPERIENCE:

Elected Mayor Pro Tem, Downtown Planning Vice Chair, Pflugerville Education Foundation Director, Chamber of Commerce, Pflugerville Finance Committee, Lower Colorado River Authority Regional Council. 35 Years Professional Experience in both public and private sector. City Council 3 years.

Answer 1: Growth has been very positive. New businesses have opened up. In 12 months we have had 26 grand openings. A major retail project is moving forward with completion of some very strong anchors for the city. New business brings more people both within and outside of Pflugerville as a regional presence is evolving. That calls for reliable connectivity through planned completion of current streets and planning for future roadways through carefully funded CIP projects.

Answer 2: The issue of multi family housing has been reoccurring and residents are reluctant to approve of large scale multi family projects. There is a concern for property devaluation, crime, and school crowding. I would propose that we adopt a progressive multi family housing standard to address the quantity and quality of housing, minimum density, construction, square footage, occupancy, and elevation to deliver a compatible project that compliments an adjacent single family residential area

Useful Telephone Numbers and Websites

League of Women Voters Austin Area	www.lwvaustin.org	512/451-6710
League of Women Voters of Texas	www.lwvtexas.org	512/472-1100
Texas Secretary of State	www.sos.state.tx.us	800/252-8683
Travis County	www.co.travis.tx.us	512/854-9188

INFORMED VOTERS KNOW:

To find out where your precinct votes on election day, call 512-238-VOTE or visit www.traviscountyelections.org.

CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY CITY COUNCIL

CITY DID NOT SEND LEAGUE LIST OF CANDIDATES; THEREFORE CANDIDATES
DID NOT RECEIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

ROSA CARDONA

ELISABETH WRIGHT

JOHN MOORE

VILLAGE OF THE HILLS MAYOR

CITY DID NOT SEND LEAGUE LIST OF CANDIDATES; THEREFORE CANDIDATES
DID NOT RECEIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

STEVE LEIPSNER

DOUG LINDGREN

VILLAGE OF THE HILLS ALDERMAN

CITY DID NOT SEND LEAGUE LIST OF CANDIDATES; THEREFORE CANDIDATES
DID NOT RECEIVE QUESTIONNAIRE

LLOYD TROELTZSCH

J.R. SMITH

EARLY VOTING BY MAIL

Only specific reasons entitle a person to vote early by mail (no longer called absentee voting). You may request a ballot by mail if you will be away from your county on election day **and** during the hours of early voting, are sick or disabled, are 65 or older on election day, or are confined to jail.

Request an Application for Ballot by Mail (ABBM) from the early voting clerk in the county where you are registered, or download the form from Secretary of State website: www.sos.state.tx.us. The completed form must be received by mail or fax by May 1, 2009 (postmarks don't count). County elections addresses and fax numbers are also available on the SOS website.

A ballot will be mailed to you, and you must return your completed ballot to your county elections department by **7PM on election day, May 9, 2009** (received, not just postmarked, and no faxes are allowed).

MOVING??

After moving, notify the county voter registrar in writing of your new address. You should transfer your registration to your new address as soon as possible. You may return to your previous precinct to vote until your registration is transferred, provided you still live within the boundaries of the entity conducting the election. If you move from one Texas county to another, you must re-register in the county of your new residence. You may be eligible to vote a limited ballot for 90 days after you move if your new registration is not yet effective. However, the limited ballot is available only during early voting, not on election day.

VILLAGE OF VOLENTE CITY COUNCIL

MARK SCOTT - NO RESPONSE

MATTHEW HAMMOND - NO RESPONSE

CHRISTOPHER R. WILDER - NO RESPONSE

GARY MURPHY - NO RESPONSE

DEL VALLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Question 1: What are your top three spending priorities and why? (75 word limit)

Question 2: Other than school finance, name the three most critical issues facing your school district today and what actions are needed to resolve each of these issues? (75 word limit)

Question 3: What do you see as the role of the Board of Trustees in relation to the daily operations of the district? (75 word limit)

KANDICE VALDEZ WHIPPER
NO RESPONSE

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT
6

RICHARD FRANKLIN III
NO RESPONSE

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICT
6

EANES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PAUL D. STONE - NO RESPONSE

PLACE 4

SHERMAN REED- NO RESPONSE

PLACE 4

GAIL KING - UNOPPOSED

PLACE 5

Useful Telephone Numbers and Websites

Austin ISD	www.trustees.austin.isd.tenet.edu	512/414-1700
Del Valle ISD	www.del-valle.k12.tx.us	512/386-3000
Lake Travis ISD		512/533-6000
Leander ISD	www.leanderisd.org	512/434-5000
Manor ISD	www.manorisd.net	512/278-4000
Pflugerville ISD	www.pflugervilleisd.net	512/594-0000
Round Rock ISD	www.roundrockisd.org	512/464-5000

LAKE TRAVIS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Question 1: What are your top three spending priorities and why? (75 word limit)

Question 2: Other than school finance, name the three most critical issues facing your school district today and what actions are needed to resolve each of these issues? (75 word limit)

Question 3: What do you see as the role of the Board of Trustees in relation to the daily operations of the district? (75 world limit)

GUY CLAYTON - UNOPPOSED

PLACE 1

LISA JOHNSON



EDUCATION:
Bachelor of Arts degree in Advertising from Abilene Christian University

PLACE 2

EXPERIENCE:
Lake Travis Education Foundation Past President and Board Member; Kardivas, Inc., President and Co-Founder; Abilene Christian University Alumni Advisory Board; LTMS Campus Advisory Team; LTISD Re-Zoning Boundary Committee; Co-Chaired LTISD Strategic Planning Communication Committee. Organizational leadership, problem-solving capabilities, and effective communication are qualities I would utilize as Trustee.
www.lisajohnsonlaketravis.com

Answer 1: 1. Teachers: Attracting and retaining top talent to ensure the best possible educational experience. Teachers are the key resource for engaging the minds of students. 2. Facilities: Planning facilities, including land acquisition for future growth, is a significant way to guarantee that our students have everything they need to achieve their potential. 3. Technology: Continuing to provide technology, training, and support for our students and teachers to stay relevant in an ever-changing technological environment.

Answer 2: 1. Management of unpredictable growth. It is critical that the board has current, accurate demographic information to make decisions for future growth. 2. Meeting the needs of all students. The district must meet the needs of all children, in all circumstances. Every student is unique and deserves both opportunities and respect. 3. Transparent government. The taxpayers expect the district to be wise stewards of their resources. The district should be an open and informative government.

Answer 3: The Superintendent manages the day-to-day operations of the district and is accountable to the Board of Trustees. They work together, collectively, with the Superintendent to establish goals, policies, and a reliable budget.

DAVID LOVELACE - NO RESPONSE

PLACE 2

LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DUSTIN J. WEIBEL



EDUCATION:
Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, SD State University; Energy Efficient and Environmental Design Accredited Professional: Masters, Business Administration, Baylor University

PLACE 1

EXPERIENCE:
I am the Managing Partner and Operations Officer for Texas Equipment Solutions, a Custom HVAC Equipment Design Firm based in Leander ISD. We are a construction-based company with knowledge of school construction budgets and timelines. I oversee finance and operations for our company and I fundamentally understand finance and budgets.

Answer 1: 1. Expand our commercial LISD tax base to lower the burden on residential tax payers through coordination with local city councils and economic development organizations. 2. Maximize external sources of financial curriculum support. It is out there and we are not taking full advantage; from Private, State, and Federal Sources. 3. We have two choices: spend less or make more. My first two initiatives will make more money, reduce residential burden, and expand our curriculum.

Answer 2: 1. One size doesn't fit all: we have 30,000 students in the district with a variety of individual needs. We must take responsibility for 100% of our student body, not just those that fall in line with predetermined school scoring objectives. 2. Our school board did an excellent job hiring Dr. Champion as our Superintendent. The next step is providing him the support to maximize curriculum opportunities. The board does not exist to micromanage.

Answer 3: I am an engineer and a small business owner. I'm not a teacher and I'm not a school psychologist. The Leander School Board exists to maintain the best value for our property tax dollars; that is a position for which I'm well qualified. Let's allow the teachers and administrators to do their jobs and, as Leander Board Members, let's give them the tools to be as effective possible.

JAMES SPIRES



EDUCATION:
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Texas Tech University.

PLACE 1

EXPERIENCE:
Leadership Leander ISD.

Answer 1: Advanced programs do more to prepare students for the future. We need to prepare students for jobs that do not exist today. The AVID program identifies students that might not realize they have what it takes for college and prepares them. We need to find the best way to use technology in the classroom. We need to teach today's students in ways they are used to learning.

Answer 2: Name the three most critical issues facing your school district today and what actions are needed to resolve each of these issues. Non English speaking students. 29 different languages. We need to start as early as possible bringing their English to the appropriate level. More multi-lingual teachers. Legislative oversight. The districts needs to closely monitor proposed legislation for adverse effects. Implement the 4x4 state requirement for advanced students. Allow students to take classes in parallel areas instead of forcing each class to be a pre-requisite for the next.


Answer 3: The school board should have very little to do with the day to day operations of the district other than making sure the policies of the board are carried out. The superintendent of the district reports to the board and is responsible making sure the board policies are acted on.

JOIN THE LEAGUE AT LWVAUSTIN.ORG

LISA MALLORY - NO RESPONSE PLACE 1

NACOLE MCDONALD THOMPSON - NO RESPONSE PLACE 2

DON HISLE



PLACE 2

EDUCATION:
High School with some College; Extensive management training


EXPERIENCE:
Each members of the LISD Board brings something important to the table. My 25 years experience in management at IBM, 10 years as a business owner and 12 years on the Leander ISD Board has given me the know how to help lead this high-quality district in the direction of continuous improvement.

Answer 1: Teacher pay, facilities and technology. Each year we have limited funds, but I believe that my record shows a commitment to these priorities. I also believe my record shows that while I am committed to these priorities I am also always concerned about what is best for the taxpayer. I live in this community and work to make sure that our spending is efficient and well thought out.

Answer 2: State's accountability system. It is very easy in today's environment to become a district that simply "teaches to the test". We must be more than that type of district. Second, as our district grows, we must be vigilant regarding a safe environment. I will work to keep it that way. Finally, with a slowing economy after a huge growth period, I will work to insure that approved bond money is spent appropriately.

Answer 3: Boards oversee the superintendent. Perhaps the most important function of the board is to hire the right person. I believe we have done that with Dr. Champion. We must work together as a leadership team to make the best decisions for the district. In my experience I have learned, superintendents aren't perfect and neither are boards. Good TEAMS can learn from difficulties that inevitability occurs in any district and be learning makes the district better.

NATHAN DECKINGA



PLACE 2

EDUCATION:
I have degrees in Computer Science and Management from Park University and several technical certifications. I'm currently attending Leadership LISD and will graduate this spring.

EXPERIENCE:
I have 10 years technical experience in the high tech industry with large and small companies, 6 years in a leadership role, and 2 years as a business analyst. I'm active in my church and frequently volunteer with LISD and other nonprofit organizations including the deliberative dialogs with the E3Alliance.


Answer 1: My first priority is staff. We need to make our teachers and staff feel as valuable and important to our success as they are. This requires salary and training commensurate with excellence. Second is student individualization, the commitment to provide extra support to students who fall outside the standard scenario. Third is technology. Invest up front for things that have a positive return, and provide students the tools they will use in industry.

Answer 2: My top priority is lowering the dropout rate by treating students as individuals and tailoring the curriculum to be delivered in such a way that everyone is appropriately challenged. Those who are bored dropout at the highest rates. Second is preparing students for college by promoting more challenging tracts such as AP, and IB. Third is improving teacher input by enabling direct feedback to administrators and board members, and then acting on that information.

Answer 3: The board's first role is to listen to the community effectively by gathering diverse opinions from around the district; while being intimately familiar with teacher, parent, and student concerns. We must always lead by example while choosing the best solution for students, teachers and staff. To foster trust with the community, it is imperative that we are open and transparent in our decision making process including the reasons supporting our decisions.

ROUND ROCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL

GUNNAR RISTROPH



PLACE 2

EDUCATION:)
Ristroph attended Caltech as a National Merit Scholar, Advanced Placement Scholar, and Texas Gifted and Talented Young Leader. He earned an engineering degree with Honors.

EXPERIENCE:
Ristroph is an engineer and is proud of his work on everything from medical tools to military systems. He is the founder of a company that provides online meeting structure to community organizations. Ristroph served on the Executive Committee of the Caltech associated students and is a Registered Parliamentarian.

Answer 1: Great teachers are the top spending priority, which means keeping salaries competitive. Second, many teachers and parents I talk to are amazed at the educational power of interactive technologies. Rather than dictating solutions from the top down, I propose giving departments and teachers on the front-line the budget to spend on teaching technology. Third, we need to support extracurricular programs. Sadly, all the focus on testing has distracted from the array of student passions.

Answer 2: Besides budget issues, I plan to address growth, creating lifelong learners and protect community values. We don't want to shuffle students around schools. I support the boundary committee process but also support allowing siblings to attend the same school. To create lifelong learners we must focus on the needs of all student groups in addition to specific curriculum goals. I will make sure the policies and decisions of the school board reflect our community's values.

Answer 3: The daily operations of the district are guided by the mission and overarching plan set by the Board of Trustees. Taxpayers and parents expect the Board to diligently look for efficiencies, cut waste and seek solutions that bring the community together. By improving the budget process, we can avoid burdening the taxpayer with programs that aren't helping students. The Board sets policies that establish the standards of performance and conduct expected from employees and students.

**MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK
VOTE!
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M TO 7:00 PM. MAY 9TH.**

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CHARLES "CHAD" CHADWELL



PLACE 2

EDUCATION:

Masters of Science, Technology Commercialization – University of Texas; Bachelors of Science, Mechanical Engineering Technology – Clemson University

EXPERIENCE:

2008-Present, Board member, Round Rock ISD; 2008, Citizen's Bond Committee for Round Rock ISD; 2007-2008, President, Round Rock High School Parent Teacher Student Association; 2005, City of Round Rock Citizen's Patrol Academy; 2005-present, Greater Round Rock West Neighbor Association, board member; 1997-present, Member of RRISD school PTAs

Answer 1: First, close the achievement gap between students who come from low-income and minority families while maintaining the progress of high-scoring students. Second, work with all students at their current grade-level while preparing them to succeed as they move to the next level. Third, continue to develop safe, challenging and exciting schools that benefit all students while being a responsible partner to the community and the District's taxpayers.

Answer 2: The first issue is interpreting and meeting all standards passed down from Federal and State mandates for student testing and accountability. The second issue is recruiting, training and retaining highly-qualified teachers and staff who can meet the continually changing standards. The third is communicating with the community through public forums, newsletters, emails, news, websites, etc. and letting the public know of upcoming needs of the District and listening to their feedback.

Answer 3: A school Board works with its District staff and superintendent to prepare long-range plans related to meeting growth expectations. Also, the Board develops the District's policies, but it leaves the daily operations and implementation of the policies and procedures to the staff. The Board works with the District to adopt a budget based on the needs of the District and works with the Superintendent to evaluate the performance of the District's goals.

BOBY SEIFERMAN



PLACE 7

EDUCATION: Master of Public Administration-Texas State; Bachelor of Science-UT Austin; Associate of Applied Science-ACC

EXPERIENCE: Presently, Advertising Director, Williamson County Sun; 1999-2000 Austin American Statesman, Advertising Consultant; 1998-1999 Hill Country News, GM NW Austin Zone; 1988-1998 Round Rock Leader, Advertising Director.

Answer 1: We need to responsibly execute the publicly supported bonds that will provide the needed land and campuses for our increasing enrollment. Growth has slowed but will continue. I would also support additional resources needed to close the achievement gap for our economically disadvantaged students and also increase the graduation rate for that segment. We also need to make sure that we provide for adequate security and safe classrooms.

Answer 2: Although slowed, the growth rate will continue to be a challenge. Bond initiatives will be needed to address this growth, and will necessitate keeping all segments of the public informed on strategic planning. Also, overcoming the economic downturn and budgeting with lower than expected tax base values will perhaps require an unconventional approach as we reach out to private sector partnering. We also want to retain great district staff by soliciting more of their input.

Answer 3: The role of the Board of Trustees is to be good stewards of the public trust and tax dollars. The board's job is to administer the budget while soliciting public comment.

ANTONIO CHAMPION



PLACE 7

EDUCATION:

Circumstances forced me to support myself at age 15. Despite those challenges, I graduated from Hall High School at 17-years of age.

EXPERIENCE:

My twenty-year record as a decorated police officer, specializing in Community Policing sets me apart. I've dedicated my life to the community and have worked with the schools as an E3 Alliance partner, a Watch D.O.G.S., Project Graduation chair, and as chair and treasurer for bond funding initiatives.

Answer 1: Curriculum- Provide adequate and modern teaching resources: books; technology (computers, smart boards, etc.); and science labs that truly prepare students for a 21st century economy. Growth- As a district, we have to respond effectively to population growth, which requires us to be proactive with new school construction. Uncontrolled overcrowding cannot be an option. Teacher compensation-To keep the quality of educators that our children deserve, we must make it a priority to fully fund their compensation.

Answer 2: We must close the achievement gap and increase graduation rates. I support the development of diversified learning environments that adapt to non-traditional learners; increased parental involvement; and a collaborative approach to teaching that engages community stakeholders. Our district will grow and we must ensure the same level of education year-to-year for every student. With advance planning and investments, we can work to control the cost of growth while maintaining our education standards.

Answer 3: This is a full time job for me. Every day I will be the representative of the community on the board, and of the board in the community. A responsibility I do not take lightly. It will be my job to represent the interests of every student, parent, and taxpayer everyday on the board. Every decision that we make, from district boundary lines to budgetary issues, would reflect the balance of everyone's position.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.LWVAUSTIN.ORG**