



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

**Nonpartisan**

# VOTERS GUIDE

**May 9, 2015, Local Election  
Wylie City Council**

Early voting: April 27 – May 5

Election Day: May 9 – Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

## 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 lists candidates for Wylie City Council as shown in the table of contents. Wylie ISD does not have elections in May. It is available online at [www.LWVCollin.org](http://www.LWVCollin.org), along with separate guides for elections for Collin College, Allen, Frisco, McKinney and Plano. The website also has a Voter Information Guide with general information about qualifications for voting, what to take to the polls, vote by mail and helpful websites.

Candidate responses for all races are also available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org). Users may enter a home address and review races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates who will appear on the ballot for the Wylie election, 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 print deadline, "No response received" is printed. Later responses may appear in VOTE411. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This *Voters Guide* is organized by office, with candidates listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot.

To enter your address and see all races for that address visit [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).



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## When & Where to Vote in Wylie

### Early Voting

April 27 – May 5: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
May 2 – 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
May 4-5 – 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Rockwall County Elections Admin. Office  
915 Whitmore Dr., Ste D, Rockwall, TX 75087

Wylie Municipal Complex, Smith Public Library  
300 Country Club, #300, Wylie, TX 75098

### Election Day

May 9 – 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Southfork Mobile Home Park  
Community Clubhouse  
216 Southpark Blvd., Wylie, TX 75098

First Baptist Church of Wylie Events Center 200  
N. Ballard, Ave., Wylie, TX 75098

For more information and sample ballots, visit:  
[wylietexas.gov/city\\_government/city\\_secretary/elections.php](http://wylietexas.gov/city_government/city_secretary/elections.php)  
Or call 972.516.6020

League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

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

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## Wylie City Council

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3-year term, elected citywide. Must be a qualified voter of the city, and a resident of the city. The City Council establishes city policy through ordinances and resolutions.

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### QUESTIONS – CONTESTED RACES

**Finances:** The state legislature is considering proposals to limit growth in local property tax revenue through revenue caps or appraisal caps. Do you support revenue limits? How would they affect the city's finances?

**Growth:** What challenges will the continuing growth of your city present with respect to open space, commercial development and residential development, including affordable housing? How would you address them?

**Homelessness:** Homelessness, including teenagers and families with children, continues to be a problem. What should the city do to address this issue?

**Infrastructure:** What measures do you support to meet the growing infrastructure needs of your city, such as transportation and water?

**Needs of Seniors:** What measures do you support to meet the needs of seniors in your city, including transportation and affordable housing?

**Payday Loans:** Do you think that payday and auto title loans are a problem in your city? Why or why not? If they are a problem, what should be done to address them?

**Other Issues:** What are the most important issues you think will come before the City Council in the next few years? What are your views on these issues?

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## Wylie City Council, Place 2

### Candidates (3):

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#### Lisa Mellers – Candidate for Wylie City Council, Place 2

No response received by print deadline. Later responses may be in [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org)

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#### Diane L. Culver – Candidate for Wylie City Council, Place 2

No response received by print deadline. Later responses may be in [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org)

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#### Catherine Butshek – Candidate for Wylie City Council, Place 2

Candidate's name will appear on the ballot, but she has withdrawn from the race.

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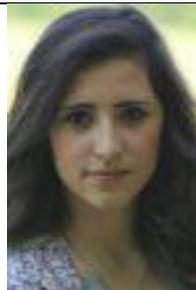
## Wylie City Council, Place 4

### Candidates (4):

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#### Brooke E. Lopez – Candidate for Wylie City Council, Place 4

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**Contact Information:**

(214) 558-1728  
[electBrookeLopez.weebly.com](http://electBrookeLopez.weebly.com)  
[belopez2@verizon.net](mailto:belopez2@verizon.net)

**Education:** After graduating from Wylie East High School with honors in 2014, I currently continue my education at the University of Texas at Dallas with a major in Public Affairs,

minor in Geography and participation in the Pre-Law program.

**Experience:** I fell in love with the idea of government when I was 16 years old. My friend and peer Nahum Martinez was killed by two colleagues who were convicted as minors. It infuriated me and sparked a passion within to fix the world's injustice. I was a sophomore in high school when I formulated Nahum's Law.

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**Finances:** With an increase in construction to prepare for our mass population expansion, we

are the main placement of defeat. As one of the fastest growing cities in the state, Wylie

has grown beyond expectations and have damaged the land drastically. Restoring this land and property value will retain a positive relationship with one another; as we increase the livelihood and restoration, our property values will increase as well. Although limiting large businesses in the area can strain our immediate revenue, the continuous income that can spur from this conservation can provide far greater wealth.

**Growth:** I moved to Wylie 10 years ago when the only restaurant in town was a McDonalds and roads had two lanes. Over the past 15 years, there has been a 175% increase in population mainly comprised of families. Over 10,000 students have been added to the school district alone. Our exponential expansion is severely straining our financial and physical capacities. The mass construction is laying waste to our treasured land and reservoirs. These environmental initiatives I hope to introduce will impact the amount of short term expansion and revenue but will give us a long term goal of prosperity.

**Homelessness:** My mother always preached the lesson "give a man a fish, he eats for a day; teach a man to fish, he eats for a lifetime". With regards to this indestructible value, we as a city should not set aside funds to sustain for a set period of time for homeless citizens. Instead, we should introduce local and commercial job fairs in Wylie in order to maintain the high employment demand. We can provide a job that can last a lifetime as opposed to welfare that lasts a shortened timeframe.

**Infrastructure:** In order to provide an open relationship to our main infrastructural downfall, our water system, our city council must provide a closer relationship to the North

Texas Municipal Water District. With a connection already made in the Environmental department of the NTMWD, I strive to house an easier communication system between the citizens of Wylie and those controlling our precious Lake Lavon. Although communities other than Wylie use Lavon as a resource, Wylie can become the leading representative for water protection.

**Needs of Seniors:** After working with the senior citizens in the Lions Club and Garnet Hill Rehabilitation Center over the past 5 years, I have compiled the grievances and prosperities of the elderly population of Wylie. Their main concerns lie in the upkeep of the Senior Recreational Center, decrease in school taxes implemented on seniors aged 70+, and restoration of the surrounding open space. Recently, I attended a luncheon celebration at the Senior Recreational Center. These requests reign true to this day with the additional of future water protection and conservation.

**Payday Loans:** To my awareness, they are not a problem in the City of Wylie. With booming Wylie as a growing city, these issues have not risen yet.

**Other Issues:** Last general election for local positions a total of 1.97% of the registered voter population in Wylie actually voted. Only 442 people voted for Wylie's City Council out of 29,000 voters within city limits. Federal elections and statewide elections bring out a higher amount of voters due to the dramatic publicity and increased advertisement. However, local elections control much of the surrounding area more than expected. As a City Council representative, I would push for a day dedicated to registering citizens and other voters in need of renewal.

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## **Bennie Jones – Candidate for Wylie City Council, Place 4**

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**Contact Information:**  
(469) 236-9622  
democracy.com/  
vote4benniejones/default.aspx  
bennyjones2@yahoo.com

**Education:** Lincoln High School  
NCTI Technical School Graduate  
of the police academy at  
Eastfield College

**Experience:** Six years is councilman, 5 years on the Park & Recreation board and member of The Texas crime commission five years

**Finances:** I'm in favor of limiting growth in taxes Collin county have one of the highest tax rates in Texas. I realize it will affect our overall budget but this is where we need to streamline

and look at other avenues to support our budget.

**Growth:** A growing city is always a challenge our biggest challenge is Highway 78 and the new entermobile system but we could also

benefit bringing new revenue and businesses to Wylie Texas. as far as affordable housing I think Wylie is efficient enough. I would like to see more quality sit down restaurants in Wylie less fast food restaurants.

**Homelessness:** I think the programs in Collin County addressee homeless issues, it's always need for improvement but I don't see a problem in Wylie.

**Infrastructure:** Wylie water conservation plan has helped the water department which is not a part of the city of Wylie. We as a city has done great work with the infrastructure and growth starting with our streets and housing development. We continue to look at other avenues to support the growth and Wylie.

**Needs of Seniors:** I am proud to say that I supported a new senior center for seniors along with new affordable housing, currently being built as we speak. The seniors in Wylie

has always been a priority for me as a council-member and that will not change.

**Payday Loans:** At this point I don't think that payday loans and title loans establishment are a problem in Wylie. I don't support establishments like this because I feel it prays on citizens that's down on the look. This is why we have to continually monitor new businesses wanting to come to Wylie. If is not going to benefit our citizens I don't want to here.

**Other Issues:** I feel one of the biggest issues that will be brought in front of council will be issues concerning families and our youth. I would like to see more entertainment venues and sitdown restaurants for the families in Wylie. We have a lake in our backyard I feel that we can take advantage of if we work with Army Corps of Engineers. Outdoor swimming pool, amphitheater,skating ring and bowling alley would make Wylie a hot spot for more famlies looking to relocate.

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### **Brad Emerson – Candidate for Wylie City Council, Place 4**

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No photo  
provided

**Contact Information:**  
No contact information provided.  
**Education:** No Education  
information provided.

**Experience:** No Experience information  
provided.

**Finances:** I do not support revenue caps. I do not support revenue limits. I believe we need to maintain tighter credit standards. Wylie's property taxes would be affected and since they are one of the largest revenue sources.

**Growth:** Wylie has a population that will cap with the addition of about 10,000 to 15,000 more people. The answeris Wylie needs more business base to offset the slowing of the property taxes moving forward. The affordable housing has several developments proposed in Wylie. I am not in favor since Wylie already has large mix of affordable housing currently.

**Homelessness:** Wylie has local support thru local charities and the school food programs to address some of the needs for homelessness. I am not aware of the total homeless needs the city currently has so I cannot comment further than I do support programs and charities that support homeless needs.

**Infrastructure:** I do support infrastructure improvements because Wylie is going through major growth and streets, sewer and water issues have to support that growth. Those improvements are a part of any growing city and must be undertaken if the city is to continue and grow.

**Needs of Seniors:** I believe the need for adult living facilities are important as the city gets bigger. These developments include transportation and the continued improvement of the senior center.

**Payday Loans:** I am not in favor of payday loans. I understand high risk financing is sometimes addressed this way, but the interest rates in some of the loans and multiples of the market rates for high credit risk. I do not have any plan to address since I believe Wylie does not have the same problem as other cities do.

**Other Issues:** No response received.

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### **Candy Arrington – Candidate for Wylie City Council, Place 4**

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No response received by print deadline. Later responses may be in [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org)

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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*)