



League of Women Voters  
of Plano/Collin County  
[www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org)

# Voters Guide

**Jan. 30, 2010, Special Election  
Plano City Council Place 3**

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**Early voting – January 13 – 26, 2010**

**Election day – Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

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This Voters Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County to help citizens prepare to cast an informed vote. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

This guide includes only contested races in which two or more candidates will appear on the ballot. All candidates for the respective offices were invited to participate. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response from the candidate" is printed. Responses were limited to 100 words and truncated with /// after the 100<sup>th</sup> word.

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## **Candidates for Plano City Council, Place 3 (District 3)**

### **André Davidson**

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1. Please describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office.

During my 30 years in Plano, I have served the community in numerous volunteer and leadership positions. I am a former board chair of Leadership Plano, Plano ISD Education Foundation, the Mayor's Community Outreach Task Force, and currently vice president of the CITY House Board. I was named Plano's 2005 Citizen of the Year. Each role in which I have served required strategic planning, budget preparation, fiscal responsibility, and visionary leadership. Additionally, as executive director of Leadership Plano I gained an in-depth knowledge of the inner workings of the city and an important historical perspective of the community.

2. How should the city weather the current financial downturn: reduced services or personnel, increased fees, delayed construction, other measures?

The city and council have already taken the first critical step – to examine all possible options to decrease expenses and increase revenue. There is no "one size fits all" response to the problem. All alternatives must be considered and the impact of each decision on the citizens evaluated. The situation requires a common sense approach including: continuing to find ways to improve efficiency, reduction of optional services with impact on quality of life for citizens, delaying non-essential projects such as the hold put on pond excavation and renovation of tennis court lighting, and exploring increased revenue options.

3. What are the most important transportation problems in this city and how would you solve them?

The city of Plano wisely invested in DART from the outset. Neighbors to our north did not. The residents of other communities are currently crowding parking spaces and train cars with no charge. I would like to explore options requiring parking stickers for our lots. These would be provided free to Plano residents and others would be charged for usage. I also believe it is vital to complete major feeder roadways connecting Plano with northern Collin County and the DFW metroplex as quickly as possible. I will work with Collin County officials and transportation agencies to accomplish this.

4. How can the city meet the needs of its senior citizens for transportation, health and other services?

Through my years of involvement in the nonprofit sector, having provided transportation for seniors through my church, and as a Meals-on-Wheels volunteer, I have seen first hand the needs of this population. Since the services, facilities, and supplies needed by seniors are not all located within Plano, addressing their health care, transportation, nutrition, and quality of life issues must be a collaborative effort among the cities, faith communities, and human service organizations in Collin County. Each city alone cannot address these issues. Combining resources is the sensible approach and I am committed to working toward this goal.

5. How can the city facilitate the availability of affordable housing for low-income families, especially as many lose their homes during the financial downturn?

Plano offers a variety of home prices and apartment rentals. Though providing residents affordable housing is beyond the scope of what the city can do, funding for low-income families is provided through the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), a program of the federal government. These funds are made available through programs like Habitat for Humanity and the Plano Housing Authority.

6. What are the most important issues you think will come before the City Council in the next three years? What are your views on these issues?

Repairing and maintaining our city's infrastructure is imperative to ensure there is no interruption of critical services such fire protection, homeowner and business water and sewer, parks preservation, libraries, and safe roadways for travel. Second, continued recruitment and retention of business will be essential to create new jobs and increase tax revenues. With the establishment of the Economic Development Fund in 2006, Plano can now compete in this arena on a more level playing field. Third, aging neighborhoods need revitalization. Incentives for home owners should be considered to encourage property renovation so Plano remains a vibrant community.

## Cathy Fang

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1. Please describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office.

With an MBA and education in accounting and economics, over 20 years experience as CPA and small business owner; balancing budgets, make payroll, hire/fire employees, decision making daily, those experiences in fiscal responsibility can be applied in a governmental environment.

2. How should the city weather the current financial downturn: reduced services or personnel, increased fees, delayed construction, other measures?

Economics Development – Revitalization and repurpose commercial properties. Broaden the tax base, instead of increasing the tax rate.

It is the combination of all the above-mentioned methods, not just one can help weather the current financial downturn. There is no one-method fix.

A case-by-case review will be done to determine which is the best way to handle each situation.

3. What are the most important transportation problems in this city and how would you solve them?

Mistiming of Traffic Lights, which make driving from one section to another section of Plano time consuming. With improvements to the systems, citizens will be able to save time in travel around the city, and save as much as 25% in fuel cost.

4. How can the city meet the needs of its senior citizens for transportation, health and other services?

The City takes a survey to determine what the real needs of senior citizens. With this data, the city should synchronize its efforts with local charitable organizations, such as churches, Junior League and the Rotary Club to provide social services to help senior citizens with transportation, health and other services.

5. How can the city facilitate the availability of affordable housing for low-income families, especially as many lose their homes during the financial downturn?

The city will work with federal government and investors; to make a combined effort to educate the people in need about afford housing for low-income families, which are available in the Plano area.

6. What are the most important issues you think will come before the City Council in the next three years? What are your views on these issues?

The challenge will be a balanced budget.

- a. Prioritize expenditures. Cut non-essential items. Keep essential items, such as fire, police.

- b. Economics Development. Revitalize and repurpose commercial buildings.
- c. Bring in small/big companies to increase gross sales, sale taxes income.
- d. Explore the option of allowing the private sector to handle certain functions or charge user fees.

## **Doug Shockey**

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1. Please describe the training and experience that qualify you for this office.

I am a CPA with a Masters in Taxation. I have worked in public accounting (Ernst & Young) and corporate accounting (JC Penney). I also have experience as a general partner in a real estate development firm that I helped form 15 years ago. I have experience in evaluating real estate investment decisions, managing short-term & long-term investments, and auditing large organizations for compliance and efficiency purposes. I have been a consultant in the areas of accounting systems and taxation for over 15 years. Most importantly, I have been a citizen of Plano for 30 years.

2. How should the city weather the current financial downturn: reduced services or personnel, increased fees, delayed construction, other measures?

Everything needs to be on the table. We need to look at all items in the budget for opportunities to improve efficiencies and to find potential areas to cut expenses. We need to look for ways to increase revenues by increasing our property tax base, by promoting local businesses to improve sales tax receipts, by increasing fees where appropriate, by looking for opportunities to renegotiate current contracts, and by limiting any additions to our debt service. I would not advocate reducing personnel in public safety positions, nor would I advocate an increase in the tax rate.

3. What are the most important transportation problems in this city and how would you solve them?

With our aging infrastructure, we need to ensure that we take the necessary steps to maintain the over 2,700 current lane miles of pavement in our city and that we look for ways to better the traffic flow through and within our city. Additionally if the citizens of Plano are going to continue to fund a mass transit system, our citizens should receive more of a benefit from the services provided. We need to work with DART to ensure decreased wait times and more efficient routes to destinations within our city in order to encourage increased utilization.

4. How can the city meet the needs of its senior citizens for transportation, health and other services?

Transportation and health services for seniors are a public safety issue for our city. We need to continue to provide the necessary services that are not provided for by private entities. However, we need to look for ways to create an environment that

encourages private and/or non-profit entities to provide the majority of these services.

Our senior citizens, like any citizen of Plano, have a right to expect services that promote an excellent quality of life. Our leaders need to ensure that funds are used efficiently to provide desired services while maintaining a balanced budget.

5. How can the city facilitate the availability of affordable housing for low-income families, especially as many lose their homes during the financial downturn?

Housing prices and the availability of certain types of affordable housing are primarily a product of market driven forces including supply and demand. The city's role in housing should be to protect and hopefully, improve the value of our homes and to ensure the safety of our structures.

In order to make housing more affordable, the city should look for ways to help property owners (residential and multi-family) reduce the costs associated with home ownership. Lower taxes and lower utility costs will go a long way towards ensuring affordable housing and limiting the loss of personal residences.

6. What are the most important issues you think will come before the City Council in the next three years? What are your views on these issues?

Of course, the budget has to be considered the most pressing issue. I believe we need to look to increase revenue and decrease current expenses and ongoing obligations. Revenue increases need to come from an expanding property base and increases in sales tax revenue, not from increasing property taxes. Reductions in expenditures need to come from improved efficiencies and reductions in non-essential services. As we move forward and tackle the challenges of being an aging "big" city we must strive to find the proper balance of revenue, public safety expenditures, and the quality of life services we provide.