



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

Nonpartisan

VOTERS GUIDE

May 6, 2017
Local Election
Plano

Early voting: April 24 – May 2

Election Day: May 6 – Polls open 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.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates who will appear on the ballot. 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.



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.

Plano Mayor & City Council

4-year term, elected citywide. Candidates for Places 1-4 must live in their respective districts. The City Council does strategic planning, approves annual budget, sets policy, enacts ordinances establishing municipal law, regulates zoning and development, and appoints board and commission members.

QUESTIONS

Infrastructure: What measures do you support to meet the city's infrastructure needs, including transportation and water, given the expected population changes?

Housing: What should the city council do, if anything, to ensure that appropriate housing is available for all demographics, including seniors and low income residents?

Budget: What concerns you the most about the city's finances, and what changes would you like to see in the budget?

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?

Plano Mayor (Place 6)

Lily Bao, Mayor (Place 6)



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Education: I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from UMASS Dartmouth, also earning the Highest Achievement Award. I then went on to earn my Master of Science degree from Northeastern University.

Experience: I have worked as a Senior IT Design Engineer, an Education Consultant and currently, a Real Estate Agent. I am a PTA Volunteer, a Sunday school teacher, community leader and a mother of 4 who is concerned about the direction Plano is heading.

Infrastructure: The greatest issue currently facing Plano's infrastructure is the rapid increase in high-density housing that is being led by the current administration. In addition to overcrowding our schools and running a risk of decreasing our real estate value, this is drastically increasing traffic on our streets which are already struggling to handle the current traffic. As Mayor, I will work to end such rapid growth and work to establish a smart growth plan that will improve our infrastructure as we grow.

Housing: Plano's seniors are among the most vulnerable citizens when it comes to the rapid expansion of high-density housing. Of the 22% of Plano's 65 and over population, 70% wish to remain in their current homes. The biggest threat to that desire is longer response times for emergency and first responders due to increase in traffic brought on by the onslaught of apartments adjacent to our most-established neighborhoods. As Mayor, I will fight to repeal parts of the Plano Tomorrow Plan which pose a threat to our seniors.

Budget: The city under-budgets on revenue and over-budgets on expenses leaving a surplus of at the end of each budgeting cycle. That surplus is then put in a slush fund to be spent on pet projects. Those funds need to be returned to the tax payer. Our citizens can spend their hard-earned dollars better than government can on any level. One of my top priorities as Mayor will be to reduce our property taxes putting your money back in your pocket.

Other Issues: Another important issue is the lack of transparency. As Mayor, I will work to put the city budget and monthly spending online so that citizens can see exactly how their tax dollars are being spent. After all, it is the tax payer's money. They should be able to see how the city is spending it.

Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor (Place 6)



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Education: Bachelor of Science in Geology, City College of New York

Experience: Years of Civic Involvement Joined Plano City Council 2005-2011 (2 terms) One term as Mayor

Infrastructure: During my term, we invested over \$120 million in our roads, medians, and intersections (this past year alone represents 123% increase from 5 years ago). I will continue that level of commitment to improving mobility for our citizens. Because of our consistent fiscal responsibility, other cities cannot match what we are doing.

Housing: While some suburbs and large cities have become unbalanced, we in Plano have always kept a balance of the young, the middle-aged people with families, and of older people. A healthy city needs people with experience and those who are eager to learn. We need a balance of people with more time to offer and people whose time is taken raising children and working to build their careers. Great communities are a result of a constant and healthy mix. My goal has been, is, and will continue to be maintaining that balance.

Budget: We have the lowest tax rate in the Metroplex and the lowest debt per resident. What concerns me most is maintaining our position in the marketplace as the best city in Texas. We are doing so much better than other cities. My biggest concern is how to keep up our strong record. My record is consistent in funding and maintaining a robust Capital Reserve Fund to keep our debt and tax rate low. Nationally, we have risen to the top in every category. I will work hard to keep us there.

Other Issues: It is important to continue rejuvenating mature areas of our city. When other cities and suburbs have failed to plan and let their neighborhoods get run down, eventually, property values decline and crime rises. That will NOT happen in Plano on my watch. Our groundbreaking Great Rebate Program has encouraged homeowners and businesses to make \$9 million in renovations in two and half years. I am committed to working with our council to grow our neighborhood renaissance each year. We have been proactive and intentional in AVOIDING the problems that plague other cities BEFORE they happen here.

Bill Lisle, Mayor (Place 6)



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Education: 1995 Graduate of Berkner High School

Experience: Small Business Owner 1996 -2017

Infrastructure: Meeting our transportation, infrastructure and water needs are regional issues. Conservation, mass transit and infrastructure improvements are elements that I would support. I would lean on industry specific professionals in each of these areas to determine best steps.

Housing: I believe that the private market is doing an appropriate job at meeting these needs with the exception of low income residents. If the city plays a role in bringing low income housing to Plano I believe that we must tie an incentives to occupancy. Low income housing should be a step forward for people not a destination or a resting place.

Budget: My biggest concern is Debt. As Mayor I would put a directive out to all department heads to bring council ways to reduce spending. One idea that I have that is not completely vetted would be to eliminate our in house Historic Preservation Officer. I believe there are outside ways to ensure historic properties and neighborhoods are maintained. Like using an outside consultant. Additionally the city has a landscape architect on staff. I don't believe this is necessary.

Other Issues: Homelessness - Partner with ministries that are currently successful in providing shelter and opportunities for people seeking to move out of homelessness. Bathrooms - I would support birth gender specific use of restrooms. Zoning - consistent, fair land use must be allowed. Healthy things grow, we must manage but not stifle healthy growth within our city.

Douglas Reeves, Mayor (Place 6)

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

Plano City Council, Place 2

Ann Bacchus, City Council Place 2



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Education: Bachelor of Administration Studies, York University. J.D. Texas Wesleyan School of Law now part of Texas A & M

Experience: My experience as a family lawyer and volunteer with the Genesis Women Shelter, Salvation Army and Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program have provided me with the experience and skills to bring people together to achieve results that work for all of Plano

Infrastructure: Expand mass transit options within Plano. Commission a special study to include re-engineering how our streets are initially installed and how we do repairs. Commission a traffic study to look at traffic patterns and light sequencing. Provide citizens a way to report dangerous potholes and give the city a way to provide a rapid response team. Plan with DART to allow free rides from stations within Plano to Down Town Plano. Renegotiate the current agreement with NTMWD. Push the State to complete additional reservoir projects.

Housing: We must manage growth to ensure that a bigger Plano is also a better Plano. We must plan for this growth, carefully balancing increases in density with open spaces and other amenities to ensure that property value and quality of life remain high. Most importantly we must ensure that this growth creates opportunity for our residents at all socio-economic levels.

Budget: The city continues to have an overall tax rate that is below the maximum allowable, but assessed value increases are tax increases. I would like to see cities in Texas have the ability to create a much larger rainy day fund. Create a fixed valuation/property tax freeze for our senior citizens that are on a low, fixed budget. We need more transparency budgeting process. Bond issues need to be explained better with regard to their overall impact on the city's budget, and the obligation of each citizen over the pay-back period.

Other Issues: Three most important issues are Redevelopment, Housing and Mobility. Continued demographic and density changes in Plano are causing citizen concern. This concern has come out in many difficult public hearings with regard to apartments and increasing density. Plano has always had some portion of its population that locates here for shorter periods of time, due, in part, to the nature of the businesses that have located in North Texas. We need to ensure that the education, safety, and economic lifeblood of this town is maintained as we continue to grow and get more diverse.

Anthony Ricciardelli, City Council Place 2



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Education: University of Texas School of Law, 2009 (Townes-Rice Scholar; full merit scholarship)/University of Texas—Austin, 2006 (Honors)/Plano Senior High School, 2002 (National Merit Scholar)/PISD schools K-12 (Christie/Saigling, Haggard, Vines, PSHS)

Experience: Recognized as “Rising Star” in TX legal community two years in a row/Argued in TX Supreme Court and US 5th Circuit Court of Appeals/Vice Chair, Plano Heritage Commission (fmr)/Regional Board of Advisors, Joni and Friends (int’l disability ministry)

Infrastructure: Any discussion of infrastructure is inextricably linked with density, as the overbuilding of apartments threatens to overburden our existing infrastructure. When we build more densely than our infrastructure allows, we can expect to see overcrowding of roads and schools. In addition to stopping the overbuilding of apartments, solving Plano’s traffic problems will require technological innovation. The City is already working on resyncing traffic lights to better manage traffic patterns. Construction of the proposed Lower Bois d’Arc Creek Reservoir could help meet Plano’s water needs.

Housing: Senior housing is a pressing issue. Plano’s population is aging. Many seniors want to remain in the homes in which they have lived for decades. We must facilitate this. Some seniors, however, would like to downsize while remaining in Plano. Senior housing can provide this opportunity and is an attractive housing type because it is low-impact and does not contribute to school overcrowding. Enabling seniors who want to downsize to move out of older, sometimes lower-priced homes will afford first-time homebuyers the opportunity to buy these homes – thereby helping with housing affordability.

Budget: The two things that concern me most about the City’s finances are (1) property tax increases and the concomitant growth of the City’s operating budget and (2) transparency issues reflected in the classification of more than \$30M – almost 10% of the City’s operating budget – as “miscellaneous.” The property tax burden on the average Plano home has increased 28.4% in the past three years. If elected, I will vote to enact the effective tax rate – a mechanism that lowers the tax rate commensurate to the increase in property valuations to avoid increasing the amount of taxes collected – for 2018.

Other Issues: The overbuilding of high-density apartments is the most critical issue facing Plano today. Some schools have already become overcrowded. I recently talked with an elementary school teacher who has 28 students in her class due to overcrowding caused by a nearby high-density development (the limit is supposed to be 22). Traffic is already a major issue and Plano’s director of engineering has stated that we cannot build our way out of it, as most of our major arterials are already three lanes in each direction. Due to traffic, EMS response times are not meeting goals. We need smarter growth.

Al Valente, City Council Place 2



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Education: Masters degree in Finance from New York University. Bachelor of Science in Finance from Virginia Tech University

Experience: PISD Education Foundation Investment Committee Member (Present), Plano Chamber of Commerce Board (2011 - 16); Chairman (15), City of Plano Community Relations Commission (09 - 13); Chairman (13), Parkway Hills Baptist Church Board Member (12-14)

Infrastructure: A significant amount of the traffic issues in Plano are a result of the unprecedented growth of the North Texas region. Improving transportation is more than widening roads or timing stop lights. We need to look at best practices like reversible lanes during peak hours of traffic. In 2015 voters dedicated additional monies to the State Highway Fund that can be used beginning in September of this year. It will be necessary to work with the Regional Transportation Commission, DART and TxDOT to meet our transportation needs.

Housing: Over the last 10 years, I have seen Plano grow tremendously with regards to its density. Plano must not compromise the success of its schools and the quality of life that have been a hallmark of the city. I will protect Plano's suburban environment through smart development. The housing stock in some areas are aging. The city needs to do its part by addressing aging infrastructure needs in those areas. I would support a program the city has, the Housing Rehabilitation Program to assist those who are eligible with repairs to their homes.

Budget: My greatest concern about any government entity when it comes to finances is ensuring that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely. I do not adhere to increasing a department's budget next year based on what they spent last year. That is not how Plano families operate, and that should not be the way government operates. I think the city should utilize technology, implement business practices to identify redundancies, reduce waste and operate more efficiently while providing better services to our residents.

Other Issues: I think that we have covered most of them like housing, infrastructure, water, and taxes. Redevelopment is another issue that will take careful planning and public input. Plano is bursting at the seams, and new projects involving older development like Collin Creek Mall for example will impact a lot of people. I want to make sure that we preserve our suburban lifestyle, our quality schools and keep Plano one of the safest cities in America to live, work and raise a family.

Plano City Council, Place 4

Ed Acklin, City Council Place 4



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Education: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Experience: Plano Building Standards Commission Small Business Owner
Community Service with Texas Baptist Men Disaster Relief

Infrastructure: Police and Fire protection are the two most important services of Plano. Both departments are among the very best in the nation. They must be funded sufficiently to keep them there. Water and Sanitation are equally important and must also be adequately funded. Cost of water is troublesome because of the Contract that was signed with the N. Tex. Municipal Water District years ago. We must continue to negotiate to get adjustments in that contract. We must do a better job coordinating with the PISD. Schools need to be considered as property is developed.

Housing: Plano is building apartments with little regard for the actual need. Land is being rezoned for apartments in violation of Plano Tomorrow Plan and doing so as quickly as possible. Plano needs to slow down, take a deep breath, and do proper studies to find out what our real needs are. If studies show that more apartments are needed we can build more. But the last thing we want is to over-build. That would have an adverse effect of all homes and apartments. Studies would naturally include information about Seniors and Low-income residents.

Budget: The City Council is give too little time to study and understand the City Budget. They are expected to pass on the budget and consequently the tax rate, without a through understanding of what the budget actually contains. The 2016-17 budget contained major line items that had no explanation. This budget was inflated to take advantage of a drastic property value increase. This strongly indicates that the City was taxing on how much is was allowed to take instead of what was really needed to operate the City. The city should only take what it needs and not a penny more.

Other Issues: Over-haul of the Plano Tomorrow Plan, addressing the lack of transparency in the City Government, and major revision to the way the Budget and Tax Rates are set are all important issues. The water rate problem must be addressed and is a very difficult problem. Plano will continue to have increasing traffic problems with very few options available to improve them. Traffic will only get worse and the number of high-density housing units being indiscriminately built will only make matters worse. Revising the Plano Tomorrow Plan will address several of these issues.

Kayci Prince, City Council Place 4



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Education: I'm a graduate of Plano West Senior High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Communications and Public Affairs from Southern Methodist University. I also received a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M Commerce.

Experience: I have volunteered in over 10 organizations in our City, including Plano Parks and Rec Board, Planning & Zoning Commission, Plano Balloon Festival Board, PISD Alumni Steering Committee, Junior Achievement, Rotary and Collin College Foundation.

Infrastructure: I support implementing a variety of innovative congestion alleviation measures, such as reversible traffic lanes, express bus services, and synchronized traffic signals. Improving mobility will require that we work together with neighboring cities and the County, and I support collaborative relationships and participation in the Regional Transportation Commission. I support implementing many of the suggestions in the 2017 State Water Plan by the Texas Water Development Board, which includes conservation, creating new reservoirs, and water reuse.

Housing: We need to spend time evaluating the results of the city's First-Time Home Buyer program to see if the program is effectively meeting the needs of the citizens it is designed to help. In addition, the City should continue to invest in the Love Where You Live and Great Update Rebate Programs to help ensure that mature homes in Plano are updated and well-maintained. I would also like to see smaller, one-story homes for seniors who would like to downsize but remain in Plano. The city council should work to streamline the inspection and permitting processes to help reduce building costs.

Budget: We enjoy the second lowest tax rate in the MetroPlex, and Plano is in a good financial position. I think we could do a better job when making financial decisions by considering the long-term impact on our city. When investing in a new piece of infrastructure, like many of the masonry walls that are crumbling around the city, we need to consider the assets realistic life span as well as the costs required to maintain the asset. It's easy to make decisions based on what is best for today, for example, but good leaders also consider what will be best for tomorrow too.

Other Issues: Zoning: As a mother, I recognize the importance of preserving the high quality of life we enjoy in Plano, and that means being strategic and smart about all future development in Plano. Budget: I will make sure that tax dollars are spent wisely, and work to improve government efficiency. Transportation: I'd like to see our DART services evaluated to ensure that we are getting the best services for the money that we have invested. Taxes: I support keeping the homestead exemption and tax freeze for seniors because this is providing needed relief from rising property taxes for our seniors.

Plano City Council, Place 8

David L. Downs, City Council Place 8



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Education: Bachelors of Science in Finance, CFP, ChFC, CLU, CASL, RICP

Experience: Plano City Council, P&Z Commission, Parks & Rec Board, Leadership Plano, Plano Youth Leadership, City House, Art Centre of Plano, BSA, Collin College Educ Fndtn, Collin County Healthcare Fndtn Adv Brd., CASA; Plano Citizens Police Academy and more.

Infrastructure: Using a "pay as you go" system, Plano's done a great job keeping debt burden low on citizens and businesses, allowing us to focus more of our revenue on services. As we are retiring older higher interest debt it makes financial sense to take advantage of the current low rate environment to fund major renovations of our roads and public works. Thanks to a AAA Bond Rating we are able to do so in a cost effective manner. Regional growth means a renewed focus on water conservation as well as greater access to mass transit options. Regional coordination will be required to address these issues,

Housing: Council's role should be focused on maintaining high standards for new development and a continued emphasis on revitalization in our older communities. Due to the great quality of life we have to offer, demand for jobs and housing in Plano has never been higher. Unfortunately for those with lower incomes it means ever fewer opportunities for affordable housing, however the City has approved many Senior Living developments in the past few years. Promoting revitalization in our aging neighborhoods is the best way to maintain at least some level of affordable housing in the city.

Budget: We are fortunate to have very talented management on staff in our budgeting department. Our process is setting standards for transparency around the state. I'm concerned that even with that information there is sometimes a voice indicating the City is somehow being wasteful despite having one of the lowest per capita debt burdens in North Texas. We are good stewards with every tax dollar paid by our citizens and are using current high levels of income to reduce debt, pay for our infrastructure and build a reserve in preparation for the rainy day we all know will eventually come.

Other Issues: In the next few years we will experience a normal cyclical slowdown economically. That event will see us suffer significant drops in sales tax revenues and potentially dramatic declines in property tax revenues as well. If we want to maintain the high level of services Plano is known for we must plan now by continuing to be ever more efficient in our delivery methods and in our work to build and repair while we can. Additionally, many of our fantastic staff at the City are at or nearing retirement age and we must find/train quality replacements to continue as a City of Excellence.

Stirling Morris, City Council Place 8



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Education: Bachelor of Science in Education

Experience: I've spent the last fifteen years in the construction industry, working with developers, architects, even cities to build projects that enhance communities as well as serving on non-profit boards and executive steering committees.

Infrastructure: From new construction to renovation, it's critical to recognize that every neighborhood Plano develops, every structure we renovate, every road we create, and every resource we utilize depends on laws, codes, & regulations to guide us and keep us safe. This continuous improvement effort is necessary and ever-evolving. When we design our infrastructure today, we're building it with tomorrow in mind. We need to continue to work with all of Plano's city departments as one team as well as the DFW metroplex intercity projects, programs, and organizations to create effective and long lasting change.

Housing: Where multifamily & mixed-use development is concerned, it's important to recognize that these developments are intended to complement existing efforts for Plano to provide homes for all demographics, including seniors and low income residents, as well as accepting that our city is part of a much larger DFW metroplex. The city council and residents of Plano can accept that North Texas' future involves sustainable developments like this or suffer from its growth all around us, particularly through traffic passing through, the loss of potential revenue, and future residents moving elsewhere.

Budget: Commerce drives economy, and our community flourishes in the wake. Continued sound business development decisions, with small and large businesses alike, will ensure economic prosperity for years to come. The economic growth Plano gains from new and existing corporate business relationships, like those with Toyota and FedEx, is felt locally and recognized globally. We must continue to support new and existing local businesses. When the smallest among us succeeds, we all succeed. Moreover, where budget is concerned, it's critical to remember that what happens to one of us, happens to all.

Other Issues: Equality: Until we find better ways to improve the ongoing gender, sexual, marital, and racial inequalities lived daily, we must continue to support actions that protect those who feel their humanity is in question. Health: From bike trails to recreation centers and parks, we need to maintain amenities which encourage all of us to get active and be physically & mentally healthy. Sustainability & the Environment: Our practice of environmental awareness projects, such as Live Green in Plano and our recycling programs, is paramount to the future along with embracing new ones along the way.

Rick Smith, City Council Place 8



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Education: Undergraduate Degree in Journalism, Northeast Louisiana University

Experience: - Over 40 years' private sector business experience - Local business owner in Plano for the last 22 years - Volunteer with numerous community groups - Graduate, Plano Citizens Academy - 2016 - HOA Board Member and Crime Watch Coordinator

Infrastructure: I will work with other City Council members to curtail zoning changes that allow development of high density apartment complexes that increase traffic congestion and public safety response times. Street repairs should be prioritized and City engineering should continue work on updating our traffic signal timing to improve vehicle flow during peak travel hours. We also need to ensure that we have an adequate water supply for the foreseeable future. Additional water supplies such as the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir must continue to be developed.

Housing: We need to encourage development of smaller senior friendly homes that will allow our seniors to have a viable place to live as they choose to downsize. Since a majority of seniors in Plano own their own home they could sell their existing residence and purchase one of the more efficient "senior adapted" ones. Our seniors would have a smaller more livable home with low to no maintenance. Once their original residences are on the market it would provide additional inventory for those wanting to purchase single family homes in Plano.

Budget: There are only two essential services that the City should be concentrating on – Public Safety and Infrastructure. All other budget items are discretionary. By prioritizing these two service areas we should be able to adopt an Effective Tax Rate. For the past five years, the City has not adopted an Effective Tax Rate. This has caused its taxpayers to have higher property tax bills than necessary. I will be a proponent for adopting an Effective Tax Rate thereby lowering the financial burden on our taxpayers.

Other Issues: Land use and taxation. I am a strong proponent of keeping intact the suburban qualities that attracted many of us to Plano. We must not allow the last 6% of developable land in Plano to be turned into huge high density apartment complexes. Our infrastructure is currently near capacity and we cannot support the addition of 30 – 40 thousand more apartment residents. We also don't want the tax increases that would be necessary to provide essential services for developments. On the contrary we need to adopt an Effective Tax Rate to lower the amount of property taxes our homeowners pay.

Plano ISD Trustees

4-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.

QUESTIONS

Growth: What should be done to proactively address the education needs of the changing population and demographics in your district?

Testing: What, if anything, should be done by your district to reduce the focus on teaching to standardized tests?

Public School Finance: What changes, if any, should the state make to the public school finance structure in order to benefit your district?

Safety: What changes are needed, if any, to reduce bullying/violence and increase respectful conflict resolution in your district's schools?

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?

Plano ISD Trustee, Place 1

Carissa Picard, ISD Trustee Place 1



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Education: BA in Political Science, Trinity Washington University, Washington, DC; JD, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC.

Experience: Six years as a practicing attorney, original in a large law firm, then as in-house counsel, and currently as partner in a female-owned law firm, Picard Ladwig, PLLC.

Growth: The Board of Trustees has to be flexible with regards to budgetary priorities on a year-to-year basis. The Board should also proactively seek ways to collaborate with organizations within our community to complement, or supplement, what the schools are able to provide to the student body.

Testing: Unfortunately, standardized testing is the product of state and federal law. The Board must be creative in minimizing the importance of test scores. As a result, I support PISD's local exemption from TEC sections 21.351 and 21.352 insofar as teacher evaluation is based, in part, on student performance in standardized tests. Moreover, I would encourage the Board to engage the Texas state legislature to voice dissent to any bill that would increase or decrease school funding based upon standardized test scores.

Public School Finance: Texas taxpayers should know where their tax dollars are going, particularly the portion that is attributed to "school funding." Currently, most taxpayers are not aware that increased property tax payments are going to a state "general" revenue fund that is used for purposes other than local education. Consequently, I strongly support "taxparency." Parents should understand how much money is really being spent on our schools. I also support automatic increases, consistent with inflation, to tax revenue sent directly to PISD for maintenance and operations.

Safety: We need to have regular programs in all of PISD schools, for all levels, regarding tolerance for differences--differences in religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, political beliefs, sexual orientation and/or gender (by birth or identification). PISD encompasses a beautifully diverse community. Diversity is a strength if it is respected and harnessed. Our children benefit when they are taught to listen to, and not to judge or isolate, others who have a different world view and/or personal experience. After all, Plano children are also US citizens, and America is equally diverse.

Other Issues: I'd like to see more arts and music in elementary schools and think we could have this if we partnered with local artists and organizations. I'd also like to see greater outreach to parents informing them of the resources and opportunities available for their children through the city and county. As a single working parent who did not have family in this area, I was unfamiliar with the opportunities that my son could have had regarding sports, for example, in elementary school. I'd like to see more information being given to families about these things. I'd also support smaller class sizes.

Tammy Richards, ISD Trustee Place 1



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Education: I have an MBA from Harvard University and an engineering degree from Texas A&M, summa cum laude. While at Texas A&M, I was a President's Endowed Scholar, awarded to less than 3% of students. I am a graduate of Leadership Texas, Dallas, and Plano.

Experience: I am CEO of a local nonprofit. Previously, I was Associate Dean in the SMU Engineering School and in executive roles at Texas Instruments, including a VP in TI's Educational Tech business. I have lived in Plano 29 years, 16 years as a Plano ISD mom.

Growth: The percentage of economically disadvantaged students has increased to 30% in just a few years. I have advocated for serving the unique needs of our students and aligning our resources accordingly. I have been a leading voice on the board to highlight schools with students who may be struggling so we can develop innovative solutions. One example is the new International Baccalaureate program for Huffman Elementary. I have been a leading proponent of full day pre-K to give all children a great start. I have been a longtime supporter of AVID, which helps middle and high school students.

Testing: In best case, standardized tests should be a reflection of what we really hope students are learning. With a strong curriculum and excellent teachers, like PISD has, the tests should be mere validations of great instruction. In addition to the required STAAR and EOC tests, PISD uses diagnostic tests called MAP to ensure that students are on track for their grade levels. Parents can see their children's progress, and teachers can see where students have gaps requiring additional instruction. Fortunately, the state has reduced the number of tests in high schools to a more manageable level.

Public School Finance: This year alone, PISD will send \$102M of our \$567M budget back to Austin under "Robin Hood." Over the last 24 years, PISD has sent \$1.4 Billion to the State of Texas. Any increase in revenue due to rising property values also goes directly to the State. This is not a sustainable situation for the success of our students in PISD. We need a school finance system that keeps local tax dollars in PISD and that provides reasonable funding from the State relative to inflation and student population growth. We also need a system that provides adequate funding for economically disadvantaged students.

Safety: PISD has had an increasing focus on character education and social/emotional learning at all grade levels. PISD has researched national curricula and is now working closely with the Momentus Institute, an expert in this area, to provide age-appropriate teaching to help students understand their obligations as fellow learners and good citizens. Although no longer required by the State, PISD has maintained a required Health course to deepen students' knowledge of self care and emotionally healthy living. Finally, our counseling staff and school leaders model and support positive environments.

Other Issues: Providing educational choices for students and families will be an issue and an opportunity. I have supported the development of academy programs in PISD, including the Academy High School, the Health Sciences Academy, the four-year IB program at Plano East, and now the new elementary IB program at Huffman. We are studying an Advanced Industries academy for career-seeking high school students, and we have a commitment to bring more elementary academies and new middle school choices. I also hope to expand our college dual credit program to allow all students to graduate with 30 college hours.

Plano ISD Trustee, Place 2

Amanda Jackson, ISD Trustee Place 2



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Education: A.A.S. in Human Services from ACC; *B.A. in Liberal Arts (Psychology & History) from Concordia University; M.Ed. in Counseling from UNT; 3rd-year Ph.D. student in Higher Education program at UNT; *Attended a year at Howard University, Washington, DC

Experience: Title 1 High School History & AP Economics Teacher, GISD; Graduate Teaching Assistant, UNT College of Education; Adjunct Faculty, BYU-Idaho; Community College GED & ESL Instructor, DCCCD; Mental Health Counselor; Caseworker (CPS & Dallas Metrocare)

Growth: Plano ISD has been and is still experiencing growth in the number of students from low income households. Serving this population is one of my top priorities as these are the students I have taught, loved, and went to school with most of my life. I am studying which practices result in the greatest gains in positive outcomes related to education, including lower dropout rates, higher lifetime earnings, and higher GPAs and test scores. What I have found is serving this population will require a holistic approach as found in the Comer Process, and expansion of work and college ready programs.

Testing: I want to address this issue both at the district and state level. In our district we can set a culture that encourages educators to foster a love of learning, and develop student competencies such as critical thinking and problem solving. We can also continue to use multiple metrics when assessing student performance and regarding school accountability. This multiple metrics approach is what I would advocate for at the state level as a fair assessment of student and district performance. Colleges do not admit students based on SAT/ACT scores alone; high-stakes exams are one part of a whole.

Public School Finance: I am watching the current legislative session to see what, if any, changes may be made to Chapter 41. A recent projection showed most of the Texas public school districts by 2027 will be required to send recapture payments to the State. This is a larger issue that affects more than our district. I would like to see a fair system in place where, as will be the case this coming year, districts like Plano ISD will not be left with less in our budget than the year before despite our residents paying significantly more in taxes because of the heavy burden of an increased recapture payment.

Safety: Personally, bullying is a zero tolerance issue. Should an incident ever come before the Board, I want residents to know I protect safety of children wholeheartedly. I will not tolerate any behavior from students or staff that endangers the safety of others. PISD has a policy for allegations related to bullying. I have two concerns with the policy. First, parents should be notified of allegations, not only proven incidents. Second, allegations need to be written and filed- not orally communicated. Also, continued conflict resolution training is essential for all administrators and counselors.

Other Issues: If legislation related to vouchers is passed this will result in a number of changes requiring the district to "get to work." My formal education and career experience in education will be crucial. I am ready to meet challenges, bringing with me a small learning curve and essential competencies including evaluation of policy and how to apply educational research. We also need to

address the decline in performance at some of our schools as well as the performance disparities between our schools. This includes meeting the needs of students with disabilities and students from low SES households.

Jack Liu, ISD Trustee Place 2

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

Angela Powell, ISD Trustee Place 2



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Education: Bachelor of Science at Houston Baptist University; MBA at the University of Dallas, Graduate School of Management

Experience: over 5 years of teaching experience at Fort Bend ISD, Allentown Business School and Northampton Community College

Growth: The rapid growth of culturally diverse students and students from low income families are changing our Plano public schools' population and demographics. To proactively address these educational needs, we would need to engage these students and track their progress. We should consider adding more bilingual teachers, expand our preschool program and reach out to targeted parents to address gaps in communication.

Testing: The school district should consider aligning the curriculum to the state standards and allowing students to exert more effort on essential subjects.

Public School Finance: The state should eliminate the recapture of school district funds. The Robin Hood system of Wealth Equalization should be repealed.

Safety: To reduce bullying and violence in schools, we should consider an outreach program supported by highly qualified staff trained to provide better awareness and prevent issues from escalating.

Other Issues: Financial responsibility and accountability will become important issues in the next few years for Plano. The school debt needs to be addressed.

Sreedhar "Sree" Yedavalli, ISD Trustee Place 2



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Education: BS Biochemistry, Knox College, Galesburg, IL MS Project Management, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Experience: Thirteen years in the Design Engineering and Construction Management consulting business, designing and building roadways, highways, schools, laboratories, hospitals and Data Centers. Former Cancer Researcher, Award winning musician.

Growth: We should consider how to educate both students and parents about how best to help children succeed and grow. In many cases, those students, and schools, have needs that the District can't directly address. What the District can do is to help educate parents and caregivers to help reinforce the academic instruction from the school. Plano ISD has parent services in place. Expanding that program to provide the caregiver the best information to support the success of the student is key to success.

Testing: Testing should be transitioned from a metric for success to a tool to help teachers maximize success. STAAR is a proficiency exam that provides a snapshot of the students academic understanding. The MAP exam is a growth-based exam that evaluates how the student is progressing in understanding the material. Both should be considered as tools to maximize success, not the metric to define success. Decouple teacher performance from proficiency testing. Make better use of growth testing. Trust the teachers in the district to maximize success of the students.

Public School Finance: Government is not a business. Education is not a cost line-item. Education is an investment. More investment in education leads to less costs for law enforcement, incarceration, public health and key social costs in a State budget. The evidence is overwhelming. The State of Texas is responsible for 5.5M children between K-12. We are second only to California in number of children to teach. Texas ranks 47th out of 50 states in the US for per/capita investment in education. We want to be the shining example of the South. To do so , we need to invest in the success of our children.

Safety: Again, the silver bullet is Education. "Ignorance and hate are not ingrained, they are taught." (paraphrased) Inviting community groups throughout Plano ISD to conduct cultural programs at the schools will lead to reducing fear and ignorance. Less fear and ignorance leads to less bullying. Also, the District must consider other sources of tension outside of the classroom - economic stress at home, divorce, external social issues, that the child brings to class. Supporting and expanding the good work of counselors and parent-education programs in the District will increase safety at schools.

Other Issues: Budget: We should expect State and Federal education spending to drastically reduce in favor of other initiatives - border security, law enforcement and misguided social engineering initiatives. Increased parent and private participation in keeping all Texas ISDs moving forward to greater success. Opportunities: Maximize both the college-bound graduates as well as those who want to or need to take advantage of a robust maintenance economy, through reigniting tradesman programs through private partnerships with businesses benefiting from that training. There are many others. Talk to me!

Plano ISD Trustee, Place 3

Nancy C. Humphrey, ISD Trustee Place 3



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Experience: 16 Years in Public Accounting & Private Industry/ 7 years on Plano ISD Board of Trustees, 3 yrs President, 3 yrs VP Subcommittees: Legislative, Audit, & Superintendent Search Liaisons: Plano PTA & City of Richardson
Testified before Tx Senate Subcmte

Growth: The population of economically disadvantaged students continues to increase, representing approx. 29% of total enrollment. Solutions to effectively serve this population: Provide full-day pre-K to qualifying students. Target resources for focused learner supports. Engage parents to encourage a support system at home. Involve parents in the schools, whether in the evenings or Saturdays to increase the student support mechanism. Work with apartments to provide after-school care and build community. Engage community/businesses to mentor children and read in schools. Join multiple schools' PTAs.

Testing: Continue to use Plano's curriculum intended to deliver instruction which classifies learning objectives from basic knowledge, development, application, analysis, and synthesis with the goal of mastery of a subject so students develop critical thinking skills to solve problems and utilize higher level questioning strategies. The focus must be on learning; not a test that shows what a student knows on one particular day. Too much emphasis in statewide A-F accountability system is based on a single test; some districts fall prey to just getting students to pass the test. PISD must remain mindful.

Public School Finance: A complete overhaul of school finance is necessary, if meaningful property tax reform is desired. The basic allotment must reflect the current cost of education. Funding for public ed. should be indexed biennially with enrollment growth and inflation. There must be a consistent and fair balance between local Maintenance & Operations taxes and the State's contribution to public education. Weights applied to ADA should be modernized. Recapture tax should be capped. Textbook proclamations could be changed to lower costs. Incentives should be offered to promote CTE training for high-demand jobs.

Safety: Bullying, unfortunately, is part of human behavior. Best prevention is through education and parent engagement. PISD has numerous polices that address it & has inclusiveness and diversity curriculum in every grade. Counselors are trained to help victims cope, empower bystanders to intervene, and encourage bullies to stop. Bullying must be defined; clear rules must be set and enforced. Positive behavior should be rewarded. Encourage communication to provide outlets. I recommend an internet hotline so students can report abuse anonymously. The protection of students is the number one priority.

Other Issues: • Changing demographics: consider full-day pre-K school for econ. disadvantaged students, as demand warrants. • A - F accountability system: doesn't provide a true measure of what is going on at a campus. Revise metrics to include more than just STAAR results & attendance. •

School finance reform: overhaul school finance; recapture keeps PISD from lowering taxes. •
Vouchers: any redistribution of tax dollars from public ed. reduces ability to fund fixed costs in place.
Private schools and charters don't have the same accountability. They also don't take all children;
selective in admissions.

Yvette Jackson, ISD Trustee Place 3

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

Nathan Rylander, ISD Trustee Place 3



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Education: --B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Letourneau University --USMC Expeditionary Warfare School --USMC Command and Staff College

Experience: --19 years of leadership as a United States Marine -- 5 years, Deacon at Parkway Hills Baptist Church --4 years, Active in the Plano Chamber of Commerce --10 years, Commercial Real Estate Broker evaluating ROI -3 years, WatchDOG at Brinker Elementary

Growth: The administration at the ISD level and the individual school level should be responsible and responsive to parents. This will foster a much deeper partnership between the ISD and the community. Too much emphasis is put on students attending college; as a result many students attend but never graduate and are still saddled with debt. Vocational training at the high school level, with certifications that can be earned, will allow students that choose not to attend college to be immediately productive in the workforce and productive members of society, without incurring tremendous debt.

Testing: Children learn differently, and they test differently. Standardized testing treats kids like cattle, herding them into a room and evaluating them all the same. Performance on a test is not necessarily an indication of mastery of material. A student may know the material and just not test well. We need to educate children, not teach to a test. Therefore, we need to select a curriculum that provides the necessary education and simply stick to it. Teacher compensation should not be tied solely to student test performance. De-emphasize the STAAR Test, teach the children!

Public School Finance: Chapter 41 Wealth Redistribution (aka "Robin Hood") allows the state to take from "property rich" districts and redistribute money to "property poor" districts. However, the state always takes more than it needs and returns some of it to Plano ISD and the other "property rich" districts. All this extra money is filtered through the hands of the bureaucracy, and certainly some is lost to bureaucratic bloat at the state level. The state should determine a baseline cost to educate a student and redistribute no more than is needed to meet the need, which will allow Plano ISD to reduce taxes.

Safety: The most effective way to curb bullying and violence are with parental involvement. Parents need to teach respect and concern for others, and hold their children accountable. Eliminating electronic devices during school hours would help curb cyber-bullying by removing access to social media throughout the day. Parents who involve themselves in the lives of their kids have children who are less likely to be bullies, and are less likely to be bullied.

Other Issues: American Values and History versus Global "citizenship": American Values and History come first. Our American system is exceptional, and most of our students don't know it because they aren't taught about it. I am an American Citizen, regardless of where my ancestors came from. Board and Administration Responsiveness to Stakeholders: I will communicate with the community and receive input from people for decisions that will affect their lives. I will work to change the culture of unresponsiveness among the school board and administration. I will be your voice on the board.

Plano ISD Trustee, Place 6

Marilyn Hinton, ISD Trustee Place 6

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

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Education: I am a graduate of the University of Missouri – Kansas City (Bachelor’s in Psychology) and the University of Missouri – Columbia (Master’s in Healthcare Administration).

Experience: Past President of Plano Youth Leadership, Former Finance Chair for Leadership Plano, Plano ISD’s Career and Technical Education Committee, Plano ISD’s Key Communicator Program, County Parks Foundation Board and many others.

Growth: As the area's population soars, Plano ISD's student population is slowly declining. This causes additional challenges for PISD in that it reduces state funding. PISD Trustees need to be fiscally prudent in their Budgeting role to ensure that all expenditures are truly supporting student learning or development. The demographics of PISD are changing as well, becoming more diverse. PISD's teacher population is only 24% minority, whereas the student population is 63% minority. PISD must change its recruiting practices so that the teacher population is a better mirror of the student population.

Testing: Testing is dictated by the Federal and State governments. Trustees need to heed their role as Advocate for the students and push legislators in Austin and Washington D.C. to reduce testing requirements (and other regulations) that add little or no value to educating students. I am blessed to have a good job with vacation days that I am willing to use to go to Austin and Washington for this purpose.

Public School Finance: The formula for Public School Finance is a mess, being comprised of a combination of more than 20 factors. It must be changed to level the playing field for Chapter 41 Recapture (aka Robin Hood) Districts that have to send funds each year to Austin. We are very blessed to live in this beautiful part of Texas, we will always need to help those less fortunate, but there must be changes to bring sanity to the system. Again, this is an area where Trustees must be mindful of their need to advocate for our students and get to Austin to convince legislators to make changes that benefit Plano ISD.

Safety: Teachers and students need more training on conflict resolution so that these situations can be diffused quickly before they escalate into violence. We also need to engage experts in the field of school campus safety and emergency response to make certain that Plano ISD is doing all it can to ensure the safety of students, teachers and staff.

Other Issues: While I hope the Texas Legislature finds a resolution to the School Finance question that benefits Plano ISD, I am not optimistic. Trustees will be faced with the challenge of directing programs and policies that help the District produce graduates who have the ability to think analytically, problem solve, be creative and support themselves with fewer dollars. We can do this by trimming waste from the budget and increasing services for students who do not intend to go to college and for students with special needs.

Trish Patterson, ISD Trustee Place 6



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Education: Bachelors in Business Management Masters in Business Administration

Experience: As a mother, I have had the opportunity to see many different facets of Plano ISD. I am an educator both inside & outside the district, & have served in leadership positions in several community service organizations.

Growth: Plano's demographics in the past year or so has changed drastically especially in schools that are farther in West Plano. I think what is important is that we have to make sure that we continue to recruit qualified teachers and equip them to be able to handle and address the needs of the new demographics. We have to be intentional when recruiting to make sure that the staff is reflective of the new demographic.

Testing: The practice of teaching to the test occurs as a normal response to administrative pressure on our educators. The vast majority of our teachers would prefer to spend class time focused on sharing the love of their subject with their students. That said, fear of losing their dream job over poor testing results leads many of them to spend what precious time they have focused on testing skills. I suggest that we implement a bold new policy that protects teachers from removal over test results. This will free them of that fear, allowing them to follow their passion for educating our children.

Public School Finance: The amount of funding our district receives from the state is determined, in part, by a cost of education index (CEI) that has not been updated in over 25 years. Over that time, Plano ISD has seen a dramatic increase in our student population and the cost of living in the cities our district serves. An update to the CEI would increase the amount we receive from the state. This would allow Plano ISD the opportunity to offer greater salaries and incentives to attract and retain high-quality certified educators.

Safety: My experience as a long-term substitute allowed me to see "restorative circles" in action. This method of conflict resolution brings students who are upset with each other together with an adult guide to talk out the issues and come to a mutual agreement. Teaching students how to engage in meaningful dialogue has a long-lasting impact, as I have seen this technique work for adults. I am a part of an organization called Threaded, which creates opportunities for people of different race, ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds an opportunity to have "Courageous Conversations".

Other Issues: Reports on standardized testing claim that our state spends \$90 million per year. That total accounts for little more than the state's contract with ETS/Pearson to print & score the test, and to provide a few roaming consultants. It ignores the bulk of direct costs paid for by the districts, such as proctor salaries, testing security, and additional testing materials. Recent estimates place the true total closer to \$13 billion per year, which is about ¼ the entire public education budget. I support the passage of HB 1336 (aka, "Transparency in Testing"), which would shed light on this issue.

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