



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

March 6, 2018
Primary Election
Collin County Offices

Early voting: February 20 – March 2

Election Day Polls: March 6 – 7 am to 7 pm

About this Voters Guide

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

This guide is available online at www.lwvcollin.org, along with guides for other offices that include all or part of Collin County. Candidate responses for all races are also available at www.VOTE411.org, where you can enter an address and view a personalized ballot with races specific to that address.

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

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

Table of Contents

County Clerk	2
County Commissioners	5
County Judge	13
County Court at Law Judge	18
County Party Chair	20
District Attorney	24
District Clerk	27
District Judge	29
Justice of the Peace	37

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.

County Clerk

4-year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. The County Clerk records the proceedings for the county courts and maintains a wide variety of legal and vital records that include marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, land records, power of attorney filings, bonds, plats, marks and cattle brands, assumed names, and beer and wine sales permit applications.

Questions

Challenges: What are the challenges in protecting the accuracy, integrity, and accessibility of records of the county, and how would you address them?

Vision: If elected, what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the Collin County Clerk, and what is your position on these issues?

**County Clerk
David Chevalier, Democratic Party**

Email: chevyforcountyclerk@gmail.com

Website: <http://chevyforcountyclerk.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChevyforCountyClerk

Phone: (469) 717-0904

Education: no response

Experience: no response

Challenges: Proper records management has many challenges to making those records accessible, while honoring retention schedules, and ensuring the security of said records against malicious intrusion. The biggest threat to data integrity is data manipulation, through either user error or malicious intent. Security is paramount and should be a continual, evolving process. One important way to address this is through strong, enforceable, policy. The policy in place must include methods for monitoring system events, such as login and logout, document creation and destruction, password changes. The software that is being used to monitor must include audits for logs of user actions by access type, they must specify the time,

user and changes associated with all modifications. The policy must also include security update and patching to keep up with the daily threats to systems. The biggest breaches are typically a result of old security flaws that were known but not patched quickly.

Vision: I would like to bring the Collin County Clerk's office a comprehensive training program for all of the clerks to ensure consistent handling of public issues. In addition, I would like to change the Pay for Performance (PFP) process to allow for a more egalitarian and meritocracy approach. Too many reviews by Collin County's actual employees report that the politicians play political games with their PFP process. I believe that this directly impacts performance and will have the largest positive impact to the public. Happy, well trained employees are more productive and more efficient, costing the tax payer less in the long run.

Other Issues: The Collin County Clerk must at the end of each day, make sure that they have followed the law to the letter. They must not over charge the public for services. They must not allow personal biases to impact their daily responsibilities. Each day the public must be met with knowledge and grace. I want to remove partisanship from the position and make it 100% about getting the job done, efficiently and correctly.

**County Clerk
Stacey Kemp, Republican Party**



Email: staceyj0219@aol.com

Website: www.staceykemp.net

Phone: (214) 356-4808

Education: I studied at Collin College and have averaged 40 hours a year of continuing education through the State clerk associations while in office.

Experience: I have served as the County Clerk since 2007 and Regional Director, Legislative Committee Chair, and Exec. Board of the County and District Clerk's Association, am a Past President of McKinney Sunrise Rotary as well as other community organizations.

Challenges: Maintaining a high level of customer service without sacrificing quality of the electronically stored documents is crucial; therefore the need for services is the biggest challenge to protecting the integrity of the records. In 2017, over 3.5 million pages were filed in the 8 courts we serve, and we had over 1.3 million pages of land and vital filings. These numbers increase exponentially each year with the explosive growth in the county. To ensure we succeed in this area, we have implemented data breach protocols to ensure security and implemented a double

check system which requires entry or review of a stored image 2 separate times to ensure the integrity of the stored record.

Vision: I work every day to provide the best possible service to our customers in the most fiscally conservative way and this will continue to be my focus during the next term. In addition, we are working towards greater transparency and availability of records online. We are implementing a redaction program that will remove sensitive personal and financial data from the court records so all members of the public will have online access to the records without risking data mining or ID theft. I would like to continue my work with the state associations and our local legislators to ensure statutes and rules keep pace with the technological advances we're making.

Other Issues: The most pressing issues for the County Clerk's office are: continue to keep pace with evolving technology innovations and stay ahead of data security threats; provide all citizens in the ever changing demographics of Collin County with superior customer service while maximizing fiscal resources; continuous review and modification of business processes to identify efficiencies while adjusting to the recent implementation of criminal e-filing of records; maintain participation in legislative processes to ensure updated rules and crucial compliance with the legal requirements of the office.

County Commissioners and Judge

4-year term. Must be 18 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 Collin County Commissioners Court, which conducts the general business of the county and oversees financial matters. The County Judge presides over the Commissioners Court meetings.

Questions

Budget: What areas of the budget would you like to see increased or decreased during the next term?

Growth: What challenges will the growth of the county present, and how would you address them?

Poverty/Homelessness: What, if anything, should be done to meet low income residents' basic needs, such as mental health care and housing, and reduce homelessness in the county?

Transportation: What are the main transportation issues in the county, and how should they be addressed?

Emergency Preparedness: What does the county need to do to be prepared for and provide emergency services and funding after natural disasters?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the county, and what is your position on these issues?

**County Commissioner, Precinct 2
Tanner Do, Democratic Party**

No response received

**County Commissioner, Precinct 2
Joey Herald, Republican Party**



Email: JoeyHerald@gmail.com

Website: www.JoeyHerald.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/vote4joey

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/joeyherald>

Phone: (469) 583-3538

Education: Bachelors in Family Science from Brigham Young University

Experience: I stepped down from the Allen City Council in Dec 2017 after 9.5 years of service. I currently serve on the Allen Economic Development Board and on the BSA District Committee. I have continually served in the community since 2002.

Budget: With County growth projections, I believe we need to build upon a strong foundation. Transportation, Public Safety, and our Justice system are not prepared to handle this growth. The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel was told to warn the shepherds about not feeding their flocks. We too should be aware of taking conservative measures to the extreme of being cheap. Quality of life depends on strong and effective transportation, public safety, and swift justice. The current situation has delayed transportation solutions, our court system juggling a population 45% higher than the state average, and has ignored and attacked public safety needs. Efforts have been made to try to shut down our busiest JP Court and refuse bullet proof vests to some of our deputies. A parent can brag about their savings while feeding the children beans and rice but must also take responsibility for the malnutrition. We have a large supply of cash reserves to meet our needs without tax increases.

Growth: Growth is the number one challenge in our County. Each of our communities and our County should work together to find solutions. First and foremost, a Commissioner is a manager or steward of County resources. If that stewardship is not addressing the needs of transportation, public safety and justice, we are building our house on the sand. Without immediate solutions we will all suffer from more traffic congestion and crime which will lead to lower quality of life. The congestion and crime will also lead to the County being less attractive for economic development and jobs will move away and you will see home prices fall. The solution, as mentioned, previously, is to immediately address transportation needs, public safety needs and justice system needs. Don't be afraid to go for quality. It always returns more than it costs. Allen did not become Money magazines #1 city in Texas on accident. My time on Council there was always focused on quality of life for the citizens.

Poverty/Homelessness: What a great question. For the most part, economic development continues to invite great companies to our County with good paying jobs. While home prices continue to increase so do opportunities. Education is key. Collin College and other educational avenues are close by and affordable. Yet, on the subject of mental health we must make large strides, even leaps, to find solutions. Public Safety is challenged. Families are overwhelmed. Working together we must find solutions. Homelessness should not be a problem in Collin County. We are truly a "sweet spot" in the nation. Incentives must be made to help citizens get a hand up and not a handout. There are opportunities to get education and find work. Affordable housing is based upon income. If we can increase the likelihood of citizens getting better education and job opportunities their incomes will increase. I do not have the solution for these problems but I am more than willing to be a part of the conversation.

Transportation: Many of our County roads are substandard. Many well traveled roads are overcrowded. I believe we must work with COG and TXDOT at a new and more cooperative level to address highways. 380, 78, and the outerloop must help relieve the pressures put upon 75, PGBT, and SRT. I am against the tolling of roads. The State, County, and Cities, must work together to address present and future needs. Many rural roads should have shoulders and better turn lanes to increase safety. Acknowledgement that we are behind in this area and yet choosing to not bring a bond election up to even allow the voters a chance to address the needs has been irresponsible. And this, after the County Planning Board unanimously recommended a bond election last year. We cannot allow invisible and ineffective incumbents to drag their feet any longer. We need representatives who actually like to put in a full days work.

Emergency Preparedness: Citizens of Wylie told me that after the terrible devastation of hail storms that County leadership response was lacking. Unthinkable! The County should have been on the scene immediately to help provide immediate relief. Our public safety personnel should assist with other first responders. The cities and county do have inter local agreements to help in such emergencies. However, two real needs are coordination with state and federal officials and money. The County has an incredible rainy day fund. It may need to be changed to the tornado and hail fund or at least a portion. Most disaster relief funds come from other sources yet the County should be there to help coordinate and speed up the process even if that means making advances to create safe living environments for the affected citizens.

Other Issues: I've spoken a lot about the important issues of transportation, courts and justice system, and mental health. I'd like to say a couple more words about public safety. After years of tight budgets the Commissioners Court agreed to allow the hiring of 17 new deputies. A former leader told me they would struggle to hire and retain them. He said the Commissioners refuse to look at a competitive compensation plan. We may be able to hire and train deputies but they will continue to leave since nearly every nearby city has better compensation plans. We must be competitive! I believe you get what you hire. Let us hire quality because we offer quality compensation. Let us respect the men and women who put their lives on the line for us.

**County Commissioner, Precinct 2
Cheryl Williams, Republican Party**



Email: cheryl@votecherylwilliams.com

Website: <http://votecherylwilliams.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/votecherylwilliams

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/cdwccc>

Education: After graduating from Buena High School in Sierra Vista, Arizona, Cheryl attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where she earned a B.B.A in Finance and Economics.

Experience: I was elected to the Commissioner's Court in 2010. I am the county's alternate to the Regional Transportation Commission. I served three terms on the Plano City Council. I have extensive experience as both a business owner and business consultant.

Budget: I look at every budget from each department and elected official to find potential decreases that make sense. I always find areas that can be decreased. As a result of legislation passed in 2017, we will see a need for increased funding for jail operations. I also expect that we will need increases to indigent mental health care funding. It is very expensive to house and treat people with mental health issues in the jail or in hospital emergency rooms. It is more effective and less costly to increase funding for outpatient services to try and keep people out of the jail and hospitals.

Growth: Rapid growth creates pressure on every function of county government. However, rapid growth in population also results in a rapid growth of tax dollars. The new taxes received from new development and increased property valuations should be adequate to cover the costs associated with a growing population. Unfortunately, many elected officials use the excuse of growth to keep more taxes to spend on unnecessary programs.

Poverty/Homelessness: The county is responsible for the healthcare of people qualified as indigent. That does not necessarily include uninsured or under insured people. We have created Project Access which allows indigent individuals to receive free care from many primary care doctors, specialists, and hospitals. I have spent much time in Austin and here at home working on indigent mental health issues. I am participating in ongoing meetings with Sheriff Skinner, hospital administrators, police chiefs, and the LHBA to work on creative ways to help reduce the drain of resources being used to deal with this issue.

Transportation: During my term, the County has taken a leadership role in transportation; providing data and traffic analysis for the entire county, facilitating coordination, and encouraging cooperation among cities. The county has also

partnered with cities on projects that improve mobility. We also began the process of creating a Strategic Transportation Plan. Mobility and congestion mitigation are such important issues to the citizens that I believe it's important for the county to take on the task of planning for the future and diligently working to find the funding for projects identified in the plan.

Emergency Preparedness: By law, the Department of Emergency Management is under the authority of the County Judge. The Department plans for, directs and coordinates responses to, and recovers from disasters and emergencies. They work closely with all the cities designing and conducting exercises and drills to improve emergency preparedness planning and response. They also conduct threat and vulnerability assessments to mitigate the effects of natural, technological, environmental, and intentional incidents. The Commissioners Court has set aside reserve funds specifically for emergency preparedness.

Other Issues: I'm proud of my record as a principled conservative and that Collin County now has the lowest tax rate in the State. I am looking forward to continuing these policies and working on the challenges ahead. We are on the verge of making some important decisions about transportation and mobility and we have decisions to make about how we continue to improve public safety. I want to be a part of finding solutions for the mental health and substance abuse issues that are now so critical. I believe we can find an innovative way to address this problem that could be a model for the rest of the state.

**County Commissioner, Precinct 3
Dr. Briana Andor, Republican Party**

No response received

**County Commissioner, Precinct 3
David Azad, Democratic Party**



Email: David@davidazad.com

Website: www.davidazad.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DavidCommish

Phone: (972) 383-9085

Education: University of North Texas - BA Political Science; University of Kansas, School of Law - JD

Experience: Small business owner for nine years. Managing Partner of Azad & Barlow, PLLC a firm representing individuals in immigration and criminal defense.

Budget: The need to increase spending in vital areas is commensurate with the growth of our county. It is imperative we find ways to do this without increasing taxes on our citizens. This can be accomplished through fiscal responsibility and minimizing government waste (such as expensive lawsuits by one branch of our government against the other for political enrichment). In the words of the outgoing County Judge "the numbers are staggering" when it comes to population growth in Collin County. We need to allocate money to address critical infrastructure needs and meet this inevitable boom in demand. Among the many items that fall into this category are roads, jail expansion, and mass transit.

Growth: The population of Collin County is anticipated to double within 10 years. Within 30, it is anticipated the population of Collin County will exceed that of Dallas County. Addressing this growing demand is the greatest challenge the county faces. We must begin to address our transportation issues, placing all options on the table. Collin County residents know our highways are gridlocked during rush hour. We need to work with local and state officials in planning our alternate routes. We must also include a diverse mass transit plan. Not only will mass transit divert congestion away from the highways, it is appealing to large companies seeking to relocate or establish a new headquarters in a booming metropolis.

Poverty/Homelessness: Collin County's current solution for mental health care involves incarceration. This is not a good solution but it is nonetheless a solution for which our citizens pay. We need to divert our efforts away from incarceration and toward social services. I believe that healthcare is right. As such our government has a duty to the public health. If state and federal government choose to drop the ball in this area then its on the county government to step in and provide that access. This can be done by broadening our partnerships with private healthcare providers, and messaging through community leaders. Further, we need to incentivize more entities like Samaritan Inn who help provide the bootstraps with which people in need can pull themselves up.

Transportation: We are all commuters.--all 900,000 of us. Soon it will be twice that many. Dallas has five major east-to-west highways. Collin currently has two and we are dragging our feet on the possibility of two others. We need to partner and plan with our city government, state government and TXDOT to find viable alternate routes. The State of Texas sets aside transportation funding for the DFW metroplex and when we fail to have projects toward which that funding can be applied, it goes to our sister counties. The county must also address mass transit. The only solution that has ever existed in this area were the TAPS buses. They went bankrupt and have not returned to Collin County. If there are no other solutions for sustainable mass transit, then we must consider the benefits of DART.

Emergency Preparedness: Proper planning and competent personnel to execute that plan are the linchpins in emergency management. Emergency planning is a coordinated effort among city officials, federal officials, and homeowners. In the worst of catastrophes planning should include the rapid deployment of emergency service personnel from multiple jurisdictions. We must examine flood plain maps and educate and encourage local residents to buy flood insurance. Wherever else

possible we must incentivize homeowners to take measures to protect life and property.

Other Issues: As a criminal lawyer I have witnessed the shortcomings in our criminal justice system. I support bail reform which implements an assessment tool to properly identify individuals accused of non-violent offenses who can be released during the pendency of their case without risk to the community. I also support diversion programs which promote rehabilitation over incarceration of individuals with non-violent offenses. One-third of the county's budget is allocated to criminal justice. As our population increases, we need to start thinking about innovative solutions to reduce the number of individuals brought through this system.

**County Commissioner, Precinct 3
Darrell Hale, Republican Party**

No response received

**County Commissioner, Precinct 4
Byron Abraham Bradford, Democratic Party**

No response received

**County Commissioner, Precinct 4
Duncan Webb, Republican Party**



Email: webb4@airmail.net

Website: www.duncanwebb.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/webbfam4

Phone: (972) 881-8808

Education: BBA, 1977, Southern Methodist University JD, 1980, Southern Methodist University

Experience: Completing 2nd term as Commissioner; administrating \$300 million plus Collin County budget each year; previously administered \$500 million plus Plano ISD budget from 1998 to 2010;

Budget: I do not have any specific areas of the budget I would like to expand. However, I expect a large number of our elected officials and department heads will have additional budget needs which will need to be analyzed and considered by the Court, given our continuing growth and aging infrastructure. The Court's primary role is to review, analyze and adopt budgets for the other elected officials and department heads in the County, and assess the necessary tax to fund same. Given the continued growth, I am anticipating that each of our elected officials, including the District Attorney's office, the Sheriff's office, the District Clerk and the County Clerks will push for additional personnel and equipment. The key question is whether the data supports these requests. Our indigent defense and ad litem costs continued to grow at un-sustainable levels, and solutions will need to be crafted to address this issue, including possibly contract services or a public defender office.

Growth: Planning and building consensus for long term transportation infrastructure within the County is currently our biggest challenge. Once the plan is in place, then funding and construction of such transportation infrastructure will be the next challenge. I have been pushing the County, the Texas Dept. of Transportation and the Regional Transportation Council to implement such planning and to allocate funding for such construction. I have also pushed for a major County bond issue in 2018. The State continues to decrease funding for mental health services. Although it is state issue, the impact of reduced State funding is that our jail and hospitals have become the primary mental health providers for these residents. This structure is ineffective for our residents with mental health issues, and is expensive. The State must increase funding for mental health. We have established our own mental health authority to address our responsibilities, and engaged LifePath Systems implement.

Poverty/Homelessness: The County must continue to expand and strengthen the public/private partnerships developed to the meet the needs of these residents. This resident population continues to grow. The distribution of indigent health care services through private clinics seems to be better and more cost effective solution. However, the County must find ways to provide higher level of medical care for these residents at reduced cost to its taxpayers. Since I have been in office, we have developed a Project Access program modeled after one in Dallas County, which provides additional health care services and resources to these residents, including primary care and specialist care physicians. The program continues to grow. We have established our own mental health authority to address our responsibilities, and engaged LifePath Systems to provide these services. We have also entered into several private partnerships addressing some of the housing needs within the County using dedicated funding sources.

Transportation: As I stated above, planning and building consensus for long term transportation infrastructure within the County is currently our biggest challenge. Once the plan is in place, then funding and construction of such transportation infrastructure will be the next challenge. I have been pushing the County, the Texas DoT and the Regional Transportation Council to implement such planning and to allocate funding for such construction. I was instrumental in obtaining a \$600 million of state funding over the next 10 years for construction of such infrastructure and \$120 million for design and clearance of such infrastructure. I also have been leading the effort for the County to call a \$500 to \$600 million dollar bond issue for transportation infrastructure with no tax increase anticipated. I have

also built consensus and I moving forward with a strategic public transportation study. Roadway improvements alone are not enough; public transportation must part of solution.

Emergency Preparedness: The County, its cities, law enforcement and emergency management officials must continue to plan, communicate and train to handle emergencies, including natural disasters. The County's emergency manager coordinates such communication, planning, and training, and coordinates the large volunteer network the County has in place if such an emergency were to occur. The County has a comprehensive emergency response plan which it continues to modify and upgrade based upon best practices and experiences of other communities and agencies. Training is key component of the County's being prepared. The County is replacing and upgrading its 911 dispatch to handle our continued growth and emergency situations. Several years ago, I pushed for placing \$50 million is reserve for such an emergency. However, that reserve was removed from the budget and re-prioritized to transportation infrastructure because the County maintains at least a 180 day reserve fund to cover such a situation

Other Issues: As stated above, I believe that finding better cost effective solutions to limit escalating costs of providing indigent defense and ad litem services to our indigent residents is the next pressing issue for the County, after planning and funding for transportation infrastructure, and normal budget requests. These expenditures exceed \$6.5M in annual costs. We may need to explore some kind of contract service or public defender program to limit these rising costs and better service this population. Expansion of our jail and medical examiner's office will also need to be addressed in the near future. We should continue to invest in the use of electronic records and systems to better serve our residents and limit expansion of County payroll. Payroll costs represent 70% of our budget each year. We must continue to find more efficient, cost effective systems, to address our needs, serve our residents and keep our costs down.

**County Judge
Chris Hill, Republican Party**



Email: campaign@chrishill.us

Website: www.chrishill.us

Facebook: www.facebook.com/votechrishill

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TeamChrisHill>

Phone: (214) 444-3064

Education: The University of Texas at Dallas (MS, Accounting); Webster University (MBA); Columbia Biblical Seminary (MA, Master of Pastoral Leadership); Texas A&M University at Commerce (BS, Political Science)

Experience: no response

Questions: no response

**County Judge
Scott Johnson, Republican Party**



Email: VoteforScottJohnson@gmail.com

Website: www.VoteforScottJohnson.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VoteforScottJohnson

Phone: (469) 693-8690

Education: Undergraduate: BS; Double major in Accounting and Finance
Graduate: MBA in Finance

Experience: Practiced business negotiator, involved in many complex multi \$M capital investment deals with a diverse cross section of people, locations and organizations. 8 yrs on Plano City Council; Regional Transportation Council; Economic Development Fund-\$2B

Budget: I will engage and listen to taxpayers regarding the county budget. As one example, emergency response times in the unincorporated areas recently increased from an average of 20 minutes to some calls taking 40 minutes to respond. Emergency response times need to improve while being cost effective. I have heard substantial concern about transportation and highway issues in the county from many citizens. Transportation planning, options and costs will be a priority so Collin County can continue as a desirable area to live, work and enjoy life.

Growth: Transportation: A major factor in Collin County's growth – and its biggest challenge. With the current population of 940,000 expected to double by 2035, we need to plan for that number of cars and implement transportation solutions now to keep up with the population growth. The approval, financing and construction of highways is not an easy process and can take years for completion. Adequate water supply: While water is not a direct responsibility of the County, the County can collaborate with the cities to ensure a long-term water solution.

Poverty/Homelessness: I believe the County's role in reducing poverty and homelessness is to have non-profit and faith based organizations work together to address these issues, with some collaboration from the County. Education and job training programs can assist in making it possible for people to improve their

circumstances. I spent some years on the Assistance Center of Collin County's Board of Directors, which provided focused and temporary assistance to people to get them restarted after a personal economic setback.

Transportation: The major transportation issue is to get the areas of growth effectively integrated into the existing and future transportation system. Collin County has a Mobility Plan and has been planning an Outer Loop highway system plan to link these areas with the rest of the county. However, the process has been long and potentially costly. The County previously cooperated with cities on road construction to connect the cities and enhance transportation. That practice was stopped some years ago and should possibly be reinstated. If traffic becomes gridlocked, the growth and reputation of the County will be negatively impacted creating a risk for all, both for the County and all the County's cities.

Emergency Preparedness: The County can be prepared for emergencies through planning, backup communication and computer systems, stockpiles of critical supplies & resources, and periodic practice emergency drills. Collaborative planning and practice drills with the cities and community officials within Collin County would increase preparedness. Communication and outreach to neighboring counties, state officials, and the federal government would be helpful as well.

Other Issues: no response

**County Judge
Danyell Lanier, Democratic Party**



Email: votedanyelllanier@gmail.com

Website: www.votedanyelllanier.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Danyell-Lanier-for-Collin-County-Judge-179050672833525

Phone: (469) 452-9755

Education: High School Graduate 1994, Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management (September 2018)

Experience: United States Navy Veteran with experience in Finance and Accounting, Global Logistics. As a trainer I foster partnerships between the private sector and everyday citizens. I specialize in Medicare, Medicaid and Veterans services

Budget: Our current budget has been well maintained with reserve. I plan to maintain that for our Collin county citizens. I am proud to say that Collin County has been nationally recognized in the past in regards to its county budgeting practices. This is no easy feat. I did take the opportunity to review the 2018

adopted budget and I was excited to see that we did allocate our resources appropriately such as providing additional resources for our Collin County Sheriff's Department. Our budget implemented pay adjustments for county personnel. I am proud to say that our budget for 2018 marks the 25th consecutive year of no tax rate increases and we are maintaining our homestead exemption for the 10th year. As County Judge I would like to see us continue to maintain our fiscal responsibilities ensuring we are funding at an adequate level and addressing the needs of each department appropriately.

Growth: Our great state of Texas traditionally has always had a strong economy, primarily right here in the Dallas Fort Worth area, so it is no secret why people want to move here. Collin County in particular has experienced tremendous economic activity. As our population grows we want to ensure we are reviewing our comprehensive growth plans to ensure we aren't economically overreaching. I plan to work with my fellow commissioners to set a healthy balanced tone within our county for both businesses and residents.

Poverty/Homelessness: While Collin County can be described as the center of affluence and luxury beneath the surface is a very real issue. Homelessness. Many people imagine a homeless individual as a gentleman in a trench coat with a beard probably pushing a shopping cart, but there is a new face of homelessness especially in Collin County, families, people with jobs, some even have college degrees but no place to live. In 2017 it was estimated that 443 people were homeless, a ¼ of that were children. This number is probably inaccurate as of now, as the population continues to grow so does the socioeconomic issues that come that growth... Many people move here, have employment, residence-then illness strikes them, or a family member, lay-offs and they find themselves homeless. Traditionally the root cause of homelessness has always been thought to be having a criminal record, physical disability, or mental illness which can make it difficult to maintain a job, or housing. As our local resources make efforts

Transportation: In 2014 the Collin County area made TxDot's 100 most congested roadways in Texas. We are the fastest growing county in Texas, it is projected that our population is set to double over the next few decades right now many of our corridors are at capacity. Many of our city streets in addition to our highways are carrying more traffic than they were meant to handle. While there was a resolution passed in 2016 that would allow four of our corridors to be expanded into major highways, this alone is not a comprehensive long term solution. As with all issues it is a team effort to collaborate and identify some congestion relief solutions. If elected the Commissioners Court and I will continue collaborating with RTC, COG, DART and the Collin County Municipalities to ensure all viable options are being weighed

Emergency Preparedness: Around the nation we have visibly watched Mother Nature unleash havoc on cities, we are also aware that emergency preparedness is not always a natural occurrence in some instances they can be man-made. Planning and preparation play a vital role in how we handle emergencies to protect life, our community, property and minimize the impact. In short we want our citizens to be prepared in the event of some type of emergency or disaster situation. Here in Collin County a huge concern each year is tornadoes, but we have been impacted by hail, and severe storms. Most cities in Collin County rely on technology to help alert citizens to impending dangers. I drew from the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

for Collin County which each jurisdiction has identified potential natural threats to various locations within the county. Each city in Collin has their own mitigation preparedness plans. I think the procedures we currently have in place are sufficient for our area which includes wireless emergency

Other Issues: To pinpoint one issue that more important than all the others is like asking me which engine is more important on an airplane. If the airplane is going to soar all engines are important...they are integrated. next to education (which is the Board of educations responsibility) I believe a financially sound government is a priority. As custodian of our county budget my obligation and approach would be to carefully scrutinize and maximize return on the investment of our tax money.

**County Judge
Ray Ricchi, Republican Party**

No response received

County Court at Law Judge

4-year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the county. Responsible for cases including misdemeanor or criminal cases, class C appeals, civil matters, mental health cases, and probate matters.

Question

Priorities: Even though your race is not contested at this time, please share with voters your priorities for the next term and how you will address them.

**County Court at Law Judge, County Court 1
Corinne Mason, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No response received

**County Court at Law Judge, County Court 2
Barnett Walker, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No response received

**County Court at Law Judge, County Court 3
Lance S. Baxter, Republican Party
Uncontested**



Email: Lbaxter@co.collin.tx.us

Website: <http://BaxterForJudge.com>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Lancebaxter1960>

Education: Texas Christian University BBA Finance 1983, South Texas College of Law - Houston JD 1986

Experience: 24 years civil and criminal litigation (1986 - 2010), Judge since 2011.

Priorities: Keep being fair to parties on both sides. Manage the docket efficiently so that cases are heard as fast as practical.

**County Court at Law Judge, County Court 4
David Rippel, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No photo provided

Email: rippel@co.collin.tx.us

Phone: (972) 548-3840

Education: J.D. Southern Law School B.A. Economics, Louisiana State University

Experience: I have served for 7 years as the judge for Collin County Court at Law 4, and 15 years representing citizens as a lawyer in Civil and Criminal matters.

Email: rippel@co.collin.tx.us

Priorities: I will continue to follow the Laws and Constitution of the United States and of Texas. Further, the court will be operated in courteous and efficient manner.

**County Court at Law Judge, County Court 5
Dan K. Wilson, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No response received

**County Court at Law Judge, County Court 6
Jay Bender, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No response received

**County Court at Law Judge, County Court 7
David Waddill, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No response received

**County Court at Law Judge, Probate Court 1
Weldon Stone Copeland, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No response received

County Party Chair

County chairs lead party activities within the county, work with candidates/precinct chairs/staff, conduct primary elections and certify results, and build a network of volunteers and precinct chairs.

Uncontested Question

Priorities: Even though your race is not contested at this time, please share with voters your priorities for the next term and how you will address them.

Contested Questions

Voter Turnout: Voter turnout has traditionally been low. What strategies would you use, if any, to increase voter turnout within the county??

Vision: If elected, what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for this office, and how would you address them?

**County Democratic Party Chair
Kunal Kapai**

No response received

**County Democratic Party Chair
Stirling Morris**

Email: stirling@stirlingmorris.com

Website: www.stirlingmorris.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stirlingmorris

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stirlingmorris>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/v/eBUajXrOLvY>

Phone: (972) 786-2004

Education: Bachelor of Science in Education

Experience: A lifelong progressive, my political activism started in 2013. I've served as an active volunteer for the Democratic Party since then. I recently ran as a candidate for Plano City Council. I am ready to be your Collin County Democratic Party Chair.

Voter Turnout: To increase voter turnout, we have to evaluate and revamp our existing infrastructure. From there, we will develop Short and Long Term Goals, incorporate those into an Infrastructure Redevelopment Initiative, and then implement that into a new, non-existent Strategic Development Plan. The most immediate Short Term goal is the seamless transition of leadership when County Party and Precinct Chairs are determined in March. Expanding beyond our Field Organization effort, we will then restructure committee focus, create training initiatives for Volunteers, improve Coordinated Campaign work, and implement a Public Relations plan including Marketing and Community Outreach. Long term goals are to utilize a new Strategic Development Plan as a living document and embrace continuous improvement practices. Minimally, this includes a focus on every county judicial seat currently ignored, developing new Fundraising and Donor Relation efforts, and hiring a new, non-existent Executive Director.

Vision: Our priority, as citizens and as the Collin County Democratic Party, is to improve the world we live in. Getting Democrats elected will be the result of that work. We need to create a Vision that exemplifies the diversity of our County while growing future Democratic leaders along the way. And we need to remind each other to always look forward. Visualizing unity applies as much to our public outreach and voter education efforts as it does internally. We need to do a better job aligning with like-minded community organizations, and we need to rebrand. This is paramount to the public having confidence in us. First impressions make all the difference. Embracing regular continuous improvement programs that benefit candidates, and empower them with the tools and resources to run and win, is vital. When the public sees the voter and public outreach efforts we've employed, and that we can consistently win partisan offices, financial and volunteer support will grow organically.

Other Issues: In order for us to be successful as the Collin County Democratic Party, we have to always be focused on the future. We don't have an effective infrastructure established today, nor do we have any written Strategic Development Plan. Here are just a few ideas to move us forward: Internally, we need regular Strategic Planning Reviews, Leadership Retreats, Volunteer Appreciation Initiatives, and Train-The-Trainer Programs. These feed the heart and soul of Volunteers as well as Elected and Appointed Leaders. We need better Education Program and Community Outreach Initiatives. I've spoken with numerous community leaders and educators, including many outside of our party, who want to collaborate with us, too often having been met with hostility or not approached at all. On the public facing side, we need focused Legislative Affairs, Political Activism, and Public Relations Committees. It's one thing to be communicative, but offering information doesn't automatically imply gained knowledge.

**County Democratic Party Chair
Mike Rawlins**



Email: mike@electrawlins.com

Website: www.electrawlins.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/electrawlins

Phone: (972) 783-9573

Education: BS Computer Science, University of Texas at Dallas BA Political Science, University of Oklahoma

Experience: County Chair 3.5 years Precinct Chair 10 years Chair of Coordinated Campaign and Strategic Planning Committees Chair of County Convention Resolutions Committee Delegate to multiple state and county conventions

Voter Turnout: In both 2014 and 2016 Texas had the worst voter turnout of any state and the District of Columbia. This is a longstanding, statewide problem that may require statewide solutions to fix. That said, especially for midterm/Gubernatorial elections Democratic wins depend on increasing the turnout of Democratic voters. Collin County is better than the rest of Texas at 67.6%. But we should be performing more like Orange County, CA at 81% or even Marin County, CA at 89%. There are several proven strategies for increasing turnout at a local level. First, face-to-face contact has proven to be the most effective means of motivating voters. We have already implemented a robust field program that knocked on more doors in the county in 2017 than was done in many Presidential election years. We will continue this through November 6. With our newly energized Community Outreach efforts we are also reaching more potential voters where they gather. We will also be using targeted social media.

Vision: Our mission remains to elect Democrats, and that means getting more votes for Democrats and increasing the number of Democrats on the ballot. My top three goals for the next term that contribute to that are: 1) Expanding the base, using the same strategies for increasing voter turnout. 2) Fundraising – Collin County is one of the most prosperous counties in the nation. Our Democratic donors send more money out of the county than they give here. We plan to increase our outreach to both major donors and smaller dollar sustaining donors, and implement a new donor management system to assist in both efforts. 3) Hiring staff – We are reaching the limits of what we can reasonably expect of volunteers. Our counterparts in the CCRP have a full time Executive Director. Once our fundraising gets to levels that will support it I would like to hire a part time Executive Director, a full or part time Office Manager, and a part time Development Director to take our fundraising to the next level.

Other Issues: All of the candidates for this office want the same thing – for us to be successful – and we have similar ideas for doing that. The most important issue in this race is which candidate and their team are best prepared to make the party successful. When my team and I took over in June '14 the party was a mess. We were doing worse at the polls, had fewer candidates and volunteers, and were insolvent. Since then have made tremendous progress, constantly reinventing ourselves to increase Democratic votes, increase almost ten-fold the number of candidates, increase volunteer engagement, and double fundraising. We have momentum in the right direction. Please look at experience specifically with the party. The best chance we have of finishing the job of turning Collin County blue is to keep the same, proven team in place. A change in leadership this summer would stop our momentum – in the middle of our campaign for one of the most important and consequential midterms in decades.

**County Republican Party Chair
George Flint
Uncontested**



Email: george@collingop.org

Education: B.S. - Mass. Inst. of Tech.; M.B.A. - Wake Forest Univ.; J.D. - Southern Methodist Univ.

Experience: Attorney since 1980; Chairman, CollinGOP since 2014

Priorities: Thank you for this opportunity. The principles of the Republican Party set forth in our Texas and national platforms represent the fundamental beliefs of most Americans. My priority as Chairman of the Collin County Republican Party is to more effectively communicate these principles 24/7/365 to all voters and potential voters in Collin County, encouraging them to become involved citizens and to vote their principles.

District Attorney

4-year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Represents the citizens of Collin County in prosecuting misdemeanor and felony crimes, and acts as legal counsel for county government.

Questions

Improvements: What changes would you like to implement in this position?

Prevention: What measures would you support, if any, to reduce the crime rate?

Growth: What challenges will the continuing growth of Collin County present to the District Attorney's office, and how would you address them?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in Collin County, and what is your position on these issues?

District Attorney Casey Davis, Republican Party



Email: casey@caseydavislaw.com

Website: www.electcaseydavis.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/caseydavislawyer

Phone: (214) 882-5350

Education: Texas Wesleyan University School of Law Juris Doctor 2003 University of North Texas B.S. Education, K-8th Grade 1996 Plano Independent School District Shepton High School Plano Senior High School 1992

Experience: 14 years Criminal Lawyer 10 years Collin County Solo Practitioner Criminal Defense Attorney, Plano 4 years Tarrant County Prosecutor

Improvements: My key platforms for change include: 1) implementing a paperless criminal justice system to expedite pleas, 2) transforming the Grand Jury Division to accommodate growing case filings, decreasing indictments and offering pre-indictment pleas, 3) restructuring resources, employees and prosecutors office-wide to facilitate case movement, 4) equipping prosecutors with tools to effectively

and efficiently identify and dispose of cases "in the interest of justice" or with "prosecutorial discretion" and 5) providing millions of dollars in instant and ongoing savings to Collin County by reducing the jail population and criminal bond caseload. Additionally, at www.electcaseydavis.com, home page, Modern Prosecution, I have included a list of all changes I would implement as the District Attorney of Collin County.

Prevention: I would support the use and expansion of drug courts, proper use of DNA evidence to increase identification and arrests, monitored public surveillance cameras, helping ex-offenders secure well-paying jobs and housing, programs focused on educating youth, prosecutor led training for law enforcement and increased police presence in "hot spots".

Growth: The District Attorney's office will continue to face increased criminal case filings. Currently, millions of county tax dollars are being spent housing inmates, \$69.79 per inmate each day, while the cases go unresolved for 6 months to 2 years. The cases are ultimately disposed of with a plea offer, reduced charge, dismissal, refusal letter, no bill or trial. These resolutions MUST happen earlier in the case and I will work tirelessly with my team to make this happen! The Sherriff is seeking county tax dollars to build more jail space, but there are better solutions to our growth that a District Attorney can facilitate. A District Attorney's job is multi-faceted: keeping the community safety and being tough on crime while maintaining an economically wise and fiscally conservative criminal justice system. I will coordinate meetings with relevant agencies and officials to propose a criminal justice structure that will effectuate a reasonable criminal budget for Collin County.

Other Issues: The effect of our county's growth on our criminal justice system, the safety of our community and the way our tax dollars are spent. Collin County criminal justice is currently stagnant, cases are not being resolved, courts are backlogged, dockets are overcrowded, prosecutors are stretched too thin, and important cases are not getting the time and attention needed. Last year there were over 700 new criminal filings per court, and we are still growing! New leadership equipped with training and experience to handle this growth is essential now. Prosecutors must be proficiently trained in and comfortable with quick movement of their caseload. An effective prosecutor is not be afraid to move cases efficiently and this does not detract from being tough on crime, rather frees up prosecutors to be extremely tough when needed. I have been trained in case movement during my years as a Tarrant County prosecutor and I will pass this training on to my team for the benefit of Collin County.

**District Attorney
Greg Willis, Republican Party**



Email: gregwillis4da@gmail.com

Website: www.gregwillis.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GregWillisDistrictAttorney

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/gregwillisda>

Phone: (469) 235-9555

Education: Baylor University with honors 1986 University of Virginia School of Law 1991

Experience: Collin County District Attorney (2011-present); Judge, Collin County Court at Law No. 6 (2005-2009); Child Advocate of Year (2015); TX Superlawyer (2004, 2005); Bd of Dir., TDCAA; Bd of Dir. Children's Adv. Center; fmr CCBA Pres; Opioids Task Force

Improvements: I believe we can continue to leverage the potential of new technologies to more effectively and efficiently fight crime in Collin County. For instance, I believe the wide-spread usage of body worn cameras by Collin County law enforcement has the potential to transform policing (and prosecution) to a more modern and professional standard. Also, I believe that we can make better use of cloud-based data storage and transfer to more effectively collect law enforcement information and more efficiently transfer it to all the necessary stakeholders in the criminal justice system.

Prevention: Although crime suppression is largely a function of effective policing, I believe the District Attorney can support this effort. Specifically, as the police move towards intelligence-led policing strategies that target the most prolific and violent offenders (so-called "Impact Offenders") in their cities, we as prosecutors can leverage that information to ensure that these offenders don't evade justice at the courthouse. That's why under my leadership, the District Attorney's Office has increased the communication and intelligence sharing between us and our police agencies so we can proactively identify these "Impact Offenders" for prosecution.

Growth: The greatest challenge that our growth presents to a District Attorney is how to continue to keep the public safe from violent and habitual offenders and yet also be a good steward of the taxpayer's money. The ability for a District Attorney to effectively and efficiently distinguish between those offenders who need incarceration (either pre-trial or post-trial) versus those that don't, is the core competency for today's fiscally-responsible conservative prosecutor. This competency can only be achieved by the type of hard-earned experience I possess.

Other Issues: How to keep Collin County's best days ahead of us. A prosecutor's sworn duty is to seek justice, not just convictions. But justice is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. It could mean the death penalty for some & a diversion program for others. Stephen Covey famously said that we should begin things with the end in mind. For evildoers, it's to make them pay for their horrific crimes, to lock them up where they'll be unable to rape another child or kill another person. For surviving victims & loved ones of murder victims, it's for them is to get them from a place of pain, sorrow, & heartache, to a place of peace, safety, & resilience. To gently guide them through a criminal justice process that's often confusing & even hostile to their interests. For young, nonviolent offenders who wish to own their conduct & change their ways, it's to give them a hand up; to grant them the opportunity & support to acquire life & job skills: to responsibly journey from burden to blessing.

District Clerk

4-year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for the judicial records of the District Courts.

Questions

Records: What are the challenges in protecting the accuracy and integrity of records of the district courts and how would you address them?

Growth: How would you manage the District Clerk's office to keep pace with the expected growth in district court cases?

Vision: If elected, what would you most like to accomplish during the next term?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the District Clerk, and what is your position on these issues?

**District Clerk
Lynne Finley, Republican Party**

Email: lynnechuppfinley@gmail.com

Website: www.lynnefinley.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lynnefinleycampaign

Phone: (972) 489-4304

Education: Bachelor of Arts -Telecommunications -Cum Laude -Texas Tech University; Doctor of Jurisprudence - South Texas College of Law; Master of Arts Degree - Mass Communication - Texas Tech University

Experience: Collin County District Clerk, Senior Attorney for Finley & Associates Risk Manager/General Counsel, Corporate Counsel/Director of Human Resources for Healthcare Corporations

Records: Population growth and mandatory electronic filing for both civil and criminal cases has caused a significant increase in the amount of data that flows through the District Clerk's office with more than 15,000 electronic filings a month. Integrating this increased data load into Collin County's Case Management System (CMS) in real time has produced significant challenges in protecting the accuracy

and integrity of the judicial records. As the District Clerk, my office seamlessly transitioned to e-filing in all criminal cases in July of 2017. I have increased quality control, reduced error rates, and increased accessibility. This was accomplished through more effective staff training and adding new capabilities to our CMS system to expand access while improving security and privacy protections in areas such as mental health and child protective cases. I will continue to measure, monitor and improve our systems and employees who are both critical to protecting the records.

Growth: Managing the District Clerk's office has been my responsibility for the last 20 months. As an attorney for 23 years, I have witnessed increasing levels of technology in the judicial process. From document scanners, to electronic forms and database optimization, our processes are driven by technology. I managed the e-filing transition for criminal cases in the district courts. I worked with the Sheriff's office to improve officer security by evaluating and improving warrant procedures that incorporated real time integration between our offices making the warrant procedures faster, more accurate, and less cumbersome. My policy of encouraging greater collaboration with other County offices such as law enforcement and specialized courts will allow continued development and implementation of better technology, training, and procedures to provide proactive solutions to enable the District Clerk's office to keep pace with expected growth in district court cases.

Vision: As the Collin County District Clerk, during the next term I would most like to accomplish increased accessibility, better security, and greater transparency in the judicial process. As a licensed attorney and a member of the Texas Judicial Council Civil Justice Committee's Advisory Council, I have the privilege and opportunity to work with our Texas Supreme Court and the Office of Court Administration to make recommendations on proposed changes to improve citizen access to Texas courts. As a member of the Odyssey File & Serve (OFS) steering committee, I am helping to improve the current eFiling system and working to influence the future development of secure platforms for the flow and storage of case information. I will continue to work during the next term to provide our citizens, lawyers and judges with increased accessibility, better security, and greater transparency in the judicial process.

Other Issues: Streamlining, simplifying and improving the jury management system to provide greater convenience for potential jurors, while still maintaining an effective juror pool for the courts, is an issue that will be most pressing for the District Clerk to address in the next term. The District Clerk is responsible for identifying, contacting, and coordinating qualified potential jurors for all cases in Collin County for District, County, Probate and Justice of the Peace Courts. Through the effective use of software and computer systems, my office seeks to increase juror response rates, provide greater communication and convenience for potential jurors, decrease county costs and maintain an effective juror pool for the courts to function at optimal efficiency.

District Clerk
Karmin Kirschner, Democratic Party

No response received

District Judge

4 year term. Must be 25 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a practicing lawyer, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for cases including felony criminal cases, civil cases with higher amounts of controversy, and family law matters.

Uncontested Question

Priorities: Even though your race is not contested at this time, please share with voters your priorities for the next term and how you will address them.

Contested Questions

Efficiency: What methods do you support, if any, to increase the efficiency of the District Court?

Consistency: How will you ensure consistent application of law in the District Court?

Growth: What challenges will the continuing growth of the county present to the district courts, and how would you address them?

Access to Justice: What, if anything, should be done to improve access to justice for low income residents in civil and criminal cases?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the District Courts, and how would you address them?

**219th District Judge
Scott Becker, Republican Party**

Email: scott@judgebecker.com

Website: www.judgebecker.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JudgeScottJBecker

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/judgebecker219>

Phone: (817) 269-0889

Education: Southern Methodist University School of Law (1997) (Order of Barristers) The University of Texas at Austin (1994) (Walk-on pitcher to varsity baseball team 1990—91)

Experience: Judge of the 219th Dist. Ct. (2010—present) Board Certified Family Law (2014—present) Assistant DA, Collin County DA's Office (2003—2010) Private practice (1997—2003) Adv. Crim. Law Seminar Planning Committee (2016—present)

Efficiency: I helped create a digital warrant process. Previously, officers physically drove to a judge to have them review and sign a warrant. This process was cumbersome. If there was a defect in the warrant the process became even more cumbersome. Officers had to drive back to their office, make the changes, then drive back to the judge. Along with officers from across the County, we developed a process allowing them to e-mail me their proposed warrants. I now review on my iPad, sign electronically, and e-mail it back to them. A process that used to take hours can now be accomplished in minutes. This process has spread to several agencies and is used by many of the judges in Collin County.

Consistency: Consistent application of the law is an important, but not the only goal. Many people define "consistency" as similar outcomes for similarly situated cases. However, there are so many variables this is impossible to achieve. No two cases are exactly the same. While the law remains the same from case to case, the facts do not. There are no truly similarly situated cases. Each case has unique facts thus leading to unique results for each case. Focusing on consistency and failing to account for these factual differences in each case could lead to a travesty of justice. My experience as the judge for the past seven years allows me to recognize while I strive for consistency, I should not do so at the expense of a just result.

Growth: The growth of the county will require the creation of more district courts to handle the increased caseload. As more people move into our county, there is an increased caseload. There are only so many hours in the day for judges to address these cases. We want to give each case the time it needs. But the more time we give to each case, the fewer cases we can hear in a day. The fewer cases we hear in a day, the longer it may take for cases to get in front of a judge. Justice delayed can be justice denied. Our county has grown because of the fiscal responsibility of our elected leaders. Maintaining a favorable tax burden for the citizenry without jeopardizing the core government services (like the court system) they expect, is a challenge we face right now.

Access to Justice: In criminal cases low income residents have access to justice because they can have a court appointed lawyer. However, those lawyers are paid a greatly reduced rate for their work. Many of the most experienced lawyers choose not to take court appointed cases because of these reduced rates. Paying a fair wage for fair work would attract more experienced lawyers to handle these cases. This in turn would go a long way to improving the quality of the access to justice in criminal matters for low income residents. In civil cases perhaps more legal clinics could be created to help the low income residents. The cost of law school tuition is quite high. Many new lawyers start out with crushing debt. They feel compelled to seek high-paying jobs to pay off this debt. If there was a greater effort at loan forgiveness linked to the amount of work done on behalf of low income residents, this might improve their access to justice.

Other Issues: Political retribution for judges following the law. The Texas Canons of Judicial Conduct dictate, "A judge shall not be swayed by partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism." Canon 3B(2). I followed this Canon in my duties as the Local Administrative Judge and now face 3 opponents in the primary. I face political opposition because of a decision I made trying to remove politics from the situation. Other judges may face the same pressure if they act as I did—simply doing their job and following the Canons. That political pressure threatens the independence of our courts. Addressing this is difficult. The same Canons requiring a judge not be swayed by partisan interests, also limit what a judge can say in response to each criticism. Often, the most judicial behavior is not to respond. But this allows the criticism to go unanswered and over time gain an air of truth even if it's not valid. Judges must be willing to do the right thing, even if it means suffering politically.

**219th District Judge
Glenn Brenner, Republican Party**



Email: glennbrenner@gmail.com

Website: <http://glennbrenner.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/glenn.brenner

Phone: (469) 678-6289

Education: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF LAW, Vermillion, South Dakota Juris Doctor, May 1992. UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, Urbana - Champaign, Illinois Bachelor of Science, May 1988.

Experience: BRENNER LAW P.C., Dallas, Texas 8/14 - Present SPENCER LAW P.C., Dallas, Texas 8/12 - 8/14 Attorney/ Litigator Pennington County Elected State's Attorney (District Attorney) 1997-2013

Efficiency: As the Elected State's Attorney (District Attorney) in South Dakota, I learned quickly that any major policy change has a real effect on other agencies. Right now, each District Court has its own policies. One thing I would try would be to initiate a monthly justice meeting and invite the District Attorney, the District Courts, the Sheriff, the Clerk of Courts, the public defender and the City Police Chiefs to get together over the lunch hour and discuss what is happening within their departments. What is working and what is not; how one department might assist another department in asking for small changes that are proven to increase efficiency of the justice system. The key is in communication. While no court wants another to dictate how it operates, I am confident all courts would make changes if they were informed how significant it would be on the system as a whole.

Consistency: I believe I am the only candidate that is not accepting any donations from attorneys and/or law firms. This decision was deliberate. While I believe I can maintain an unbiased approach to deciding cases and applying the law consistently, this is just one example of the efforts I will take to minimize the appearance of any impropriety. If people believe the system operates based on factors such as race or social status, regardless of the veracity, it is incumbent upon us in the system to explore where the appearance of bias is coming from and address the same. I also will hold dearly the ethical responsibilities of the position and maintain full disclosure of any potential conflicts.

Growth: Courts are coping with ever-increasing caseloads, while at the same time, economics has produced dwindling sources of revenue. Adding more judges is not the answer because the budgets of the judiciary and related support systems (juvenile counselors, drug courts, etc) are typically 90 percent personnel expenses; as opposed to other agencies tending our highways, parks, or hospitals, which devote a far greater percentage of their budgets to capital projects. The underfunding to judicial budgets have had a debilitating impact on available court days and all of the other functions that require people to work on larger caseloads, and have negatively affected the initiation of well-intended, value-based programs which would ultimately assist in reduction of that very caseload. While the answer is multi-faceted; a great start would be to educate the executive and legislative branches on the ever-increasing burdens of the judiciary and its long-lasting effect on their own constituencies.

Access to Justice: Justice for all has been one of the protectors of the least advantaged in our nation. During economic downturn, people need judicial assistance more than ever. If and when people are denied access to court-appointed legal services due to budgetary restrictions, judges and their staff are forced to dedicate more time they simply do not have, to provide the additional guidance an appointed attorney might otherwise satisfy. As in all public offices, the judiciary has an obligation to the public to demonstrate fiscal responsibility. Using things like weighted caseload studies to, again, educate the executive and legislative branches of government on the needs of the judicial branch is one answer to have funds dedicated to these issues. This will assist in getting a portion of the state budget earmarked to assist in the funding of the much-needed aforementioned programming.

Other Issues: Underfunding and budget cuts affect the courts' ability to resolve cases. When criminal dockets undergo delays, judges and prosecutors are faced with the choice of warehousing untried defendants in local or releasing a potentially violent offender, both adult and juvenile, compromising the courts' ability to fulfill its traditional role: maintaining societal order and public safety. The answer lies in lobbying the legislature. You have to look at the purse and decide what is most important in our communities. Can we survive steering around a pothole if this means that our streets are safer for our children to walk home from school? As mentioned above, judges have an obligation to the public to demonstrate fiscal responsibility as in all public positions. Judges carry weight and influence. I would step outside my docket and, among other things, lobby legislators and testify in Austin as a way to fight for the much needed allocation of dollars for proven crime-prevention programs.

**219th District Judge
Mike Curran, Republican Party**



Email: curran116@gmail.com

Website: <http://CurranforJudge.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CurranforJudge

Phone: (214) 799-6184

Education: Bachelor of Science UTEP May 1980 Juris Doctor St. Mary's School of Law May 1983

Experience: Assistant Criminal District Attorney Collin County Texas October 1983 to October 1986. Associate Law Firm of Robert T. Dry and Associates October 1986 to June 1987 Partner Jouette and Curran June 1987 to January 1993 Law Office Mike Curran 1993-2018 A

Efficiency: I would double up on my Jury Trial Docket. Would pick two Juries on Monday and try the first case from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the second case from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. I would do this until the current backload of cases in the 219th District Court was discharged. In addition I would also begin scheduling cases every afternoon, unlike now, where there are rarely any afternoon settings in order to reduce the back load of non-jury cases.

Consistency: Knowledge of the Law and experience are key to the consistent application of the Law in the 219th District Court. I have 34 years of both family and criminal experience. When you combine those years of experience it is over three times as much as any of my opponents.

Growth: We desperately need more District Courts. Our per capita case load is the highest in the State of Texas. If we can't get Collin County Commissioners to back the District Court Judges in asking Austin for more Courts we are going to have to implement more efficient measures to manage the existing Docket which will continue to grow. There is no end in sight for the growth of Collin County.

Access to Justice: A comprehensive Pro Bono program needs to be set up where local Attorneys are not only encouraged but rewarded in some way by participating in such a program. As an alternative, the Collin County Bar could fund a Legal Clinic from donations from the private sector and with time donated by Local Attorneys.

Other Issues: The most pressing issue right now in the District Courts of Collin County is our growth. We also need to increase funding for the Collin County District Attorneys Office. Greg Willis is an excellent District Attorney and we need to give him the resources he needs to fight crime in our County.

**219th District Judge
Jennifer Edgeworth, Republican Party**



Email: Jennifer@JenniferEdgeworth.com

Website: www.JenniferEdgeworth.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JenniferEdgeworthForJudge

Phone: (469) 277-3392

Education: Baylor University: Joint MBA and Law Degree, 1999; Texas Christian University (TCU): Bachelor of Business Administration, cum laude

Experience: Seventeen years as an attorney managing complex lawsuits involving millions of dollars in damages, and setting budgets for those cases. Lead attorney on over 200 cases. Handled family law cases and served children as a guardian ad litem.

Efficiency: Some of the best ways to expedite trials and cut down on litigation costs are for judges to issue a scheduling order and set a trial date early on, hear and rule on motions promptly, not allow for discovery disputes to drag on, and not allow for multiple continuances of a trial date. Costs grow exponentially when judges do not impose deadlines on parties to move their cases forward and will not hear or will not rule on motions and discovery disputes. The District Courts should also work hard to ensure that criminal cases are resolved within a year. It costs \$80 a day to house a prisoner in the Collin County jail. In criminal cases, this District Court has prisoners who have been in jail more than a year without a trial or resolution, which costs the taxpayers a significant amount of money and is not justice served for the person in jail or for the victim seeking a determination of innocence or guilt.

Consistency: The judicial process must be fair and transparent for all individuals, regardless of their income, background, or social status. I will ensure consistent application of the law by fairly applying the law to the facts presented and making a ruling. I will follow the U.S Constitution and the Texas Constitution. I also believe that a judge must exercise judicial restraint, not judicial activism.

Growth: Collin County is experiencing unprecedented growth. As more companies move their corporate headquarters and/or businesses to the county, we will see more civil law cases filed. As more homes are built and families move to the area, we will see more family law cases filed. And by virtue of having more people in the county, we will see more criminal law cases filed. This places an even greater responsibility on the District Court judges to handle their cases efficiently. Referencing back to the question regarding increasing the efficiency of the District Courts, judges must issue scheduling orders and set trial dates early and rule

promptly on motions and discovery disputes, and must work hard to ensure criminal cases are set and heard for trial or resolved within a year.

Access to Justice: Collin County has many legal aid clinics and opportunities for attorneys to volunteer their time pro bono (without pay). I believe all attorneys should take on some pro bono cases, and I have personally handled pro bono cases through the volunteer attorney programs in Dallas and Collin County. If not contributing time, I think law firms and attorneys should contribute funds to equal access to justice campaigns.

Other Issues: no response

**296th District Judge
John R. Roach, Republican Party
Uncontested**



Email: judge@judgeroach.com

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/judgeroach>

Education: J.D., St. Mary's University School of Law B.A., University of Texas at Austin

Experience: 2007 - Present, Judge of the 296th District Court. 2006 - Present, Judge, North Texas Veterans Court 1988-2006, United States Marine Corps Reserves, Active Duty in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm

Priorities: My priorities this next term is to continue to handle the growth of my court's docket as efficiently as I have over the last 12 years. As a general jurisdiction court i hear family, civil, felony criminal cases and cases involving Child Protective Services. With the growth in Collin County the number of cases assigned to each district court is growing rapidly. It is imperative Collin County maintains a competent and experienced judiciary to handle the number and complexity of these cases. I am also the Presiding Judge of the North Texas Veterans Court which is a specialized court handling the unique issues facing veterans returning to civilian life. The North Texas Veterans Court is the first regional veterans court in the United States. I handle my normal 296th docket Monday through Thursday and I preside over veterans courts in Collin, Rockwall, Grayson, Fannin and Kaufman counties. I want to continue to serve our veteran community.

**366th District Judge
Ray Wheless, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No response received

**417th District Judge
Cyndi McCrann Wheless, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No response received

**429th District Judge
Jill Willis, Republican Party
Uncontested**

No response received

Justice of the Peace

4-year term. Must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for civil cases and criminal misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only.

Questions

Prevention: What measure do you support, if any, to reduce the quantity of school truancy cases?

Accessibility: The JP Courts are often referred to as “The People’s Courts.” What measures do you support to make the JP courts more accessible to the people?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing for the county Justice of the Peace courts, and how would you address them?

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
Misty Irby, Democratic Party**

Email: contact@mistyirbyjp1.com

Website: www.mistyirbyjp1.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MIrbyJP1

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MIrbyjp1>

Phone: (469) 630-2303

Education: Collin County College - Associate’s Degree and Certification in Paralegal Studies. UNT - Bachelor’s Degree with Certification in Alternative Dispute Resolution. SMU - Master’s Degree in Human Rights and Social Justice.

Experience: I am a trained legal professional who has worked in a law firm and as a legal document preparer. I have facilitated and observed 25 hours of mediation services. I have devoted countless hours to community service with Traffick911 and Bridges to Life.

Prevention: The ability to reduce school truancy cases begins with the education system. I support a school and community collaboration which encompasses family engagement to identify and remedy external factors hindering educational success. It is also important to note that often the school environment, itself, is responsible

for truancy. These environmental factors could include lack of flexibility in meeting the needs of students with diverse learning styles and a curriculum that is perceived as boring, irrelevant, or unchallenging. Schools should promote an environment where students feel connected and are invested in their learning. Therefore, I support expanding and promoting the number of CTE opportunities in each school district. This hands-on learning environment has been proven to combat absenteeism and truancy. With this emphasis, students will be motivated to attend school because they will find creative ways to solve problems, achieve success and effectively become lifelong learners.

Accessibility: It should be the mission of the Justice of the Peace Court to serve the people by offering resourceful and accessible administration of justice. This increased accessibility involves educating the public about the various ways the JP Court serves the community. This includes designing a website for the court that is informative and user-friendly. The citizens of Collin County should be able to visit the website to find information and assistance on civil cases, court proceedings and the various forms applicable to pro se filings. I also see the need to develop a speakers' bureau, consisting of Judges and court staff to speak to the public and local organizations about the procedures of the court. These educational opportunities would be offered at no charge on a quarterly and as requested basis. This program would help the community better understand the processes and procedures of the court so that individuals can more efficiently use the court without confusion or frustration.

Other Issues: With the tremendous growth in Collin County, our Justice of the Peace courts will experience an increase in caseloads. This growth will equate to a variety of ethnicities and backgrounds entering into the court. In its current state, the JP Courts in Collin County are not equipped to meet this challenge due to the lack of racial and gender diversity. In order to function effectively, citizens must have the utmost confidence in their courts. A judiciary, not representative of the population it serves, undermines that confidence in creating a perceived or actual bias in judicial decision making. An ideal bench is reflective of the broader community, including women, persons of color and other underrepresented groups. I believe that diversity in the legal system improves the quality of justice while building confidence in all communities that courts are fair and impartial. To truly be a "People's Court", the bench must reflect various aspects of the community which it serves.

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1
Paul Raleeh, Republican Party**



Email: judgeraleeh@gmail.com

Website: www.reelectjudgeraleeh.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ReelectJudgeRaleeh

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/jpcollinpaul>

Phone: (214) 686-7115

Education: College of Justice Court Judges - Graduate Texas State University - Hundreds of Hours of Continued Education Specializing in the Area of Criminal and Civil Law

Experience: Collin County Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace - 20 Years Collin County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigator - 7 Years City of McKinney Criminal Investigator - 8 Years

Prevention: Teen Court is a program I use for alternative sentencing when managing truancy matters. Truancy is a tiny portion of the Justice Court in Precinct 1. The Texas Legislator changed the truancy laws by creating a more simplified system for truancy offenses. If the State Commission on Judicial Conduct allowed courts to be preventative, I would focus on evictions. The Justice Courts in Collin County hear hundreds of eviction cases per month. Many of the eviction cases occur because landlords and tenants are not educated about their rights and roles under the law nor do they realize the importance of the signed lease contract. If I were to create a preventative program, it would be in the area of evictions. However, courts by nature and law are not allowed to be proactive in prevention. Remember the blind lady carrying the scales of justice...

Accessibility: In Collin County's Justice Court 1, I helped developed a software program similar to "Turbo Tax". This program allows a person instituting a court case by answering a few questions in a drop down box format. When finished, their answers are automatically populated into the proper forms allowing the user to print them out or electronically file them with the court. I have also implemented night court to accommodate for those who are unable to attend court during the day. Customer service is a top priority. One of the many ways we value our customers is by always being available. When you call the Justice Court in Collin County's Precinct 1, you will always be able to speak to a person directly. You do not have to press 1, 2 or 3 to speak to a real person. You always have the opportunity to speak to a staff member that is educated in justice court operations.

Other Issues: I believe the growth in Collin County will be the biggest challenge facing JP Courts. Collin County's population in 2040 is expected to reach around 4 million. Unfortunately, the reality is that growth brings crime and crime increases

the work of the court system. With the demands of the court increasing, the needs of the people must be at the center of every decision we make. In order for JP Courts to serve the people to their maximum potential, we will have to be creative with the use of electronic communications. Electronic communications, not only benefits the courts through an e-filing system, but it will allow the courts unlimited possibilities. It is important for us to continue to work with our law makers. Attempts have been made during legislative sessions to expand the role of the Justice Court. We must continue to build strong relationships with our local and state representatives in order to effectively and efficiently manage the growth of the courts.

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2
Dian Engelman, Democratic Party**



Email: dianengelmanforjp2@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DianEngelmanforJP2CollinCounty

Phone: (972) 547-1620

Education: Sherman High School BS degree from TAMC in history & English. MS degree from TAMC in history.

Experience: Taught history, English, reading & reading improvement, English as Second Language in Alllen ISD and Princeton ISD American History at Collin College. Developmental Writing at Eastfield College Bicentennial Commission Collin County

Prevention: Truancy is not a one size fits all problem. I think community service by truant students is one answer. Peer input can also impact a student's decision to attend school. It is important to consider the student and available programs when making a decision. Truly, it does take a village.

Accessibility: There needs to be public access to the court and the JP, perhaps even an open house. I think there needs to be varied hours for court and more education aimed at constituents.

Other Issues: Defendants often do not understand their rights or expectations because they cannot afford to hire an attorney. Again, there needs to be education aimed at constituents. We need volunteers to help constituents. I am open to programs that will help residents and make Collin County an even better place to live. And I hope that all JPs in Collin County will stay in touch and share with each other.

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2
Jeff Graham, Republican Party**



Email: Jeffgrahamforjp@gmail.com

Website: <http://jeffgrahamforjp.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jeffgrahamforjp

Phone: (972) 979-0829

Education: I have over 1900 hours of continuing education in Civil and Criminal Law. I am licensed as a Master Peace Officer, Police Instructor and Mental Health Deputy.

Experience: I am currently a Fugitive Deputy with Collin County Sheriff's Office. I have also served as a Civil, Patrol, and School Resource Deputy, a Crisis Negotiator, Supervisor and Field Training Officer.

Prevention: I want to have close relationship with the students, staff, and the administrators of the schools within my precinct. I have already met with most of the school boards within the precinct and told them I want to have a close working relationship.

Accessibility: I am looking at possibly implementing a Civil night court .

Other Issues: I feel the continuing growth of the county is the most pressing issue and adding additional personnel to keep up with the case load as we grow.

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2
Mike McCandless, Republican Party**



Email: mikeforjp2@gmail.com

Website: www.MikeforJP2.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/mikeforjp2

Phone: (214) 556-7990

Education: Formerly a Locksmith, Radio Personality, EMT, Paramedic, Firefighter, Arson Investigator, Police Officer, Deputy Constable and now a Reserve Deputy, Court Bailiff.

Experience: I have over 11 years experience as a Court Bailiff for three Justices of the Peace along with Civil Process experience.

Prevention: First by bringing Truancy Cases back to JP 2 Court. And by utilizing the experience I've learned through Judge John Payton by offering different programs of accountability, family structure and resources.

Accessibility: Direct communication with the citizens of Collin County by phone or e-mail. People should have access to the Judge when they have questions that affect their lives and livelihood. Also by thoroughly educating the JP staff with clear and concise answers. I as Judge will offer the best "Customer/ Citizen Service" by making myself available day or night. And by also having a Truancy Night Court and Traffic and other cases Night Court twice a month for those who can not take off of work during the day.

Other Issues: I will refer to the about statement I made that a Truancy Night Court and Traffic and other cases Night Court be held twice a month for those who can not take off of work during the day. This can truly help out the working families without having to put additional stress on them. It is truly important to take care of the people who have put their trust in me.

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 Jerry Shaffer, Republican Party



Email: ojshaffer@verizon.net

Website: <http://judgejerryshaffer.com>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ojshaffer

Phone: (972) 442-3024

Education: MA physics & mathematics - Austin Coll. MS physics & math - Purdue Univ. Doctorate Ed. Adm & physics - Texas A & M, Commerce

Experience: Geophysical Research - Globe Univ. Sciences, teaching & coaching & athletic directing in high schools and teaching physics and mathematics in colleges and Universities.

Prevention: I have spent most of my life dealing with young people, mostly students or student athletes. A major cause of truancy is the difficulty a parent has in convincing their child of the value of education. Measures that engage parents by the school or community in the education process would be of help. Extracurricular

activities are powerful in connecting parents and students to school and should be encouraged, however, a student attending only because of extracurricular activities may not receive a solid education. A more powerful and productive motivation is relevance. If the student's imagination can project him/her into a fun, productive and rewarding use of what he/she is learning, the student will look forward to the class. Measures to improve the relevance of school are expensive in the short run, but will pay great dividends in the long run. The "carrot" trumps the "stick". Removing the "stick" from the JP court did not significantly change the truancy rate.

Accessibility: I propose that all students receive more education in the way our governments actually works. A class that required field trips to city council and school board meetings and to court room sessions including the JP court would make the study of the "rules of the game" more fun. On a very small scale, Teen Court does this very effectively. The problem is that only a tiny fraction of all students get to participate. Prior to preparing to fill my position I had little real practical knowledge of how local justice was implemented. I find, as a judge, many who come before me are intimidated by the "mystery" of what is actually happeninig. Greater knowledge of how the law is implemented would lead to a more effective use of the "Peoples' Court".

Other Issues: It is anticipated that the \$10,000 limit to recoverable damages in civil cases will be changed in the next legislative session, perhaps to \$20,000. This will lead to many more cases being filed in the JP courts with fewer pro se litigants. Cases will be even more complicated, requiring a greater understanding of the law. Justice of the Peace judges are not required to be attorneys, only about 15% now are. This means that most Justices of the Peace, especially new judges, will need more training than now being provided. Another looming issue is the effect of self driving cars and other technologies. It may well be that traffic violations now being dealt with by officers writing tickets and filing them with JP or Municipal courts will be handled like tollway charges now are. Again, additional training of court clerks and other court personnel will be needed.

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 2 Ramona Brumfield, Democratic Party



Email: Brumfieldforjp3@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/RamonaBrumfieldforJP3

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/B1FORJUSTICE>

Phone: (972) 905-0463

Education: Bachelor's of Science in Business Management, University of Phoenix, Dallas, TX. University of Phoenix Lambda Sigma Chapter of the International Business Honor Society, Delta Mu Delta, Paralegal Studies from Southern Methodist University

Experience: Worked in the legal field for several years with emphasis in foreclosure processes in 12 states, truancy mentor, volunteered with the Legal Aid clinic in Plano and Allen with assisting the public with pro bono legal aid counseling.

Prevention: As a previous truancy mentor, I am familiar with the many conditions that may cause a child to end up in truancy court. As the next Justice of the Peace, I will push for more school, parent, and student engagement. For cases that end up in my courtroom, I would recommend the Alliance of Elite Youth Leadership: Follow Lead Succeed www.aeyleadership.org program which provides mentoring, educational guidance, and community service which has a proven track record of reducing truancy. I would also recommend Teen Court which will allow first time offenders to be judged by a jury of their peers.

Accessibility: The measure I support to make the JP Courts more accessible to the public is to hold night court quarterly for more public accessibility. I support excellent customer service by having the staff answer the phones within 4 rings. This will give the public live access to have their questions answered. Reduce the 3 hour wait time for cases to be heard and backlog of cases by being a punctual Judge and making sure the cases are placed on the docket properly. Also add additional training to staff to reduce turnover rate.

Other Issues: I believe as the cost of living keep increasing in Collin County that an influx of eviction cases will arise. The JP Courts are evicting at an alarming rate which creates a potential homeless population in Collin County. In 2017, 1,624 students were homeless in Collin County. A population of these students were affected by evictions. I propose an impartial volunteer diversion program between landlord and tenant. This program will pay back rent to landlords and keep qualified families from receiving detrimental judgments.

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 2
Mike Missildine, Republican Party**



Email: mike4jp@gmail.com

Website: www.mike4jp32.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/michaelmissildine

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TexasCop1975>

Phone: (214) 994-7175

Education: B.A.A.S. - Midwestern State University / Master of Science, Leadership - Grand Canyon University / Master of Public Admin. - Columbia Southern University / Doctoral candidate in Psychology Program - GCU (Complete in 2019)

Experience: 22 plus years in law enforcement, 12 plus years working as a Deputy Constable and working with Justice Courts. Master Peace Officer, Civil Process Proficiency Certified, Instructor, Hostage Negotiator, SWAT certified. and Firearms Instructor.

Prevention: School attendance is important and parents must provide a conducive environment for their children to attend school. I will work with school districts in the county to ensure parents and children understand the value of a good education. Enforcement of state truancy laws equally and effectively is very important; however, it only focuses on part of the problem. I will work with schools and parents to ensure children have every opportunity to attend school. Mentoring programs are important in Truancy programs. I would support a mentoring program for students to support attendance programs. Working directly with schools and parents is critical for the education system to remain effective, efficient, and relevant.

Accessibility: Customer service and personalized service is a top priority. I want every person who comes to court to be treated like a person, and not like a number. Every person entering court will be treated with respect, dignity, and equally. Accessibility is critical for an urban court in a populated area such as precinct 3. I would ensure court hearings could be held outside of normal hours in certain cases. An evening court program would be part of my plan to increase access to the court. However, I will work with the Constable's office as they are partners of the JP court to ensure the court is safe, and court process is delivered in an efficient and expeditious manner.

Other Issues: Landlord and tenant disputes make up the bulk of cases filed in the Justice Court. I am well-versed in Chapter 24 of the Texas Property Code, as well as the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Part V, Rules of Practice in Justice Courts. I will ensure eviction and repair remedy laws are applied fairly and equally in all cases. I have been a law enforcement officer for over 22 years and I understand the criminal cases that are filed with the Justice of the Peace court. I will ensure the law is applied equally and fairly in all criminal cases. I will also ensure that those convicted are held accountable and pay their fines. Warrants will be sent to the Constables to be worked, as required by state law. Currently, cases are sent to a collections company instead of warrants being issued. Only a state Peace Officer may execute a warrant. Issuing warrants ensures accountability and transparency within the criminal justice system.

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 2
Melvin Thathiah, Republican Party**

No photo provided

Email: melvin@melvin4jp.com

Website: www.melvin4jp.com

Phone: (469) 251-3319

Education: Florida Coastal School of Law, 2003 Texas A&M University, 2000

Experience: Practicing attorney in all aspects of trial litigation, 13 years Visiting Judge for Collin County Justice Courts, 3 years

Prevention: The court is not permitted to encourage or discourage filings and cannot reject filings from any parties. I believe the programs currently in place to handle truancy are effective and have some ideas for improving the efficiency of the court. Being less lenient on truancy may affect how many children enter the truancy system and will be something we will explore.

Accessibility: I will extend courtroom hours for hearings, add night court a number of times each month and continue to train staff on customer service. I will also do community forums to educate people on how to utilize the court for issues that may arise. I will maintain a courtroom that is welcoming to those who will be experiencing the justice system for the first time in this court. Finally, I plan to be involved in community activities to make sure the court is not a place where people are intimidated when utilizing this access to justice.

Other Issues: With jurisdictional limits possibly rising and more businesses coming to the area, it will be extremely important for this court to have an extensive background in sophisticated litigation. I am prepared through years of litigation experience to handle these matters within the limits of the law. Another issue will be the rise in litigation in general with the booming population and how the court will handle the volume. I am experienced in high volume litigation management and will evaluate and implement office policy to effectively run a successful court.

**Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4
Carissa Picard, Democratic Party**



Email: picardforplano@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/picard4JOP4

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/picardforplano>

Phone: (214) 966-1962

Education: B.A., Political Science, Trinity Washington University, Washington, DC; J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC.

Experience: Six years of legal experience, primarily in healthcare and residential real estate finance. Two years as founder and president of a non-profit for military wives.

Prevention: I support the decriminalization of student truancy that occurred in 2015 and I believe truancy cases are best dealt with from a problem-solving perspective. Teenagers who are struggling to attend school are not criminals and should not be treated as such. It is important for the Court to ascertain the motivation behind the absences. For example, are the absences attributable to difficulties getting to school that are beyond the control of the student? Is there a change in home circumstances that are contributing to behavioral difficulties? There is no one way to deal with truant students. Every student is different, and the ruling of the Court should be tailored to the needs of each student. I am an advocate of the imposition of community service as well as behavioral health interventions when necessary. I see truancy cases as an opportunity to have a positive effect on struggling students' lives. Any time we can help our students, we should—even truant ones.

Accessibility: Currently, Collin County has a great website for individuals who want to file a petition for relief. However, it would be helpful to have short instructions on the Court forms and a FAQ page (and printed brochure) with very simply information about filing and answering a petition. The JP Courts are an affordable and efficient means of adjudicating civil disputes. The more our residents know about the availability of the Courts, as well as how to navigate them, the less likely we are to have default judgments. Indeed, just rulings rely on participation by both parties. As a result, it is important that we offer information (both on-line and off-line) in the simplest, clearest way possible to encourage participation by as many parties as possible.

Other Issues: Collin County is economically and ethnically diverse. Our county's residents are best served by Justices who represent and/or are sensitive to that diversity. Just outcomes very often rely on the likelihood of an adjudicator understanding the circumstances underlying the parties' conduct. The judicial flexibility of the JP Courts allow for consideration of those circumstances when ruling. Election of Justices who are as diverse as the general population will increase the odds of compassionate, but fair, judicial outcomes.

Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4
W. M. "Mike" Yarbrough, Republican Party

No response received

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.