



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

March 6, 2018
Primary Election
TX Representative District 67

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.

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.

Texas Representative District 67

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

Questions

Taxes: Should school property taxes and/or franchise taxes be reduced? If so, what sources should be used to make up the resulting public school funding shortfall? Do you support transparency for school taxes that are sent to the state under Robin Hood?

Transportation: What are the main transportation needs in Texas, and how should they be funded?

Education: What changes, if any, should be made to public education in Texas?

Healthcare: What legislation would you support, if any, to ensure comprehensive, affordable healthcare for all Texans?

Emergency Preparedness: What does the state 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 next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

Sarah Depew, Democratic Party

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Education: Collin College, BS Psychology Texas A&M University- Commerce (2005), MS Psychology Texas A&M University- Commerce (2008)

Experience: Collective nine years of advocating for children in the foster care system as a state employee and as a CASA volunteer. I interacted with numerous state agencies and saw firsthand how decisions made in Austin impact families.

Taxes: The formula used to determine recapture amounts needs to be redesigned from scratch to make it more responsive to Texas's growing population and changing communities. The state has appointed a commission to redesign the formula; however, they only appointed one financial officer and one superintendent. At least one statistician needs to be involved in developing a new formula. Each school district will need to reassess its specific taxation needs after the formula is redesigned.

Transportation: North/south and east/west corridors need to be constructed in Collin County. The commissioner's court recognizes this need. These projects will be funded mostly from municipal bonds. Plans need to be developed to get more commuters off the roads by expanding the presence and use of public transportation, both locally and connecting major cities across Texas. These will be funded through public-private partnerships, federal grants and loans, and contributions from cities.

Education: Teachers should be given more hours during the school day to grade papers, develop lesson plans, and correspond with parents. They should not be expected to do the majority of these activities at home. Schools either need to fully stock classrooms with needed supplies or fully reimburse teachers when they purchase supplies. Elementary students would benefit from Montessori programs being made available in their neighborhood public schools.

Healthcare: Accept the expansion of Medicaid. Through federal income taxes, Texans already pay most of the cost of the Medicaid expansion, but they are not reaping the benefits. Their money is going to other states instead of staying here. Accepting the Medicaid expansion would greatly reduce the burden on local hospital districts, which are funded through property taxes. Even counties without hospital districts pay because they compensate the neighboring hospital districts when their residents use them. Taxpayers are essentially being double billed for these services and insurance premiums stay high.

Emergency Preparedness: Update the State Hazard Mitigation Plan to reflect changing weather patterns and vulnerability to risk in each disaster district in Texas. The state (as well as cities and counties) should take advantage of cost matching federal grants for civil engineering projects that reduce the impact of natural disasters.

Other Issues: Texas leads the nation both in the rate of mothers who die within one year of child birth and in the number of children who die from maltreatment. Poor mental health and substance abuse are big factors in both of these tragic outcomes. Texas needs to expand access to mental health and substance abuse services to people who ask for help. Drug courts have been found to be more effective than conventional corrections approaches, such as jail time, and need to be expanded to more jurisdictions.

Jeff Leach, 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.