



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF COLLIN COUNTY  
[www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org)

Nonpartisan

# VOTERS GUIDE

November 8, 2016

General Election

Texas Representative District 89

Early voting: October 24 – November 4

Election Day Polls: November 8 – 7 am to 7 pm

## About this *Voters Guide*

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

This guide is available online at [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org), along with guides for other offices that include all or part of Collin County.

Candidate responses for all races are also available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), where you

can enter an address and view a personalized ballot with races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates for each office, whether or not the race is contested. Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response received" is printed. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This *Voters Guide* is organized by office sought, with candidates listed in alphabetical order, regardless of their political party.

## Texas Representative District 89

*2-year term. Must be 21 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Texas House of Representatives.*

### QUESTIONS

**Education:** What changes, if any, should be made to the ways public education is financed in Texas?

**Water:** What should be done, if anything, to ensure sufficient capacity and safety of water in Texas?

**Energy/Environment:** How would you balance the development of energy sources with environmental concerns?

**Economy:** What policies do you support to help Texas residents improve their economic positions?

**Health Care:** What changes, if any, are needed for affordable health care for Texas residents?

**Safety:** What legislation is needed, if any, to reduce violence and crime?

**Other Issues:** What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

The LWV never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

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## Denise Hamilton (Democratic Party)

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**Contact Information:**  
[denisehamiltonforhd89@gmail.com](mailto:denisehamiltonforhd89@gmail.com)  
(469) 300-9558

**Website/Facebook/YouTube:**  
[www.denisehamiltonforhd89.com](http://www.denisehamiltonforhd89.com)  
[www.facebook.com/denisehamiltonforHD89](http://www.facebook.com/denisehamiltonforHD89)

**Education:** Denise graduated from Texas Woman's University (TWU) with a degree in Business Administration. She is a licensed Real Estate professional with Certification in Property Management.

**Experience:** 2015 Civic Award, Plano Community Forum; Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA); ESL instructor; mentor for Big Brothers/Sisters; member Plano Multicultural Outreach Roundtable (MCOR); substitute teacher. Born in Dallas and raised in Plano.

**Education:** Although, the Texas Supreme Court doesn't want to get involved in how the state pays for its public schools. The Justices did agree that the system needs to be revamped for the 21st century. Let's insure our schools are run effectively and funded adequately. Starving public education out of existence as the State Legislature tried in 2011 by slashing \$5.4 billion of funding does not work. It resulted in overcrowded classrooms, reduced opportunities, and loss of qualified teachers. The 5 million Texas schoolchildren deserve better.

**Water:** Our state needs to start acquiring land to meet water need projections and stop waiting until it's too late. Conservation easements allowed by Federal law are easy for Conservation groups like Sierra Club to get and nearly impossible to remove. The entire process at the state level to get permission to build a new reservoir takes 10 to 12 years, and needs to be streamlined. Texas water conservation has no program equivalent to the highly regarded "Don't Mess With Texas" anti-litter campaign. Better public education is needed.

**Energy/Environment:** Oil, gas, and coal have long reigned supreme in the energy posture of Texas. We need to encourage, not hinder, the development of renewable energy resources. While we have made good strides with wind-produced electricity, we need to do more for solar energy at all levels. Reverse the state legislation that stripped local communities from having any say in determining whether fracking is right for them or not. We need to

engage our local communities, not push them out of the bus as if their rights and safety concerns don't matter.

**Economy:** Texas must focus on it's citizens, and not just on its corporations. Enact a living wage standard, expand medicaid, strengthen our schools, invest in infrastructure, protect our environment, regulate predatory lenders. These are all things that will improve the quality of life and the economic positions of ALL Texans.

**Health Care:** This one is simple. Expand Medicaid. Take the billions in Federal money and provide health care to ALL Texans. Continuing to let Texans suffer with inadequate health care, some even to the point of death, in order to claim a "core conservative" ideology is a gross hypocrisy.

**Safety:** Provide funding for after school programs for title one schools. Middle School Vocational training. Instant background check before every gun sale. Individuals with a history of domestic violence and sex offenders should not be permitted to own firearms. Ban on Open Carry military-grade weapons.

**Other Issues:** And with the expanding population in Collin County and all of Texas. Traffic delays in some areas have increased by 500%, our highways and bridges are showing signs of deterioration. 421 have been classified as "Structurally Deficient" and 3,987 have been classified as "Functionally Obsolete". We have to start addressing aging infrastructure. Hundreds of thousands of Texas lives are at risk.

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**Jodie Laubenberg (Republican Party) – No response received**

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## Bob Worthington (Libertarian Party)

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**Contact Information:**

None provided

**Website/Facebook/YouTube:**

None provided

**Education:**

None provided

**Experience:**

None provided

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**Education:** Sources of education financing need to be tightened up. There are several sources available, such as the Texas lottery, where the funds are not being used as intended. Current education spending across the state needs to be audited with the results showing income against spending categories provided to all residents. Bureaucracy in education needs to be reduced or at least streamlined. Spending requirements need to be determined at the lowest level. Governmental oversight must be restricted to ensuring state and federal funds are provided as needed in an equitable fashion for all students.

**Water:** We need much better management of our water resources in this state. There are currently people responsible for our reservoirs who are not performing needed functions. North Texas over the past few years has experienced water shortages exacerbated by an invasive species. The Zebra Mussel was introduced because there is no supervision of our water resources. A boat was allowed in our lake without cleaning or inspection. There are currently no rules, nor penalties, for this type of situation. These need to be established.

**Energy/Environment:** This will always be very difficult. Until someone comes up with something better, the current best methods of producing energy with less of an impact on the environment would be conversion of all current plants to either natural gas or nuclear, with a concurrent large expansion of wind and solar farms. However, none of these are perfect and we should continue to search for better alternatives. There is no such thing as an energy source that has no effect on the environment. I know this is not politically correct, but it is a fact. Even solar and wind energy are having an effect.

**Economy:** No response received.

**Health Care:** No response received.

**Safety:** No response received.

**Other Issues:** Many constitutional issues are currently being brought before our state legislature. I expect this to continue. We need to support our constitutional rights, including but not limited to freedom of (not from) religion, free speech, bearing arms, and illegal search and seizure. There are many problems with these now that need to be addressed.

You may bring this *Voters Guide* into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this *Voters Guide*, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (*Texas Election Code, Section 61.011*)

**Your vote is your voice. Be heard.**