



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

May 7, 2016, Local Election
Frisco City Council & ISD

Early voting: April 25 – May 3

Election Day: May 7 – 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.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates who will appear on the ballot, whether or not the race is contested. Candidates' replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the Voters Guide deadline, then "No response received" is printed. Later responses may appear at www.VOTE411.org. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This guide is available online at www.LWVCollin.org, along with a Voter Information Guide with general information about qualifications for voting, what to take to the polls, vote by mail, and helpful websites.



To see all races for your address, visit www.VOTE411.org.

When & Where to Vote

For Collin County voting locations, hours, and a sample ballot, visit http://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information or call 972-547-1990 (McKinney).

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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*)

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.

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.

Frisco City Council

3-year term, elected citywide. Must be at least 18 years old, a qualified voter, and a resident of the city. The City Council establishes city policy through ordinances and resolutions.

QUESTION – UNCONTESTED RACES

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

QUESTIONS – CONTESTED RACES

Development: What challenges will the continuing growth of your city present with respect to commercial and residential development? How would you address them?

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

Poverty: What, if anything, should the city do to meet low income residents' basic needs and address homelessness?

Seniors: What measures do you support to meet the needs of seniors in your city?

Finances: What, if any, changes are needed to the city's finances?

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?

Frisco City Council, Place 2

Terri Green – Frisco City Council, Place 2



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Education: Tyler Jr. College Associate Degree; University of Texas at El Paso, Bachelor's Degree; South Texas College of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence

Experience: As a 26 year attorney, I have unique experience in reviewing facts, listening to both sides before making a critical decision. I create budgets, agendas and conduct executive meetings. I am fiscally responsible with taxpayers funds entrusted to me.

Development: Frisco continues to grow at an accelerated annual rate of 5.9%. 73% of the City is platted. 80% of the residential living structures are homes with a low 15 month inventory of single residential lots. The "\$5 Billion Mile" is well under development in a busy thoroughfare. 1/3 of the Frisco residents are children (53k+) and growing. 16 million Sq. ft of office space is available. Demand for Public Safety services is substantial. The northern part of the City is growing at slower rate than the southern part. These issues must be managed through balanced public fiscal policy and tax incentives.

Infrastructure: Infrastructure pressure continues to emerge with additional residential/non-residential buildout. The most

compelling infrastructure need centers on water and its conservation. We will continue to work with partner cities and the North Texas Municipal Water District. We must prioritize infrastructure improvements and maintenance projects to achieve the best, most efficient return to the City. We must continue to utilize the current mobility network, upgrade existing roadways, as well as construct new ones responsibly and foster walking and hiking trails to promote alternative travel modes.

Poverty: Based on 2010-2014 US Census data, Frisco has, stated in 2014 dollars, median household income of \$112k, per capita income of \$43.5k and persons in poverty rate of 4.2%. These are outstanding metrics well above national averages. Ones we minimally

need to sustain. We must be vigilant in the administration, allocation and distribution of eligible jurisdictional federal funds for those in poverty. In addition, we must make sure job training programs are always made available and utilized. And we must support the private sector and non-profits to build, fund and sustain housing for the homeless

Seniors: As Associate Probate Judge, affordable housing, bona-fide medical care and digital healthcare management technology reflect the growing needs of our senior citizens. Consistent with national trends, the senior population in Frisco (currently 7% or 10,500 citizens) will grow as Baby Boomers transition. We must have sufficient senior housing, long term care facilities and transportation means to support senior citizens. Current plans consist of 14 existing LTC/Housing facilities and 6 proposed LTC/Housing facilities. Sophisticated communications infrastructure for medical support is a must.

Finances: There is a reason the Director of Finance for Frisco is able to proudly state to Council that the check and balance systems we

have in place, accounting and reporting records, financial data base management system and backup auditing trails have won awards, recognition or certifications from National Associations. I see no reason to change our accounting system or financial reports but would just note that regardless of how efficient the city is run, it is the elected officials who make policy decisions. Conservative tax policies should be a cornerstone of financial decisions and strategies.

Other Issues: The issues that will most likely come before the council will be zoning, public safety, traffic and transportation. Since the primary growth in Frisco has historically been in the southern half, the "\$5 Billion Mile" is in the southern region and 81% of commuters drive alone, we will continue to see tremendous pressure exerted on traffic, transportation and property use. Managing with foresight the future growth in the south, encouraging unplatted land growth in the north, dealing with Public transportation needs and making sure we do not compromise on zoning should be our focus.

Eric Hall – Frisco City Council, Place 2

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline. Later responses may be on www.VOTE411.org.

Shona Huffman – Frisco City Council, Place 2



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Education: BS--Southwest Baptist University, Political Science/ History/ Social Science ED/ Speech; MS--UNT, Communications; MS--American Military Univ/American Public Univ, Political Science/American Government

Experience:

I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Frisco Chamber of Commerce. I was also the class president of Leadership Frisco XVI, am the VP and a co-founder of Frisco Charity Partners, and served on the 2014-2015 Citizens Bond Committee.

Development: We have to monitor the balance of commercial and residential, in order to distribute the shared tax responsibility over to our businesses and away from solely homeowners. Frisco has excelled at keeping costs low for residents but there's no question the growth presents a serious strain on services and amenities. This leads to regional issues as well, like traffic and water supply, on which we must collaborate with our neighboring jurisdictions. My approach will be to maintain Frisco's strong sense of community while keeping talented city staff (our secret to high services at a low tax rate).

Infrastructure: I was honored to be appointed to the 2015 Citizens Bond Committee, which approved and sent \$125 million in authorization to voters for roads spending. This will provide about \$25M per year in funding to address priority needs. Frisco has a comprehensive roads plan that calls for "loops and corridors" to move people around the city. I will push for us to focus these efforts in commercial growth and high volume areas to start. I also support fast-tracking of the Lower Bois D'arc Creek Reservoir being planned by the NTMWD, and an effort to move the EPA forward on its timely approval.

Poverty: There are many private entities in our city and area that are better equipped to work with the needs of our low-income community, on issues such as hunger and homelessness, than the City of Frisco. What the city can do is continue partnering with these groups such as Frisco Family Services, Fastpacs and City House. By enabling them to provide direct services in their areas of expertise, we can avoid bringing needless bureaucracy and redundant expense to the city. Frisco is blessed to have a robust volunteer community that has proved eager to donate and support our social welfare organizations.

Seniors: Frisco already does a great job taking care of its "seasoned citizens". We have just approved \$9 million in the 2015 bond package to build a larger senior facility in response to increasing demand and interest in senior programming. The new Senior Center will have lots of natural outdoor space for outdoor activities. Additionally, Frisco has a thriving retirement community in Frisco Lakes, which works closely with the city on many fronts. Senior mobility is a big issue right now with the TAPS/DCTA transition, and I will keep supporting efforts to provide transportation to these constituents.

Finances: We have kept Frisco's property tax rate lower than neighboring cities, and our investment in retail development keeps our sales tax revenues higher than any Texas city our size. Frisco is a responsible borrower maintaining a balanced budget. In 2015, the voters approved a bond package to allow the city to answer major infrastructure needs, support public services such as the library and parks, make needed updates to our senior center and City Hall, and support public safety. I support the continued selling of bonds on a responsible schedule, and bond refinancing at advantageous times.

Other Issues: Many of our senior city staff are nearing retirement decisions, and several of our senior Council members are terming out over the next 3-12 months. It is more important than ever to elect officials who are ready to lead during that transition window, bringing an in-depth knowledge of the specific needs and issues facing Frisco. We are also facing a serious water crisis if the new NTMWD reservoir doesn't come online as scheduled in 2020. The EPA has changed their standards at the eleventh hour and we will need to collaborate with our NTMWD partners to move this project forward.

Frisco City Council, Place 4

Cindy Asche – Frisco City Council, Place 4



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Education: BBA Baylor University 1983 BSN University of Texas at Austin 1986

Experience: 30 years as a Registered Nurse, 17 years specializing in Emergency & Trauma; 10 years Emergency Department Management in large urban emergency departments; extensive community service

Development: Our city will be challenged to put the needs of families first. There is pressure to increase multi-family and urban-living development, and this is a great concern to many homeowners. We face the prospect of increased burden to our water supply, emergency services and city streets as density increases. We must insure that we continue to have an outstanding quality of life that makes Frisco the best place to raise a family.

Commercial development should focus on bringing business that add jobs and value to the community.

Infrastructure: As I discussed in the previous question, I support slowing the growth of multifamily housing. According to the Frisco Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, we currently have over 2200 units under construction and more than 11,400 in the pipeline. Estimated population at build-out has changed from around 280,000 to more than 350,000. This increase in density will put additional stress on our infrastructure - especially roads and the resulting traffic congestion. Greater water use is a significant concern for the North Texas area due to limited supply even with an additional reservoir online.

Poverty: The City has a responsibility to partner with private agencies like the Samaritan Inn who address homelessness and work diligently to give people a hand up and out of poverty. The City Housing Authority Board has oversight for public housing in Frisco and is responsible for existing and development of new housing for low-income families, and we need to continue to have that safety-net. However, the best solution to addressing poverty is to create jobs, and

educate and train individuals so that they can obtain those jobs. The American Dream is to rise above poverty - not dwell in it forever.

Seniors: Seniors are an invaluable treasure to our community. Frisco should continue to encourage development of active adult communities that engage and challenge seniors with activities and relationships that enrich their life. Encouraging business development that meets the unique needs of seniors will be vital to maintaining their quality of life. Keeping tax rates low so that seniors living on fixed incomes don't run out of money before they run out of years is essential.

Finances: Frisco will need to manage their debt very carefully in the years to come. The combined debt of the City and ISD is a concern and could overwhelm our growth and development - especially if the current growth trend stalls. Rising debt and debt service expense could require additional taxes or cuts in services. We need to continue to maintain a robust economic environment as we pay down our debt, and limit future debt spending.

Other Issues: Managing our explosive growth with a balanced approach that places an emphasis on maintaining a strong sense of community, keeping taxes low, and continuing our "small town feel" will be our greatest challenges. Public safety must remain our priority as we approve new development, manage our infrastructure, and plan for the unexpected. My view is to slow and limit our dependence on multi-family housing, work with developers to build communities that match our vision for strong, vibrant neighborhoods, and support our police and fire departments so that they can meet the challenges to come.

Michael Lang – Frisco City Council, Place 4

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline. Later responses may be on www.VOTE411.org.

Laxmi Tummala – Frisco City Council, Place 4



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Education: Licensed CPA
(certified public accountant)
Licensed Realtor, Masters
Degree in Taxation, Bachelor's
Degree in Accounting,

Experience: My background as a CPA, Real Estate Expert, business woman and community leader will provide a unique perspective & broader vision on council. Being on city council is not a political game. My goal is to use my experiences to make a difference.

Development: Frisco is growing at an extremely rapid pace. With growth comes growing pains. One challenge that the next leaders of Frisco have is keeping Frisco a place where families can thrive. We must focus on infrastructure, public safety, and keeping our schools excellent. We must make sure that Frisco develops in a way that will keep ALL of Frisco vibrant for the long term. Many cities thrive & then take a downturn, but we can minimize this by promoting the beautification & uniqueness of the city. In addition, we must promote our unique local businesses and attract larger businesses as well.

Infrastructure: The people of Frisco understood the need for infrastructure development and voted to pass the \$125 million bond in 2015. We must continuously update the infrastructure plan for the city. As Frisco ages, maintenance will become and has already started to become part of the infrastructure cost of the city. We should assure that we have necessary funds set aside to cover future infrastructure improvement costs. Water is an issue for Frisco and many cities in the area. We must work together with the North Texas Municipal Water District to resolve this issue.

Poverty: It is sometimes hard to believe that cities like Frisco have residents who are living in poverty or who are homeless. There are some children who, without the help of organizations such as Frisco Fastpacs, would not have food when school is not in session. Frisco Family Services and Samirtan Inn are

great examples of organizations which provide assistance to homeless or residents in need. The city should work with these organizations to provide services for those in need.

Seniors: Seniors make up a large population in Frisco. The city should continue to provide transportation for the elderly on an as needed basis. The Frisco senior center does a good job of providing a place for seniors to gather. If elected, I would like to go out to the senior center, assisted living facilities, and senior communities on a regular basis to understand their needs are and help in any way possible. I would also want to take the same initiative in all parts of Frisco to reach the people of all ages and demographic.

Finances: It is city council's responsibility as stewards of taxpayer dollars to assure that city spending and finances are in line. The city's financials are open to the public, and the city is audited each year. However, we must continue to make sure that the city is financially secure, that debt ratios are in line, and that the city is spending responsibly. In addition, we should assure that enough funds are set aside in case of economic downturn or unforeseen issues.

Other Issues: As the city grows so quickly, one of the main issues we will face is traffic which has been discussed in a previous question. Another issue will be transition. We are going to see possibly 5 new council members over the next 3 years as well as a new Mayor. As such, it's important that we work on a transition plan and that voters elect those candidates who are running for the

purpose of serving and doing what's best for the city, without a political agenda. This is the time where Frisco needs focused leaders with a

broader vision. Lastly, we must focus long term to assure Frisco's longevity.

Bill Woodard – Frisco City Council, Place 4



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Education: I have a Bachelors in Finance from UNLV and a Masters in Accounting from UT-Dallas. I have taken continuing education classes in executive management and finance. I've studied community and leadership through programs such as Leadership Frisco.

Experience: I've served on Frisco Planning & Zoning Commission for 6 years, 2 as Chairman; 2009 & 2013 Charter Review Commissions, chairing in 2013, and was appointed by Council to three other city boards. I was President/Board Chair of my HOA for 9 years.

Development: Frisco has been a victim of its own success; residents are flocking to our quality of life but the result is a strain on our city services – from traffic, to first responders, utility infrastructure and more. We add 6,000 residents annually; we must not break our promises to prospective residents and businesses. Fortunately, Frisco has an innovative approach to planning, creating detailed Master Plans for varying rates of growth that look out 5, 10, 20 years, while incorporating the vision of our residents. Adhering to these Master Plans will guide us through successful expansion.

Infrastructure: Traffic is an immediate issue that residents want improved. I think we can boost traffic flow by building out right turn lanes where needed, and using our technology to better monitor traffic flows and improve signal operation. We have some public roundabouts coming online soon, which will improve flow after residents adjust to them. We have \$100 million in unsold bond authorization that is designated for infrastructure maintenance and development. I will use my extensive experience with Frisco city planning to make sure these tools are used responsibly, focused on city growth

Poverty: In the 2012 American Community Survey, Frisco had an estimated 4% of its population living below the poverty level. We are fortunate to have a strong network of charitable and social services: private entities that partner with our city and school districts, to assist families in need with food, utilities

and rent assistance, crisis support, shelter, clothing and more. Frisco gives grants to these agencies to help support our low-income population, and they are also heavily supported by our generous residents through private donations. I support continued partnerships with these agencies.

Seniors: Frisco excels at family-friendly services, but we must also meet the needs of residents outside those demographics like our young professionals and senior citizens. Seniors have been vocal that they want to continue to see expanded programming at the Senior Center, as well as a good solution to the recent failure of the TAPS transit service. I will work to keep the DCTA bus service in place, and work with senior advisors to identify other on-demand transportation solutions. In 2015, residents authorized \$9 million in bond money for a new larger Senior Center facility, a project I support.

Finances: Thanks to our excellent city staff, we already have one of the most efficient operating budgets in the state, and one of the lowest tax rates in the area at \$0.46. Council must focus on maintaining those fiscal standards - and with an advanced degree plus 20-year career in finance, I plan to bring my domain expertise to assist immediately. We must continue to look for ways to incorporate technology to improve our efficiency. I also support the continued contribution to our reserve fund, to make sure we have savings in the bank for unexpected needs, without having to rely on new debt.

Other Issues: The \$5B Mile will bring increased need for public safety; we have to ensure our first responders have the necessary tools to keep up with large developments and the crowds that come with our large sports and entertainment events. We will be challenged to manage growth costs at a time when the

regional market is inflating construction and land prices; this is where well-timed projects will save the day, as a result of the financial savvy of our city staff and Council. Residents expect a high level of services at low cost, and they must elect Council members who are prepared for that challenge.

Frisco City Ballot Measure

City of Frisco Proposition

The legal sale of all alcoholic beverages including mixed beverages.

Frisco ISD Board of Trustees

3-year term, elected district wide. Must be at least 18 years old, a United States citizen, a qualified voter, and a resident of the District. The Board of Trustees makes all final decisions regarding school district priorities, policies, personnel, textbooks, expenditures, and growth management. Trustees adopt a budget, levy taxes, and submit bond issues to finance construction projects.

QUESTION – UNCONTESTED RACES

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

QUESTIONS – CONTESTED RACES

Growth: What issues exist related to population growth and changing demographics in your district, and how would you address them?

Students: Which student populations, if any, are underserved in your district, and what could be done to address those?

Curriculum: What, if anything, should be done to better prepare students for success in the 21st century?

Safety: What, if anything, should be done to increase safety in your district's schools?

Finances: What, if any, changes are needed to the school district's finances?

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

Frisco ISD Trustee, Place 1

Bryan Dodson – Frisco ISD Trustee, Place 1 - Uncontested

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline. Later responses may be on www.VOTE411.org.

Frisco ISD Trustee, Place 2

Steven Noskin – Frisco ISD Trustee, Place 2

No response was received by the Voters Guide deadline. Later responses may be on www.VOTE411.org.

Phil Ramirez – Frisco ISD Trustee, Place 2



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Education: Bachelor's Degree
in Mathematics, University of
North Texas

Experience: 11 years. I've taught in both private and public schools, Title 1 schools, alternative schools, and now for the last 6 years at Collin College in Frisco.

Growth: The financial aspects of maintaining the proper staffing and buildings to support the district is challenging. Another growth that also occurs with an increasing student population - the parent population. As a parent, you are the champion for your child. The more you know about your school and district, the better you can be that champion. Each year 4000-4500 new parents arrive to our district. We are getting parents that may not be new to just FISD, they may be new to the American public education system. I will do whatever I can to ensure we start a Family Mentoring program in our schools.

Students: We are under-serving our on-level students. In our Strategic Plan we have initiatives and programs that will help under-performing and over-performing students within the district. Unfortunately for the "average" student, I'm not seeing much to aid

this group. In fact, I see two things the district does that hurts these students (really ALL students) in the long run: no final exams and re-testing. These two factors aid in giving "false positives" to an on-level student, leading them to believe they are college-ready in math or other subjects, when in fact, they may not be.

Curriculum: My first teacher rant of the campaign, my apologies. I'd like to get rid of that buzzword - 21st century....we are seventeen years into this century already. We like to re-invent the wheel at times in education. Sometimes for the better, but many times it's to sell an educational program. Book publishing lobbyists and people who never have stepped one foot in the classroom help shape and determine what we do in our classrooms, and this hinders the educational process. We don't invest into education to

make money; we invest to create educated, well-rounded, successful citizens.

Safety: As I have attended school board meetings for quite some time now, parents do step up for public comments regarding safety issues. Since May of last year, parents have shared many concerns - from a cell phone tower at Cobb Middle School to an inadequate tunneling system to help cross a major street for Norris Elementary. As a school board member, my concerns would be the concerns of the parents, and I would want to address these issues to make certain parents feel their children are safe at ANY school within FISD.

Finances: The school board has a fiduciary duty to oversee the district's use of taxpayer dollars, as described by the Texas Association of School Boards. And even though the district hires an independent auditor each year to

balance the budget, an internal auditor can go beyond that by looking for internal inefficiencies, fraud, and corruption. I would fully support the hiring of an internal auditor.

Other Issues: Handling growth is our biggest issue. I would support the hiring of an internal auditor that would continue due diligence in managing our cost-effective fiscal approach as more schools, facilities, and personnel are needed to maintain our small school model. The lack of final exams and re-testing policies we currently have in our district is another topic to discuss. I've been teaching in Frisco at the college level for six years now, and I see our Frisco ISD students after they graduate. In my opinion, these testing policies put our students at a disadvantage coming out of high school.

Anjali Shirvaikar – Frisco ISD Trustee, Place 2



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Education: Rotary Scholar, University of Georgia; M.S. in Biochemistry, Nagpur University, India; B.S. in Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Botany, Nagpur University, India

Experience: Member, FISD Strategic Planning Committee; President, Frisco Young Men's Service League (2013-2015); President, Liberty HS PTSA (2013-2015); Secretary, Vandeventer MS PTA (2012-2014); President, Anderson ES PTA (2011-2012)

Growth: Frisco ISD is consistently one of the nation's fastest-growing school districts, adding about 3,000 students each year, and I have seen its explosive growth firsthand as a resident of the district for the last 17 years. With that in mind, I feel that we can best face these challenges by staying committed to our small-school philosophy. While careful planning will be absolutely vital to prevent any waste or misuse of taxpayer funds, I wholeheartedly believe in making every effort to keep schools and class sizes small, especially after seeing the benefits this has had for my own kids

Students: I do not think that any student populations in Frisco are underserved, but as our district continues to grow, we have to constantly make sure we are meeting every student's needs, from the lowest socioeconomic level to the highest. We also

need to ensure that we are maintaining a steady dialogue between parents and teachers, so that we can take care of every single student in the best possible way. This is particularly true in the area of special education, where we must continue to make every effort to provide flexible and tailored educational plans for students with disabilities.

Curriculum: In the world our students are entering today, technology is becoming more and more important in virtually every career. As an information technology consultant, I have 18 years of corporate experience working with the latest cutting-edge technology, and I think this puts me in a unique position to identify how we can most effectively prepare our students to enter a rapidly evolving workplace. Frisco ISD already has a state-of-the-art Career and Technology Education

Center, and I think we can continue enhancing its programs to meet the demands of a dynamic job market

Safety: Frisco ISD already has a wide array of measures in place to ensure the security and health of every student. We have highly trained school resource officers at all secondary campuses to ensure safety and handle any emergency situations. Our S.A.F.E.R program, a partnership between Frisco ISD, the police department, and the fire department, provides extensive real-time information to first responders in the event of a campus emergency. To maintain our commitment to safety, we simply need to continue providing officers and faculty with the best possible information, training, and equipment

Finances: The projected loss of ASATR funding in the 2017-2018 school year is going to be very difficult for us, especially in such a fast-growing community. I know that our district has been forced to pass smaller and leaner budgets for the last few years due to a

lack of adequate state funding, while keeping class sizes small and teachers compensated fairly to minimize the impact on the classroom. For this reason, one of our top priorities must be improved communication with state legislators to ensure they understand the impact of funding cuts on the quality of education we are able to provide.

Other Issues: The overarching issue our district faces over the next few years will be one we have continually faced over the last decade: how to deal with our city's incredible growth. I had the privilege of serving on the committee of parents, staff, administrators, and community leaders that developed our 2015 Strategic Plan, which addresses this problem by laying out a vision that promotes public-private partnerships, fiscal responsibility, and student health beyond academics. This approach of collaborative governance has worked in the past and will help us rise to the challenges we face in the future

Frisco ISD Trustee, Place 3

Chad Rudy – Frisco ISD Trustee, Place 3 - Uncontested

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