The Travis County Midterms Election Guide



A nonpartisan guide to the races on ballots in Travis County. **Early voting is from October 19 – 30 and Election Day is November 3.**

Prepared by CAIR Texas · Updated October 5, 2026

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How to Use This Guide

This is the Travis County guide. It covers the races that appear on ballots in Travis County in the November 3, 2026 general election. If you live in a different county, use that county's guide.

Step 1: Check your registration and know the dates

The registration deadline is Monday, October 5. Early voting runs Monday, October 19 through Friday, October 30, and Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. Applications to vote by mail must be received by Friday, October 23. Details are in the How to Vote section of this guide.

Step 2: Find your sample ballot and polling place

Visit https://muslims.vote/muslims-voter-registration/ to check your registration and look up your election information. Your sample ballot shows exactly which races you will vote in, because district races depend on your home address. You can also find your sample ballot through the county - https://votetravis.gov/current-election-information/current-election/.

Step 3: Understand the general election ballot

In the general election, every voter receives the same ballot for their address, no matter which party primary they voted in or whether they voted in a primary at all. You may vote for any candidate in any race. Texas no longer offers straight-ticket voting, so you will mark each race individually. Candidates from the Republican, Democratic, Libertarian, and Green parties, along with any independents, may appear.

Step 4: Find your races in this guide

The guide follows the order of the ballot: Federal Races (U.S. Senate and U.S. House), Statewide Races, Judicial Races, State Board of Education, Texas Legislature (Texas Senate and Texas House), Travis County Races. Use the Contents page, or in Word open View > Navigation Pane, to jump to a section.

Because Travis County is divided among several districts, the guide lists every district that includes part of the county, but only one of each appears on your ballot. Match the district numbers on your sample ballot to the headings in this guide:

- U.S. House: Districts 10, 11, 27, 37
- State Board of Education: District 5
- Texas Senate: District 21
- Texas House: Districts 19, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51

Statewide races, such as Governor and U.S. Senate, appear on every ballot in Texas.

Step 5: Read the candidate entries

Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name within each race. Each entry gives the candidate's background, campaign website, and stated priorities, followed by positions and record by issue area. For current state legislators, final 2025 votes on the listed Texas House and Senate bills appear inside the issue area each bill concerns. Some offices, such as Railroad Commissioner and the State Board of Education, use issue areas specific to that office. "No position was located" means the guide found no public position in the materials reviewed; it does not mean the candidate has no view. This guide does not endorse or oppose any candidate.

Step 6: Research further

Visit each candidate's campaign website, attend candidate forums, and read local news coverage. This guide covers federal, statewide, State Board of Education, legislative, and county races; your sample ballot may also include city, school district, or other local races and measures that are not covered here.

Step 7: Make your voting plan

Decide whether you will vote early or on Election Day, and check the hours and locations for your county. During early voting you may vote at any early voting location in the county. Bring an acceptable photo ID (listed in the How to Vote section). You may not use your phone in the voting booth, so bring written or printed notes of your choices.

About This Guide

This guide gives voters basic, factual information about the candidates who will appear on the November 3, 2026 general election ballot in Travis County. It covers every candidate in each race listed, uses the same format and the same types of sources for every candidate, and does not rate, rank, score, or recommend candidates.

How candidate information was gathered

- Background and stated priorities come from each candidate's campaign website, official biographies, candidate questionnaires (including those published by The Ballot Brief, Community Impact, the League of Women Voters, and Ballotpedia), and news reports. Priorities are summarized in the candidate's own terms.
- Positions by issue area (federal and State Board of Education races) are drawn from campaign websites (including Branch Politics' nonpartisan summaries of those websites), Ballotpedia candidate surveys, official congressional statements and votes, and news coverage. For every member of Congress who was in office in July 2025, the Healthcare entry notes his or her vote on the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Where no position was located, the guide says so. The absence of a position does not mean a candidate has no view.
- For state and legislative candidates, each issue area combines stated positions from campaign materials and questionnaires, public statements, and documented official actions (bills authored, letters signed, executive actions). For current legislators, final 2025 votes on the listed bills appear in the issue area each bill concerns. County entries list public statements and actions separately. The same source types were reviewed for every candidate.
- Campaign contributions are listed only in the Railroad Commissioner race, because the commission directly regulates the oil and gas industry that funds most candidates for it. Donor figures come from Texas Ethics Commission filings as reported by the Texas Tribune.
- Pending criminal charges or arrests reported by major news outlets during the campaign are noted in one sentence, with the candidate's response where one was located. This rule was applied to every candidate; two candidates in this guide met it.
- For current legislators, the guide may also name up to two bills the member authored, sponsored, or coauthored in 2025 that fall within the guide's issue areas and that the member's own campaign materials identify as priorities. Challengers without a legislative record are summarized from their campaign materials and questionnaires in the same issue areas. The same rule was applied to every candidate.
- Voting records cover Texas state legislation only. They are shown for current members of the Texas House and Texas Senate who served during the 2025 regular session and are running for a Texas House or Texas Senate seat. The guide reports each member's final recorded vote in their own chamber on the same set of state bills, taken from the official Texas House and Texas Senate journals. A vote alone does not explain a member's reasons.
- Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name within each race.

Issue areas

Candidate entries use specific issue areas depending on the office:

- **Federal, Statewide, and Texas Legislature:** Foreign Affairs, Immigration, Religious Freedom, Civil Rights, Education, and Healthcare. (Foreign Affairs appears in state-level entries only for candidates who have addressed it.)
- **State Board of Education:** Social Studies Curriculum, Teacher Support, Digital Education & AI, Religion in Public Schools, and Other Issues.
- **Railroad Commissioner:** Oil and gas permitting/enforcement, pipeline safety/rates, water and land impacts, natural gas supply/grid reliability, and commission accountability.
- **Land Commissioner:** Permanent School Fund/land management, coastal protection/disaster recovery, Veterans Land Board programs, and border land use/foreign ownership.
- **Agriculture Commissioner:** Support for farmers/ranchers, school meals/nutrition, rural water/land, and consumer protection.

- **Comptroller:** Tax policy/budget transparency, education savings accounts, and revenue estimates/economic development.

Religious Freedom is included across all offices because religion-related actions and statements can arise in any of them.

Religious Freedom covers positions, statements, and official actions on religion in public life. That includes statements about Sharia law; statements about Muslims or any other faith community (Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, and others); views on the separation of church and state; the Bible, Ten Commandments, or prayer in public schools; religious liberty protections; and government actions affecting houses of worship or faith-based developments, such as the proposed EPIC City. It also includes membership in legislative caucuses organized around these topics. Candidates and officeholders hold a wide range of views here, and the guide reports each in the candidate's own terms without evaluating it.

Texas House and Texas Senate bills included in the voting records

The bills below were considered by the Texas House and Texas Senate during the 89th Texas Legislature's 2025 regular session. They are state bills, not federal legislation. Voting records on these bills appear only in entries for Texas House and Texas Senate candidates who currently serve in the Legislature. They do not apply to candidates for Congress, statewide office, the State Board of Education, county office, or judicial office.

Each bill is described using its official caption and a plain summary of what the enacted version does. Vote counts are the final recorded votes in the Texas House and the Texas Senate.

Texas bill	Official caption and summary	Final votes (Texas House and Texas Senate)
SB 2	Relating to the establishment of an education savings account program. Creates a state-funded education savings account program that eligible families may use for private school tuition and other approved education expenses.	House passed April 17, 2025 (86–61); Senate concurred in House amendments April 24, 2025 (19–12).
SB 10	Relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. Requires public elementary and secondary schools to display a poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments in each classroom. In 2026 the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld the law, 9–8.	House passed May 25, 2025 (82–46); Senate concurred in House amendment May 28, 2025 (21–10).
SB 17	Relating to the purchase or acquisition of an interest in real property by certain aliens or foreign entities; creating a criminal offense; providing a civil penalty. Bars governments, companies, and certain individuals tied to countries designated as national security threats (currently China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia) from buying most real property in Texas, with exceptions for U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, and authorizes the attorney general to investigate and enforce violations.	House adopted conference committee report May 29, 2025 (85–57); Senate adopted conference committee report May 30, 2025 (23–8).
SB 326	Relating to the procedure for determining whether a student's violation of a public school's or public institution of higher education's student code of conduct was motivated by antisemitism. Requires public schools and universities to consider a specified definition of antisemitism (the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition) when determining whether a student conduct violation was motivated by antisemitism.	House passed April 30, 2025 (129–8); Senate concurred in House amendment May 7, 2025 (29–2).
SB 2972	Relating to expressive activities at public institutions of higher education. Sets rules for expressive activity on public college and university campuses, including limits on the times and places where certain activities may occur.	House adopted conference committee report June 1, 2025 (97–39); Senate adopted conference committee report June 1, 2025 (22–9).

Texas bill	Official caption and summary	Final votes (Texas House and Texas Senate)
HB 4211	Relating to certain residential property interests controlled by certain entities. Amends the Texas Fair Housing Act so that exemptions that normally allow religious organizations to operate housing developments do not apply to certain developments, and bars certain residential contracts from requiring disputes to be resolved outside Texas or U.S. courts. The bill was widely discussed in connection with the proposed EPIC City development (now called The Meadow).	Senate passed May 27, 2025 (30–1); House concurred in Senate amendments May 29, 2025 (110–26).

What supporters and critics said

The summaries below describe the main public arguments for and against each bill, drawn from lawmakers' statements, court filings, and news coverage. This guide presents both sides and does not take a position on any bill.

SB 2: Relating to the establishment of an education savings account program.

Supporters: Author Sen. Brandon Creighton argued that "a one-size-fits-all education does not work for many of our students in Texas." He said the program is paid for from the state surplus rather than public school funds, and pointed to research from other states showing gains in student outcomes, safety, and college readiness. Gov. Abbott and Lt. Gov. Patrick made the bill a top priority.

Critics: The Senate Democratic Caucus called SB 2 "a deeply flawed voucher scheme" that subsidizes private schools. Groups such as Raise Your Hand Texas, along with education researchers, argued that it diverts money from public schools and holds private schools to weaker accountability than public schools, since participating students do not take the state test. Sen. Royce West warned it could favor white students, recalling the history of vouchers being used to avoid desegregation. In 2026, Islamic schools and Muslim parents sued after the comptroller's office excluded schools it said had ties to CAIR from the program.

SB 10: Relating to the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

Supporters: Author Sen. Phil King said the Ten Commandments are "ingrained into who we are as a people and as a nation," and argued that students cannot understand the foundations of American history and law without knowing them. House sponsor Rep. Candy Noble spoke of following God's law during House debate. Supporters argued that the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 decision in Kennedy v. Bremerton allows such displays, and after the Fifth Circuit upheld the law in 2026, King said the Constitution does not require the state to erase its history.

Critics: The ACLU, the ACLU of Texas, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the Freedom From Religion Foundation called the law "blatantly unconstitutional" under the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. They said it would marginalize students whose families do not follow the state's chosen version of scripture. A group of Christian and Jewish faith leaders wrote to lawmakers that government should not dictate an official version of any religious text. Families of several faiths sued, and after the 9–8 ruling their lawyers said they would ask the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse it.

SB 326: Relating to the procedure for determining whether a student's violation of a public school's or public institution of higher education's student code of conduct was motivated by antisemitism.

Supporters: Author Sen. Phil King and supporters argued that schools need a clear, consistent definition to recognize when misconduct is motivated by antisemitism. His witness from the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission put it this way: "you cannot defeat what you are unwilling to define." Supporters cited surveys finding that most Jewish college students had experienced or witnessed antisemitism since October 2023. An Anti-Defamation League official said the bill does not ban protected speech and applies only to conduct that already violates school rules.

Critics: Free speech advocates, some Jewish students and groups, and pro-Palestinian advocates argued that the IHRA definition's examples, which include certain criticism of the state of Israel,

could be used to punish or discourage protected political speech. A Jewish University of Texas student testified that the definition encourages "a dangerous conflation of the government of Israel and the Jewish people." Some lawmakers said a law addressing all forms of religious discrimination would be fairer. In 2024, a federal judge in Austin had said that enforcing the definition in campus speech policies was likely unconstitutional.

SB 2972: Relating to expressive activities at public institutions of higher education.

Supporters: Author Sen. Brandon Creighton said the law strengthens free speech by fostering a culture of openness on campus while protecting students, faculty, and property from disruption by outside groups. Supporters said it responds to the disruption and unsafe behavior during the 2024 campus protests over the Israel–Hamas war, including encampments. After a court ruling against parts of the law, Creighton said he was confident it would ultimately be upheld.

Critics: The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) sued to block the law, arguing it violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments by banning protected expression from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.; a FIRE attorney said "the First Amendment doesn't set when the sun goes down." The ACLU of Texas said the law lets officials restrict how, when, and where Texans can speak on campus, whatever their politics. Critics also noted it walks back a 2019 law that opened outdoor campus spaces to public speech. In late 2025, a federal judge temporarily blocked key parts of the law, and the University of Texas System appealed.

HB 4211: Relating to certain residential property interests controlled by certain entities.

Supporters: Author Rep. Candy Noble said the bill protects the meaning of home ownership for every Texan, citing investment terms from the EPIC City developers that she called unlawful. Gov. Abbott said it prevents developments from using religion "as a form of segregation" and requires disputes to be resolved in Texas courts. The EPIC City developers said they supported the bill and already complied with it.

Critics: Much of the criticism focused on how state leaders described the law, not on its text, which does not mention Islam or Sharia. Muslim civil rights groups, including CAIR-Texas, said the governor's description of the law as a ban on "Sharia compounds" distorted its purpose. They said it singled out Muslims in ways never applied to other faiths' religious law and was fueling anti-Muslim bigotry. One senator and 26 House members voted against final passage.

Caucus membership is reported from published member lists. The Sharia Free Texas Caucus has reported 38 members, but the most complete public list found names 28; the Sharia-Free America Caucus list used here dates from early 2026. A candidate not listed may still be a member.

Corrections

Every effort was made to verify this information as of October 5, 2026. Candidates or community members who wish to submit a correction or add information may contact CAIR Texas; corrections will be applied in the same way for all candidates.

How to Vote in Travis County

Voter registration deadline: Monday, October 5, 2026. Mailed applications must be postmarked by that date. You can check your registration or register at https://muslims.vote/muslims-voter-registration/.

Early voting: Monday, October 19 through Friday, October 30, 2026. During early voting you may vote at any early voting location in the county.

Vote by mail: Applications must be received by Friday, October 23, 2026. Eligibility is limited to voters who are 65 or older, have a disability, will be out of the county, or are confined in jail but otherwise eligible.

Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Photo ID: Bring one of seven acceptable forms of photo ID: Texas driver license, Texas Election Identification Certificate, Texas personal ID card, Texas handgun license, U.S. military ID with photo, U.S. citizenship certificate with photo, or U.S. passport. Voters who cannot reasonably obtain one may sign a Reasonable Impediment Declaration and show a supporting document such as a utility bill or voter registration certificate.

Look up your ballot and polling place: Visit https://muslims.vote/muslims-voter-registration/ to check your registration and find your election information. Which district races appear on your ballot depends on your address.

Federal Races

U.S. Senate

Six-year term. Senators vote on federal legislation, confirm federal judges and executive nominees, and ratify treaties.



TED BROWN

Libertarian

Background: Retired insurance adjuster from Austin; Libertarian nominee for U.S. Senate in 2024.

Website: tedbrown.org

Stated priorities: Brown's campaign website lists repealing the federal income tax and abolishing the IRS, across-the-board federal budget cuts, a non-interventionist foreign policy, ending the federal war on drugs, and ending government surveillance.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: Brown's campaign lists a non-interventionist foreign policy as a top priority.

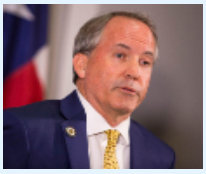
Immigration: Brown's campaign website opposes Operation Lone Star as a state intrusion on a federal issue; supports abolishing ICE, limiting Customs and Border Protection to borders and ports of entry, and closing detention facilities; and proposes allowing entry at international ports after criminal-record checks and disease screenings, with immediate work authorization.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Brown's campaign website supports decriminalizing marijuana federally, ending government surveillance, giving people access to and deletion rights over government-collected personal data, and opposes government-mandated social media age limits and age-verification laws.

Education: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Healthcare: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



KEN PAXTON

Republican

Background: Texas attorney general since 2015; former state senator and state representative. Won the Republican nomination over incumbent Sen. John Cornyn.

Website: kenpaxton.com

Stated priorities: Paxton's campaign lists taking on the Washington establishment, continuing his record of suing the federal government and pursuing election-integrity cases, and keeping Texas conservative.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: Paxton's campaign describes an "America First" approach. As attorney general, he joined multistate coalitions condemning Hamas, supported Texas's anti-boycott (BDS) laws, and praised the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement.

Immigration: As attorney general, Paxton sued to end DACA and to continue the "Remain in Mexico" policy, and supported border wall construction, bans on sanctuary jurisdictions, and state border operations.

Religious Freedom: Paxton's campaign highlights his record defending religious liberty. As attorney general, his office opened a 2025 investigation into the proposed EPIC City development planned by the East Plano Islamic Center, and in March 2026 he asked Collin County officials to reject permit applications tied to the project. In a September 2025 press release, he said, "In Texas classrooms, we want the Word of God opened, the Ten Commandments displayed, and prayers lifted up." In January 2026, he issued an attorney general's opinion concluding that the comptroller may exclude schools from the education savings account program under state anti-terrorism laws; Islamic schools excluded from the program later sued.

Civil Rights: As attorney general, Paxton opposed expansions of voting access, sued voter registration organizations, and supported the 2017 federal travel restrictions on several Muslim-majority countries.

Education: Paxton supports school choice and vouchers and restrictions on how race and history are taught.

Healthcare: Paxton has sought to repeal the Affordable Care Act through litigation and favors market-based healthcare, religious exemptions from coverage requirements, and enforcement against healthcare fraud.



JAMES TALARICO

Democratic

Background: State representative from Austin (HD 50); former middle school teacher; Presbyterian seminarian.

Website: jamestalarico.com

Stated priorities: Talarico's campaign lists fighting corruption, reducing the influence of large donors, and investing in public schools and affordable healthcare.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: Talarico has called for stopping offensive weapons sales to the Netanyahu government while protecting civilians, using U.S. leverage to pursue a two-state solution and halt settlement expansion, and has described Gaza as a "moral and spiritual emergency." He has pledged not to accept AIPAC PAC money and has referenced human rights abuses in Sudan. No position on Iran was located.

Immigration: Talarico supports comprehensive immigration reform combining border security with a pathway to legal status for long-term undocumented residents, expanded legal work visas, modernized ports of entry, and oversight of ICE, saying enforcement should prioritize traffickers and violent offenders.

Religious Freedom: In the Texas House, Talarico opposed SB 10 (Ten Commandments in classrooms), saying, "I'm a Christian who firmly believes in the separation of church and state," and has called that separation "a sacred boundary" that protects both government and the church. He has spoken against what he calls "Christian nationalism." During the SB 11 school prayer debate, he asked whether teachers could encourage students to pray according to other faiths, such as Islam. He signed the November 2025 joint statement by House members asking the Governor to rescind his proclamation designating CAIR as a foreign terrorist organization.

Civil Rights: Talarico has said narrowing the space for protest and public speech has long-term implications for civil liberties. In the Texas House, he voted for SB 2972 (campus expressive activity restrictions) and SB 326 (IHRA definition of antisemitism).

Education: A former public school teacher, Talarico supports increased public school funding, teacher pay, and early childhood investment and opposes vouchers. He has spoken about nondiscrimination if public funds go to private or religious schools.

Healthcare: Talarico supports a public insurance option, allowing Americans to buy into Medicare, and strengthening the Affordable Care Act. He helped pass a Texas law capping insulin copays at $25 per month.

U.S. House of Representatives

Two-year term. Districts were redrawn in 2025. Parts of Travis County are in the districts below; only one appears on your ballot. Check your sample ballot.

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives write and vote on federal laws and the federal budget.

U.S. House, District 10



CHRIS GOBER

Republican

Background: Election law attorney and Harvard Law graduate raised in Throckmorton.

Website: chrisgober.com

Stated priorities: Border security; the economy and competing with China; rural affordability and healthcare.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: Lists economic competition with China as a priority.

Immigration: Gober supports increasing border security and reducing immigration,.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Gober's campaign lists election integrity among his priorities.

Education: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Healthcare: Gober's campaign says he would strengthen rural healthcare by reducing regulations.



CAITLIN ROURK

Democratic

Background: Army military intelligence officer who served in the Texas Army National Guard; former Dell communications lead; UT McCombs MBA.

Website: caitlinrourk.com

Stated priorities: Lower costs for working families; lower healthcare costs; government accountability.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Education: Rourk supports public education, expanded mental health and safety resources in schools, and investment in technical education and job training.

Healthcare: Rourk's campaign pledges to lower drug costs, protect coverage for pre-existing conditions, expand mental health and addiction services, end surprise billing, support rural providers, strengthen the Affordable Care Act, and expand Medicaid.

U.S. House, District 11



AUGUST PFLUGER

Republican, incumbent

Background: U.S. representative; former Air Force F-22 pilot and National Security Council staff member; seventh-generation Texan.

Website: augustpfluger.com

Stated priorities: Strengthening the local economy; supporting education and schools; addressing community concerns.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: Pfluger helped author H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, which would resume border wall construction, add Border Patrol agents, and end catch-and-release. He also introduced the RAPID Act to reimburse farmers and ranchers for property damage linked to illegal border crossings.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Pfluger supports the American Confidence in Elections (ACE) Act, which would strengthen voter identification requirements and prohibit noncitizen voting. On January 6, 2021, he voted against counting Arizona's and/or Pennsylvania's presidential electors.

Education: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Healthcare: Pfluger has said he believes life begins at conception, and he introduced the Conscience Protection Act of 2025 to shield healthcare providers who decline to participate in abortions from government penalties. He voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (July 2025), which included changes to Medicaid.



CLAIRE REYNOLDS

Democratic

Background: Journalism graduate of Northwestern's Medill School and law graduate of the University of San Diego; has lived in Texas since 2007.

Website: clairereynoldsforcongress.org

Stated priorities: Affordability; healthcare; immigration reform.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: She has said that the United States "must stop enabling the Israeli government in its genocide,

Immigration: Reynolds has said she decided to run after reading about U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detaining a young boy undergoing leukemia treatment, and she has criticized current immigration enforcement practices, per KOSA-TV.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Reynolds says Congress must act as a check on abuses of executive authority and protect civil liberties and constitutional rights, per Community Impact and KOSA-TV.

Education: Reynolds supports fully funding Head Start, Early Head Start, and the federal Child Care and Development Fund.

Healthcare: Reynolds supports a single-payer healthcare system and federal laws protecting abortion rights and providers.

U.S. House, District 27



MICHAEL CLOUD

Republican, incumbent

Background: U.S. representative; serves on the Appropriations and Oversight committees.

Website: cloudforcongress.com

Stated priorities: National defense; border security; federal spending and debt.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: Cloud's platform emphasizes national defense and support for Israel. No positions on Palestine, Iran, or Sudan were located.

Immigration: Cloud lists border security as a major priority and supports stronger enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Religious Freedom: Cloud's platform highlights religious liberty and Christian conservative values. Cloud is listed as a member of the Sharia-Free America Caucus, formed in the U.S. House in December 2025, per Texas Scorecard.

Civil Rights: Cloud frames civil liberties through constitutional rights, limited government, and the Second Amendment.

Education: Cloud supports local control, parental authority, and reduced federal involvement in education.

Healthcare: Cloud supports patient choice, price transparency, and market-based reforms and opposes a government-run system. Cloud voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (July 2025), which included changes to Medicaid.



TANYA LLOYD

Democratic

Background: Kindergarten teacher in Lockhart ISD; lifelong Lockhart resident; 2024 Democratic nominee for this seat.

Website: tanyafortx27.com

Stated priorities: Lloyd's campaign website describes an "American Rural Revival" platform: single-payer healthcare and reopening rural hospitals, equitable rural school funding and teacher pay, breaking up agribusiness monopolies, community-owned clean energy, and protecting water and mineral rights for family farmers.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: Lloyd is endorsed by Track AIPAC, which backs candidates who reject AIPAC funding. In a Lone Star Left candidate survey on Israel policy, she said U.S. foreign aid "should always reflect our national interests and our values as a beacon of democracy."

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Lloyd's campaign website states she "will always defend workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain" and calls for a living wage for every job.

Education: Lloyd's campaign website calls for equitable funding for rural schools, raising teacher pay with incentives for rural educators, universal early childhood education and guaranteed daycare, and restoring year-round free school meals, noting Texas "ranks last in rural teacher salaries."

Healthcare: Lloyd's campaign website supports "a fully government-funded single-payer healthcare system that covers everyone," rebuilding rural hospitals and clinics, and codifying Roe v. Wade; it describes nearly half of Texas counties as "maternity care deserts."

U.S. House, District 37



GREG CASAR

Democratic, incumbent

Background: U.S. representative since 2023 and chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; former labor organizer and Austin City Council member.

Website: casarforcongress.com

Stated priorities: Workers' rights, healthcare affordability, and civil rights, per his campaign and official materials.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: Casar co-signed a Congressional Progressive Caucus leadership statement calling for full humanitarian access to Gaza and urging U.S. leverage to restore aid. In July 2026, Casar joined 26 other House members in a joint statement supporting an amendment to halt $3.3 billion in additional U.S. military funding to Israel, citing civilian casualties in Gaza and Lebanon.

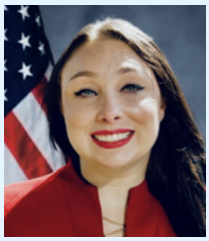
Immigration: Casar has supported expanded immigrant rights and due process protections and opposed policies that increase detention.

Religious Freedom: Casar publicly opposed the Governor's November 2025 proclamation designating CAIR as a terrorist organization, calling it discriminatory.

Civil Rights: Casar's record emphasizes voting rights, workers' rights, and protest rights. During the 2024 UT Austin protests, he said "peaceful assembly and free speech are basic constitutional rights" and criticized the use of force against student demonstrators.

Education: Casar's materials emphasize public education and workforce development.

Healthcare: Casar describes healthcare as a right and has defended the Affordable Care Act, opposed Medicaid cuts, and supported lowering prescription drug costs. Casar voted against the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (July 2025), which included changes to Medicaid.



LAUREN PEÑA

Republican

Background: Founder of Peña Legal Advocacy; former member of Austin's Public Safety Commission and Community Police Review Commission.

Website: lauren4congress.com

Stated priorities: Border enforcement; parental rights in education; limiting surveillance overreach; market-based healthcare reforms.

Key Issues

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: Peña pledges to secure the border with "real enforcement" and supports "responsible immigration policies" for those who follow the law.

Religious Freedom: Peña pledges to protect free speech and the free exercise of faith.

Civil Rights: Peña pledges to oppose federal targeting of citizens, ensure equal protection, and end surveillance overreach.

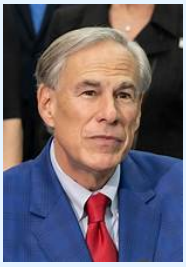
Education: Peña supports parental rights and shifting authority over university funding from the federal government to the states.

Healthcare: Peña supports conscience protections for providers, interstate insurance competition, hospital price transparency, and expanded Health Savings Accounts.

Statewide Races

Governor

Four-year term. The governor is the state's chief executive, signs or vetoes legislation, prepares a state budget recommendation, appoints state officials and judges to fill vacancies, and can call special legislative sessions.



GREG ABBOTT

Republican, incumbent

Background: Governor of Texas since 2015; former Texas attorney general and Texas Supreme Court justice.

Website: gregabbott.com

Stated priorities: Abbott's campaign lists cutting and reforming property taxes through his Empowering Texas Taxpayers plan, continuing border security through Operation Lone Star, and growing Texas jobs as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Immigration: Abbott's campaign lists continuing Operation Lone Star, the state border security initiative, as a priority. In 2025 he signed SB 8, which requires most sheriffs to seek 287(g) immigration enforcement agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Religious Freedom: In February 2025, Abbott posted that "Sharia Law is not allowed in Texas" and directed state investigations into the proposed EPIC City development planned by the East Plano Islamic Center, including an order to halt construction pending permits. In November 2025, he issued a proclamation designating CAIR as a foreign terrorist organization under state law, which bars them from acquiring land in Texas, and later asked the U.S. Treasury to suspend CAIR's tax-exempt status; CAIR has sued to overturn the designation. In May 2026, he threatened to withhold $530,000 in state public safety grants from Grand Prairie unless the city canceled a privately organized Eid event at the city-owned Epic Waters water park, saying an early flier advertised it as "MUSLIMS ONLY," which he called "religious discrimination" and "unconstitutional" under HB 4211; the organizer said the wording was a mistake and revised the flier to say "All are welcome," and the city canceled the event. Forty-one legislators asked him to rescind the threat. In 2025 he signed SB 10 (Ten Commandments display in classrooms), SB 11 (optional school prayer and Bible-reading periods), and HB 4211 (religion-based restrictions on residential property).

Civil Rights: In 2025 Abbott signed SB 2972, which sets rules for expressive activity on public college campuses, and SB 326, which requires schools to consider a specified definition of antisemitism in student discipline. Abbott's campaign lists bail reform (SJR 5, 2025) and support for law enforcement as priorities.

Education: Abbott made school choice a top priority and in 2025 signed SB 2, creating the state's education savings account program. In 2026, after the acting comptroller excluded schools with alleged ties to CAIR from the program, which led to lawsuits from Islamic schools and Muslim parents, Abbott said he agreed with the decision because funds should not go "to radical Islamic indoctrination."

Healthcare: Abbott has opposed expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. In 2025 he signed SB 25, the "Make Texas Healthy Again" food-labeling and nutrition law, and SB 379, barring use of SNAP benefits for sweetened drinks and candy.



PAT DIXON

Libertarian

Background: Professional engineer and business owner in Lago Vista; former Lago Vista City Council member; former chair of the Libertarian Party of Texas.

Website: patdixon.org

Stated priorities: Dixon's campaign website lists growth that "pays for the resources it uses," targeted spending cuts before tax cuts, due process in firearm policy, parent choice in education, and election reforms including approval and ranked-choice voting.

Key Issues and Record

Immigration: Dixon's campaign website states the federal government has primary immigration-enforcement responsibility and Texas should cooperate, but that he "refuses policies that harm Texans' life, liberty, or property," and that reduced border crossings do not justify "killing and harassing people."

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Dixon's campaign website supports law-abiding Texans' right to possess firearms, prioritizes due process in any "red flag" law, and opposed interrupting the 2025 flood-response special session to redraw congressional districts. He supports allowing cities to adopt approval voting and supports ranked-choice voting.

Education: Dixon's campaign website supports parent choice and "parent-led school accountability instead of politically motivated testing mandates," and proposes a statewide scholarship giving every child the same funding to use at any school.

Healthcare: Dixon's campaign website supports adults' freedom to use hemp-derived THC products "provided they do not harm others," and says crisis responses should not deprive people of liberty and livelihood.



GINA HINOJOSA

Democratic

Background: State representative from Austin since 2017; attorney; former Austin ISD board president.

Website: ginafortexas.com

Stated priorities: Hinojosa's campaign website lists quality and accessible healthcare, affordability and "taking on corporate greed," public education funding instead of vouchers, school safety and teacher pay, and opposing state land sales for data centers.

Key Issues and Record

Immigration: Hinojosa has said she supports border security while criticizing current federal enforcement tactics, describing "ICE attacks on our families and our communities." She called Gov. Abbott's April 2026 threat to withhold public safety grants from cities that limit police cooperation with immigration authorities "unacceptable," and opposed his deployment of the Texas National Guard to support ICE operations.

Religious Freedom: *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – No; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – No.

Civil Rights: Hinojosa is a former civil rights and union lawyer. Her campaign website opposes private prisons and opposed the 2025 mid-decade congressional redistricting. *Final Texas House*

votes, 2025 *(state legislation)*: SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – Yes; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – No.

Education: Hinojosa has been one of the Legislature's leading critics of the state's school voucher program, per the Texas Tribune; her campaign website calls for investing in "school safety and teacher pay, not corporate profits" and proposes zero-based budgeting for education. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 2 (education savings accounts) – No [party-line vote; verify].

Healthcare: Hinojosa's campaign website lists quality and accessible healthcare as a priority; she has said Texans are being "cheated out of basic health care," opposes private equity acquisition of medical practices, and supports access to abortion.

Lieutenant Governor

Four-year term. The lieutenant governor presides over the Texas Senate, appoints Senate committee chairs and members, and serves as acting governor when the governor is absent.



ANTHONY CRISTO

Libertarian

Background: High school teacher; Navy veteran; Libertarian nominee for U.S. House in 2018 and 2020.

Website: anthonycristo.com

Stated priorities: Cristo's campaign website lists cutting taxes and spending, free-market economics, a balanced budget, and marijuana legalization.

Key Issues and Record

Immigration: Cristo's campaign website states he supports "immigrants who come to work and contribute," while opposing taxpayer-funded welfare.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Cristo's campaign website supports legalizing marijuana in Texas.

Education: Cristo's campaign website states school districts can be properly funded without tax increases.

Healthcare: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



VIKKI GOODWIN

Democratic

Background: State representative from Austin since 2019; real estate broker.

Website: vikkigoodwin.com

Stated priorities: Goodwin's campaign website lists funding neighborhood public schools rather than vouchers, affordability including a $15 minimum wage and housing, water and grid infrastructure, healthcare access, and election reforms.

Key Issues and Record

Immigration: Goodwin's campaign website supports comprehensive immigration reform, including doubling visa caps and creating "safe processing facilities in home countries."

Religious Freedom: Goodwin publicly opposed the Governor's designation of CAIR as a foreign terrorist organization, saying that if the Governor can "label an advocacy organization a terrorist group" by declaration, "no community is safe from political retaliation." Speaking against SB 11 (school prayer and religious-text periods) on the House floor in 2025, Goodwin said students may already pray if they choose and that "government officials have no business interfering with these deeply personal and constitutionally-protected matters." *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – No; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – No.

Civil Rights: Goodwin's campaign website supports online voter registration, ranked-choice voting, a citizen ballot-initiative process (HJR 198), and gun measures including "stronger background checks, proper training requirements, and tools to investigate straw purchases." She authored the Natalia Cox Act (2023) providing resources to domestic violence victims. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – No (statement: intended present, not voting); SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – No.

Education: Goodwin's campaign website prioritizes funding neighborhood public schools rather than vouchers, better pay for educators and support staff, and reducing standardized testing. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 2 (education savings accounts) – No [party-line vote; verify].

Healthcare: Goodwin's campaign website supports Medicaid expansion, extending postpartum Medicaid coverage, addressing rural provider shortages and maternal mortality, and access to abortion.



KEVIN MCCORMICK

Green

Background: Retired attorney and former high school math teacher; lives near Lindale.

Website: kmm2026.org

Stated priorities: McCormick's campaign website lists expanding public transit, investing in the rural economy and family farms, water policy modernization, opposing subsidies for data centers, and election reform including ranked-choice voting.

Key Issues and Record

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: McCormick's campaign website proposes ranked-choice voting, a statewide primary open to four parties and independents, and Election Code rules "to significantly limit gerrymandering."

Education: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Healthcare: McCormick's campaign website prioritizes "effective public health policy and preventive primary healthcare."



DAN PATRICK

Republican, incumbent

Background: Lieutenant governor since 2015; former radio host and state senator.

Website: danpatrick.org

Stated priorities: Patrick's campaign lists continuing conservative leadership of the Senate, cutting property taxes, border security, school choice, and family values legislation as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: Patrick designated SB 17, restricting certain land purchases by individuals and entities tied to China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia, as a 2025 priority bill.

Immigration: Patrick's campaign lists border security as a priority.

Religious Freedom: Patrick designated SB 10 (Ten Commandments display in classrooms) and SB 11 (optional school prayer and Bible-reading periods) among his priority bills in the 2025 session; both became law. His campaign lists "family values legislation" as a priority. Patrick has directed Senate committees to study ways to prevent Sharia law in Texas before the 2027 session, with the stated aim of ensuring Texans "are never held under the heel of 'Sharia law,'" per KLTV and the New York Times. Patrick chairs President Trump's Religious Liberty Commission and has said, "There is no such thing as a separation of church and state in the U.S. Constitution."

Civil Rights: Patrick designated SJR 5 (2025), allowing judges to deny bail to certain violent offenders, as a priority. His campaign website supports increased law enforcement funding and stronger criminal penalties for firearm-related crimes, and supports legislation ending the teaching of critical race theory and abolishing DEI policies in universities. He has pledged $1 million in campaign funds to establish Turning Point USA chapters at Texas colleges and high schools.

Education: Patrick made school choice (SB 2, education savings accounts) a top 2025 priority.

Healthcare: Patrick designated SB 25 (2025), the "Make Texas Healthy Again" food-labeling and nutrition law, as a priority; it became law. His campaign website states he opposes abortion and opposes pathways toward recreational marijuana legalization.

Attorney General

Four-year term. The attorney general is the state's chief legal officer; represents the state in legal matters, issues legal opinions, oversees child-support enforcement and crime-victim compensation, and enforces open-government and consumer-protection laws.



NATHAN JOHNSON

Democratic

Background: State senator from Dallas since 2019; attorney.

Website: nathanfortexas.com

Stated priorities: Johnson's campaign website lists restoring a nonpartisan, independent attorney general's office, prosecuting public corruption "irrespective of political party," consumer protection, and healthcare access. He cites his Senate work on insurance reform, grid resilience, and Medicaid expansion.

Key Issues and Record

Immigration: Johnson's campaign website states he wants the southern border "secure, and safe" while "rejecting border policy and tactics that violate the U.S. Constitution," and says ICE is placing people's constitutional rights "under threat."

Religious Freedom: *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – No; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – Yes.

Civil Rights: Johnson's campaign website states "I will be an independent Attorney General who will investigate and prosecute officials – irrespective of political party – not for revenge or persecution"; he opposed the 2025 mid-decade congressional redistricting. *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – Yes; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – No [verify].

Education: *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 2 (education savings accounts) – No [verify].

Healthcare: Johnson's campaign website cites his Senate work on insurance reform and Medicaid expansion and supports reforming the Texas health insurance marketplace to extend "private health insurance for an estimated 350,000 previously uninsured Texans."



MAYES MIDDLETON

Republican

Background: State senator (SD 11), former state representative, attorney, and oil company president.

Website: mayesmiddleton.com

Stated priorities: Middleton's campaign lists border security and enforcement of deportation orders against criminal networks, election integrity and voter ID enforcement, and rooting out government waste as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Immigration: Middleton pledges to sue sanctuary cities and enforce federal border security and deportation orders.

Religious Freedom: In 2025 Middleton authored SB 11, which allows school districts to adopt daily periods for prayer or reading religious texts with parental consent. On its passage he said, "We are a state and nation built on 'In God We Trust,'" and that "litigious atheists are no longer going to get to decide for everyone else" whether students and educators exercise religious liberties at school. He also authored SB 854 (2025), which would have required cities to approve housing on land owned by religious institutions, describing it as empowering "churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious groups." *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – Yes; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – Yes.

Civil Rights: Middleton lists election integrity and voter ID enforcement as priorities and passed legislation allowing the attorney general to prosecute election cases without a local prosecutor's consent. *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – Yes; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – Yes.

Education: Middleton has called for overturning Plyler v. Doe, the U.S. Supreme Court decision guaranteeing undocumented children access to public education, and sponsored the Save Women's Sports Act. *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 2 (education savings accounts) – Yes [verify].

Healthcare: Middleton authored SB 379 (2025), directing the state to seek a federal waiver barring the use of SNAP benefits for sweetened drinks and candy; it became law.



TOM OXFORD

Libertarian

Background: Attorney in Jefferson County; former legal aid office manager; Libertarian nominee for the Texas Supreme Court in seven prior elections.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Oxford has not published a campaign platform and did not respond to the Community Impact candidate questionnaire. In a 2020 questionnaire he described his philosophy as civil liberty with limited government involvement in private life.

Key Issues and Record

Immigration: Oxford says due process applies to everyone regardless of legal status and that the state "can protect our borders without walking away from our founding principles." He says he would use the attorney general's powers to protect due process.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Oxford says every citizen has a right to vote, and that he would use the office to block efforts to intimidate voters at polling locations. He supports more polling locations and secure mail-in voting.

Education: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Healthcare: Oxford says he would end the state's legal actions against other states that provide abortion medications, and that the state "should have no involvement in decisions about our personal health."

Comptroller of Public Accounts

Four-year term. The comptroller is the state's chief financial officer: collects taxes, estimates revenue available for the state budget, and administers the state's education savings account (voucher) program.



V. ALONZO ECHAVARRIA-GARZA

Libertarian

Background: City manager of Hearne; state representative 1991–1993; Libertarian nominee for comptroller in 2022.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: No campaign platform was located. Branch.vote and The Ballot Brief found no website or online platform as of September 2026.

Key Issues and Record

Tax policy and budget transparency: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Education savings account program: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Revenue estimates and economic development: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



SARAH ECKHARDT

Democratic

Background: State senator from Austin (SD 14), attorney, and former Travis County judge.

Website: saraheckhardt.com

Stated priorities: Eckhardt's campaign lists stopping no-bid contracts and auditing the voucher program, transparency about tax spending, and healthcare costs as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Tax policy and budget transparency: Eckhardt pledges to act as a watchdog over the state budget, end no-bid contracts and "sweetheart deals," and root out waste and fraud, citing her record of balanced budgets as Travis County judge.

Education savings account program: Eckhardt pledges to audit the Texas Education Freedom Accounts program, including who receives funds and how they are spent.

Revenue estimates and economic development: Eckhardt has said the comptroller's office should report on federal funds Texas forgoes by not expanding Medicaid, which she supports.

Religious Freedom: *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – No; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – No (the only Senate vote against); SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – No; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – No [verify]; SB 2 (education savings accounts) – No [verify].



SHEHLA FAIZI

Green

Background: Graphic designer with a background in advertising and marketing journalism; moved to Texas in 2012.

Website: faizifortexas.com

Stated priorities: Faizi's campaign lists keeping Texas tax dollars in Texas, ending tax breaks for large corporations, and restoring checks and balances to the office as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Tax policy and budget transparency: Faizi's campaign calls for keeping Texas tax dollars in Texas and restoring checks and balances to the comptroller's office.

Education savings account program: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Revenue estimates and economic development: Faizi's campaign calls for ending tax breaks for large corporations.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



DON HUFFINES

Republican, incumbent

Background: Appointed comptroller in July 2026; real estate developer and former state senator.

Website: donhuffines.com

Stated priorities: Huffines's campaign lists eliminating government waste, fraud, and abuse, transparent state budgets, and defending taxpayers as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Tax policy and budget transparency: Huffines says his commitment is to "run government lean, protect every tax dollar." He has pledged not to take a state salary, proposed auditing state spending (which he calls "DOGE-ing Texas") and returning savings through property tax relief, and pledged that no public money will benefit undocumented immigrants. In August 2026 he launched a performance review of school district spending.

Education savings account program: Huffines supports school choice. As comptroller since August 2026, he announced that 101,600 students had received Texas Education Freedom Account funding, called the program "a free market approach," and his office has asked the Legislature to double its base funding for 2027–28.

Revenue estimates and economic development: Huffines supports ending business regulations that he says impede job creation.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Commissioner of the General Land Office

Four-year term. The land commissioner manages state-owned lands and mineral rights, directs revenue to the Permanent School Fund, runs Veterans Land Board programs, and oversees coastal protection and disaster recovery programs.



DAWN BUCKINGHAM

Republican, incumbent

Background: Land commissioner since 2023; eye surgeon and former state senator.

Website: dawnbuckingham.com

Stated priorities: Buckingham's campaign lists border security through General Land Office land actions, public education funding through the Permanent School Fund, and veterans programs as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

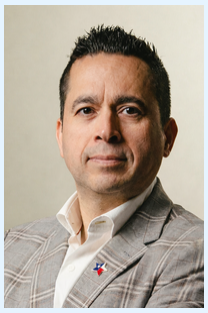
Permanent School Fund and state land management: Buckingham's campaign says the Land Office has contributed nearly $6 billion to public education during her tenure. She has announced plans to explore geothermal energy, small modular nuclear reactors, and natural gas plants on state lands and supports oil and gas production as critical to the state's economy and national security. The Land Office also operates the Alamo; Buckingham has overseen restoration there and in 2025 criticized an Alamo Trust post recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day as "woke," after which the Trust's CEO left.

Coastal protection and disaster recovery: Buckingham's campaign says the Land Office has delivered more than $9 billion in disaster recovery funding and $1 billion for flood mitigation projects during her tenure.

Veterans Land Board programs: Buckingham's campaign says the Land Office has delivered more than $1.5 billion to help veterans buy, renovate, or improve homes and property during her tenure.

Border land use and foreign land ownership: Buckingham has used Land Office land and resources to assist with border wall construction and launched the Jocelyn Initiative, committing available Land Office resources to help detain and deport "criminal illegal immigrants." In July 2026 she ordered federal contractors to stop clearing a state-owned border tract near Big Bend, saying the work was being done "illegally."

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



BENJAMIN FLORES

Democratic

Background: Bay City council member with a background in cybersecurity and compliance.

Website: letsgowithben.com

Stated priorities: Flores's campaign lists directing General Land Office revenue to public schools, expanding Veterans Land Board programs, and coastal protection and storm recovery as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Permanent School Fund and state land management: Flores prioritizes protecting and maximizing Permanent School Fund revenue for public schools and opposes school vouchers. He has said he would encourage data center developers to lease state land and proposes land swaps to encourage affordable housing. On the Alamo, which the Land Office operates, Flores opposed the removal of the Alamo Trust's CEO after the Indigenous Peoples' Day post, citing freedom of speech and academic freedom.

Coastal protection and disaster recovery: Flores proposes faster debris removal and contract approvals after disasters, including "a roster of pre-vetted Texas contractors ready to mobilize," and supports coastal resilience measures against extreme weather and climate change.

Veterans Land Board programs: Flores supports partnerships to end veteran homelessness, expanded childcare access for veterans, a VA hospital in the Rio Grande Valley, and a new assisted-living home in the Coastal Bend.

Border land use and foreign land ownership: Flores opposes the current commissioner's use of Land Office resources to acquire and transfer land for border and immigration enforcement, which he cites as his reason for entering the race.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



NEILL SNIDER

Libertarian

Background: Mechanical contractor and cattle rancher; state representative 1983–1985.

Website: voteneillsnider.com

Stated priorities: Snider's campaign website lists transparent management of state lands and mineral rights, fair energy leasing, reducing General Land Office spending, and keeping the office to its "core responsibilities."

Key Issues and Record

Permanent School Fund and state land management: Snider's campaign website proposes managing state land and mineral assets "efficiently and transparently to maximize revenue for taxpayers and public schools" or selling them, and supports fair leasing practices and respecting private property.

Coastal protection and disaster recovery: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Veterans Land Board programs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Border land use and foreign land ownership: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Commissioner of Agriculture

Four-year term. The agriculture commissioner leads the Texas Department of Agriculture, which regulates weights and measures and pesticides, promotes Texas agriculture, and administers school nutrition programs.



AUSTIN R. KELLY

Libertarian

Background: Ecologist and founder of an ecological consulting firm; former Texas A&M instructor.

Website: kellyfortx.com

Stated priorities: Kelly's campaign website lists water conservation and brush-control science, private property rights and eminent domain reform, invasive species and screwworm response, and removing barriers to direct farm sales.

Key Issues and Record

Support for farmers and ranchers, and trade: Kelly's campaign website supports voluntary rangeland conservation and stewardship programs "while defending private property rights," and proposes monitoring, sterile-insect controls, and streamlined producer reporting to address New World screwworm outbreaks.

School meals and nutrition programs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Rural water and land: Kelly's campaign website pledges to publish a review of scientific research on brush control and water yield, and lists water conservation and eminent domain reform as priorities.

Consumer protection and product regulation: Kelly's campaign website calls for removing rules restricting direct-to-consumer food sales, cottage foods, and local processing, and for focusing invasive-species enforcement on border prevention and early detection "rather than landowner fines."

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



NATE SHEETS

Republican

Background: Agriculture entrepreneur and beekeeper who built a honey business; U.S. Navy Reserve veteran.

Website: natesheets.com

Stated priorities: Sheets's campaign lists bringing agribusiness experience to the department, supporting farmers and ranchers, and restoring integrity to the office as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Support for farmers and ranchers, and trade: Sheets pledges to boost agricultural job opportunities in rural areas and to work with the Legislature to give the state authority to investigate "agro-terrorists" who might spread pathogens that damage agricultural production.

School meals and nutrition programs: Sheets, who describes himself as part of the "Make America Healthy Again" movement, pledges to help Texas farmers produce "clean and healthy food" for homes and public schools.

Rural water and land: Sheets wants data center companies to invest in water and agriculture-related funds and supports ending preferential tax breaks and subsidies for data centers.

Consumer protection and product regulation: Sheets founded Nature Nate's Honey, which emphasized testing for pesticides and herbicides, and says that experience shaped his views on healthy food.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



CLAYTON TUCKER

Democratic

Background: Farmer and rancher near Lampasas; former secretary of the Texas Farmers Union.

Website: claytontuckertx.com

Stated priorities: Tucker's campaign lists supporting family farms and ranches, fair trade for Texas producers, and protecting rural water and land as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Support for farmers and ranchers, and trade: Tucker, a former fair-trade organizer, pledges to preserve family farms and "bust monopolies" in agriculture.

School meals and nutrition programs: Tucker pledges to lower the cost of food and remove harmful chemicals from the food supply.

Rural water and land: Tucker pledges to protect Texas farmland and water from the rapid growth of data centers.

Consumer protection and product regulation: Tucker supports regulating dangerous chemicals such as PFAS and stopping the spread of microplastics.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Railroad Commissioner

Six-year term. The Railroad Commission regulates the oil and gas industry, natural gas utilities, pipelines, and surface coal mining in Texas.



ARTHUR DIBIANCA

Libertarian

Background: Retired computer programmer, formerly with the Texas Department of Transportation; longtime Libertarian activist.

Website: votedibianca.com

Stated priorities: DiBianca's campaign website lists free-market energy policy without subsidies or mandates, mineral and surface property rights, and operator accountability for well plugging and cleanup.

Key Issues and Record

Oil and gas permitting and enforcement: DiBianca's campaign website calls for holding operators "accountable for well plugging and cleanup" while making "compliance predictable and transparent," and for using bonding and insurance markets to handle environmental risk "instead of taxpayer bailouts."

Pipeline safety and gas utility rates: DiBianca's campaign website calls for "competitive access to pipelines and markets rather than monopoly protections."

Water, land and landowner impacts: DiBianca's campaign website pledges to protect mineral and surface owners "from government overreach and eminent domain abuse" and favors "voluntary, market-based solutions" for landowner–developer disputes.

Natural gas supply and power grid reliability: DiBianca's campaign website supports "all of the above" energy development and opposes government "picking winners and losers between oil, gas, wind, solar, or nuclear."

Commission accountability: DiBianca's campaign website calls for rules that prevent the commission from being "unduly influenced by the industries they regulate" and for simplifying and modernizing its regulations.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



BO FRENCH

Republican

Background: Former chair of the Tarrant County Republican Party; energy trader and rancher.

Website: bofrench.com

Stated priorities: French's campaign lists reducing regulation on oil and gas producers and enforcing state restrictions on foreign ownership of Texas land as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Oil and gas permitting and enforcement: French pledges to cut Railroad Commission regulations on oil and gas operators, saying he is running on "strengthening our oil and gas industry by lowering regulation" and opposing "radical climate change ideology" and "foreign capture" of the industry. He has said redirecting the commission's diversity, equity, and inclusion spending would make the budget for plugging abandoned wells "go much further."

Pipeline safety and gas utility rates: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Water, land and landowner impacts: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Natural gas supply and power grid reliability: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Commission accountability: French's largest donors in 2026 include the Texas Freedom Fund for the Advancement of Justice PAC, supported by oil executives Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks ($773,500), the Texas Conservative Voters PAC ($285,000), oil executive Luke Dunn ($50,000), and Farris Wilks ($25,000), per the Texas Tribune.

Religious Freedom: French's campaign website calls to "Stop the Islamic Invasion of Texas." At the Conservative Political Action Conference in Grapevine in March 2026, he said Republicans should more openly embrace Islamophobia, per the Texas Tribune.



JON ROSENTHAL

Democratic

Background: State representative from Houston (HD 135); engineer and project manager with 25 years in oil and gas.

Website: jonrosenthaltx.com

Stated priorities: Rosenthal's campaign lists data center energy policy, fair and affordable gas utility rates, and Texas energy jobs as priorities.

Key Issues and Record

Oil and gas permitting and enforcement: Rosenthal, a former oil and gas engineer, pledges to end routine flaring and venting except in emergencies, require modern leak detection and repair, deny new permits to operators that violate rules, and expand well plugging with public dashboards. He would fund plugging through a new fee on saltwater disposal and higher operator bonds, and would repurpose inactive wells for geothermal energy and carbon storage.

Pipeline safety and gas utility rates: Rosenthal pledges to lower gas utility bills through price-smoothing and storage standards, require prudence reviews before utilities pass storm costs to customers, bar recovery of costs caused by negligence, and require plain-language billing.

Water, land and landowner impacts: Rosenthal supports baseline and follow-up groundwater testing near high-risk operations and stronger liners and monitoring at oilfield waste sites.

Natural gas supply and power grid reliability: Rosenthal says natural gas delivery was the root cause of the 2021 Winter Storm Uri grid failure and supports weatherization requirements for gas facilities with deadlines, third-party audits, fines, and public reliability scorecards.

Commission accountability: Rosenthal pledges to ban industry donations to railroad commissioners, publish commissioners' calendars and recusals, and livestream enforcement hearings. His reported major donors are elected officials, including state Sen. Carol Alvarado and state Rep. Gene Wu.

Religious Freedom: During the 2025 House debate on SB 10, Rosenthal offered amendments, which were defeated. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – Absent; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – No; SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – Yes; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – [verify]; SB 2 (education savings accounts) – No [party-line vote; verify].

Judicial Races

Judicial candidates are listed by name and party. Judges are expected to decide cases impartially, and this guide does not report positions on issues for judicial candidates. At this time, we were not able to compile background information or statements for these candidates. To learn more, visit VOTE411.org, the League of Women Voters' nonpartisan voter guide, and enter your address to see the judicial candidates on your ballot and their own answers to the League's questions.

Statewide courts

Office	Candidates
Supreme Court, Chief Justice	Jimmy Blacklock (Republican, incumbent); Maggie Ellis (Democratic)
Supreme Court, Place 2 (Unexpired Term)	Chari Kelly (Democratic); James P. Sullivan (Republican, incumbent)
Supreme Court, Place 7	Kyle D. Hawkins (Republican, incumbent); Kristen Hawkins (Democratic)
Supreme Court, Place 8	Brett Busby (Republican, incumbent); Gisela D. Triana (Democratic)
Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3	Okey Anyiam (Democratic); Mark Ash (Libertarian); Thomas Smith (Republican)
Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4	Audra Riley (Democratic); Kevin Patrick Yeary (Republican, incumbent)
Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9	John Messinger (Republican); Holly Taylor (Democratic)
15th Court of Appeals, Chief Justice	Scott Brister (Republican, incumbent); Jerry Zimmerer (Democratic)
15th Court of Appeals, Place 2	Tom Baker (Democratic); Scott K. Field (Republican, incumbent)
15th Court of Appeals, Place 3	April Farris (Republican, incumbent); Marc M. Meyer (Democratic)

3rd Court of Appeals

Office	Candidates
3rd Court of Appeals, Chief Justice	Darlene Byrne (Democratic, incumbent); Cory Liu (Republican)

State Board of Education

Four-year term. The 15-member board sets curriculum standards, approves instructional materials, and oversees the Permanent School Fund. Members are unpaid. The districts below include parts of the Travis County area; only one appears on your ballot, and some addresses have no SBOE race this year.

State Board of Education, District 5



MICA ARELLANO

Republican

Background: Educator with 30 years of experience; client advocate at HTPRC.

Website: micatx.com

Key Issues

Social Studies Curriculum: Arellano says academic standards "are being diluted" and supports strong, measurable curriculum standards. No position on the social studies standards' language on Islam was located.

Teacher Support: Arellano says teachers are "overwhelmed and under-supported" and pledges to reduce burnout.

Digital Education & AI: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religion in Public Schools: Arellano's website says she is guided by "service, faith, and a deep belief that every child deserves a strong foundation." No position on religion in curriculum was located.

Other Issues: Her "Five-Star Education Standard" platform lists safe schools, strong academics, supported teachers, empowered parents, and responsible spending.



ALLISON BUSH

Democratic

Background: Former teacher and school counselor with more than 25 years in education and nonprofit leadership; has served as a TEA surrogate parent for foster children with special needs.

Website: allisonfortx.com

Key Issues

Social Studies Curriculum: Bush supports history standards shaped by educators and subject-matter experts rather than political agendas, and says students should see themselves reflected in the curriculum.

Teacher Support: Bush supports reducing paperwork, increasing retention resources, and supporting educator mental health.

Digital Education & AI: Bush says academic standards should be research-based and that technology should support student success.

Religion in Public Schools: Bush testified in opposition to the proposed social studies standards' language on Islam and opposes diverting public school funding to private religious schools through vouchers.

Other Issues: Bush opposes unchecked charter school expansion and vouchers and says all schools receiving public funds should meet the same accountability standards.

Texas Legislature

Voting records in this section are final recorded votes in the Texas House or Texas Senate on the state bills listed under "Texas House and Texas Senate bills included in the voting records" at the front of this guide. They appear only for current legislators running for a legislative seat.

Texas Senate

The Texas Senate is one of the two chambers of the Texas Legislature, where 31 senators write and vote on state laws and the state budget and confirm the governor's appointments; each senator represents one district and serves a four-year term, so only the district covering your address appears on your ballot.

Texas Senate, District 21



JULIE DAHLBERG

Republican

Background: U.S. Army veteran and glass company owner in La Vernia; 2022 Republican nominee for this seat.

Website: juliedahlberg.com

Stated priorities: No detailed campaign platform was located. Dahlberg did not respond to the 2026 ATPE candidate survey.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Education: Dahlberg says she would make school funding predictable, prioritize classroom instruction and teacher pay over bureaucracy, and give local districts flexibility, with a focus on reading proficiency.

Healthcare: Dahlberg supports increasing competition, reducing regulations and costs, expanding telehealth and rural healthcare, and price transparency.



JUDITH ZAFFIRINI

Democratic, incumbent

Background: State senator since 1987 and Dean of the Texas Senate; former communications specialist and teacher with three degrees from UT Austin.

Website: judithzaffirini.com

Stated priorities: Zaffirini's stated priorities are healthcare access including Medicaid, education and educator compensation, and property tax reduction.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation): SB 17 (foreign land ownership restrictions) – No; HCR 90 (support for a Texas trade office in Jerusalem) – Yes.

Immigration: In a March 2024 joint statement with three other senators from border districts, Zaffirini said border security is essential but that the border "cannot and will not be secured

with a wall or fence." The statement called for more cost-effective alternatives to physical barriers and said the federal government must meet its responsibility on immigration.

Religious Freedom: *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – No; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – Yes.

Civil Rights: *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – Yes; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – No.

Education: Zaffirini says Texas should fully and equitably fund public schools and pay educators significantly more. *Final Texas Senate votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 2 (education savings accounts) – No.

Healthcare: Zaffirini says healthcare is a right and supports Medicaid expansion, telemedicine, incentives for providers in rural and low-income areas, and eliminating waiting lists for critical services.

Texas House of Representatives

The Texas House of Representatives is one of the two chambers of the Texas Legislature, where 150 representatives write and vote on state laws and the state budget; each represents one district and serves a two-year term, so only the district covering your address appears on your ballot.

Texas House District 19

Covers Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, and Kendall counties and part of Travis County.



TOM LUCK

Democratic

Background: Retired Episcopal priest from Fredericksburg; placed on the ballot after the primary winner withdrew.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: No campaign website or platform was located as of October 2026.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: Luck, a retired Episcopal priest, calls for ending religious education in public schools and says it belongs in religious institutions and families.

Civil Rights: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Education: Luck calls for ending school vouchers and fully funding public schools.

Healthcare: Luck lists affordable and accessible health care among his top priorities.



ELLEN TROXCLAIR

Republican, incumbent

Background: State representative since 2023; former Austin City Council member and Texas Public Policy Foundation senior fellow.

Website: troxclairfortexas.com

Stated priorities: Troxclair's stated priorities are border security and election integrity, property tax relief, and parental rights in education.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: Troxclair was a House sponsor of SB 17. Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation): SB 17 (foreign land ownership restrictions) – Yes; HCR 90 (support for a Texas trade office in Jerusalem) – Yes

Immigration: Troxclair's official House biography says she was a key advocate for state funding to secure the border during the 2023 legislative session.

Religious Freedom: *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – Yes; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – Yes.

Civil Rights: *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – Yes; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – Yes.

Education: Troxclair says the Legislature should work toward eliminating school property taxes for homeowners while continuing to invest in education. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 2 (education savings accounts) – Yes.

Healthcare: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Texas House District 46

Unopposed.



SHERYL COLE

Democratic, incumbent

Background: State representative since 2018; former Austin mayor pro tem; accounting and law degrees from UT.

Website: sherylcole.com

Stated priorities: Cole's stated priorities are civil rights, economic opportunity, and addressing economic inequality.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation): SB 17 (foreign land ownership restrictions) – No; HCR 90 (support for a Texas trade office in Jerusalem) – Yes.

Immigration: Cole's campaign website says she will oppose anti-immigrant measures and criticizes SB 4, the 2017 state law on local immigration enforcement. It says that as an Austin City Council member she co-signed a resolution asking the Travis County Sheriff's Office to stop honoring ICE detainers and advocated for municipal IDs.

Religious Freedom: Cole signed a May 2026 letter from 41 legislators asking the Governor to rescind his threat to withhold state grant funding from Grand Prairie over a privately organized Eid event at the city-owned Epic Waters water park, which the city canceled. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – No; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – Absent.

Civil Rights: Cole's campaign website supports easier voter registration, workplace discrimination protections for LGBT Texans, and gun measures including background checks on all sales. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – Yes; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – Yes.

Education: Cole's campaign website supports a well-funded public education system and opposes private school vouchers. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 2 (education savings accounts) – No.

Healthcare: Cole's campaign website supports Medicaid expansion and more investment in community clinics, sliding-scale mental healthcare, and nonprofit providers such as Planned Parenthood.

Texas House District 47

Open seat.



JENNIFER MUSHTALER

Republican

Background: Board-certified OB-GYN and practice founder; former Austin Planning Commission member; 2020 Austin City Council candidate.

Website: drjenfortexas.com

Stated priorities: Mushtaler's campaign website lists property tax relief and lower insurance rates, small business growth, restoring police cadet classes and officer training, and congressional term limits.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Mushtaler's campaign website supports reducing crime, investing in community safety programs, and neighborhood watch initiatives.

Education: Mushtaler's campaign website supports reducing recapture, funding schools, and investing in teachers and classrooms.

Healthcare: Mushtaler's campaign website supports improving access to affordable healthcare by strengthening local providers and reducing costs.



POOJA SETHI

Democratic

Background: Immigration attorney; former chief of staff to Rep. Vikki Goodwin; chair of the Travis County Democratic Party; state representative for HD 47 in 2019–2021.

Website: poojafortexas.com

Stated priorities: Sethi's campaign website lists grid reliability and lower energy bills, gun safety, reproductive rights, water supply protection, local control of elections and school boards, and expanded voting access.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: Sethi, a former immigration attorney with Catholic Charities, has said immigration "can be handled responsibly and humanely" through more immigration judges and caseworkers, better border infrastructure, and partnerships with nonprofits and local communities.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: Sethi's campaign website supports universal background checks, safe storage requirements, and temporarily removing firearms from people found to be a danger to themselves or others; opposes state takeovers of local elections and school boards; and supports expanding early voting and protecting vote-by-mail.

Education: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Healthcare: Sethi's campaign website supports reproductive rights, including access to IVF, abortion, and contraception.

Texas House District 48



ANTHONY GUPTA

Republican

Background: No biographical information was located.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Gupta did not respond to Community Impact's candidate questionnaire, and no campaign platform was located.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Education: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Healthcare: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



DONNA HOWARD

Democratic, incumbent

Background: State representative since 2006; former critical care nurse; serves on the Sunset Advisory Commission.

Website: teamhowardtx.com

Stated priorities: Howard's stated priorities are healthcare access, education and workforce opportunities, and improving state agencies; she has named public school funding and wildfire and water planning as top challenges.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation): SB 17 (foreign land ownership restrictions) – No; HCR 90 (support for a Texas trade office in Jerusalem) – Yes

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: Howard signed the November 2025 joint statement by House members asking the Governor to rescind his proclamation designating CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood as foreign terrorist organizations. Howard signed the May 2026 letter from 41 legislators asking the Governor to rescind his threat to withhold state grant funding from Grand Prairie over a privately organized Eid event at the city-owned Epic Waters water park, which the city canceled. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – No; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – No.

Civil Rights: *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – Present, not voting; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – Yes.

Education: *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 2 (education savings accounts) – No.

Healthcare: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Texas House District 49

Open seat.



MONTSERRAT GARIBAY

Democratic

Background: Bilingual educator and labor leader who came to Austin from Mexico City at age 12 and became a citizen in 2012; former Education Austin vice president, Texas AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer, and U.S. Department of Education official.

Website: montserratfortexas.com

Stated priorities: Garibay's stated priorities are fully funding public schools, fair wages, and economic opportunity, including universal pre-K and bilingual education.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: Garibay advocated for the Texas DREAM Act and comprehensive immigration reform and started free citizenship clinics.

Religious Freedom: In a July 2026 Austin American-Statesman op-ed, she opposed the State Board of Education's requirement for Bible passages in public school reading, arguing that no single religious text should be elevated over literacy.

Civil Rights: In a campaign video, she pledged to protect students' right to free speech in response to arrests at pro-Palestine protests at UT Austin.

Education: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Healthcare: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



ARSHIA PAPARI

Green

Background: UT Austin student in government and Middle Eastern studies; co-chair of the Green Party of the United States; former Texas Capitol staffer.

Website: arshiafortexas.org

Stated priorities: In an August 2026 Community Impact questionnaire, Papari listed "building an economically just Texas, freezing rents, developing social housing, creating universal healthcare, strengthening public schools, and protecting Texans' rights." His platform also includes free childcare and state-funded grocery stores.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: According to his Green Party biography, Papari has organized student protests for Palestine, protests against ICE detention centers, and campaigns for Gaza ceasefire resolutions in Texas cities. As a 2024 Democratic National Convention delegate, he joined a sit-in calling for a Gaza ceasefire.

Immigration: Papari's campaign materials describe his campaign as "rooted in a deep commitment to the working class, immigrant families, young people, and everyday Texans." No specific immigration policy position was located.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

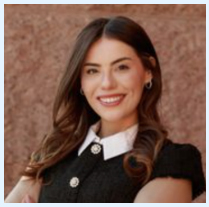
Civil Rights: Papari's platform includes ending mass incarceration and protecting protesters' rights. He has said his campaign grew out of his participation in protests against UT Austin's investments in weapons manufacturers tied to the war in Gaza, and his campaign materials describe him as standing "for liberation, human rights, and the power of people over profit."

Education: In an August 2026 Community Impact questionnaire, Papari listed "strengthening public schools" among his priorities, and his platform includes free childcare.

Healthcare: In an August 2026 Community Impact questionnaire, Papari listed "creating universal healthcare" among his priorities.

Texas House District 50

Open seat.



SAMANTHA LOPEZ-RESENDEZ

Democratic

Background: Senior policy advisor and former chief of staff to Rep. Donna Howard; former bilingual educator and school librarian.

Website: samanthafortexas.com

Stated priorities: Lopez-Resendez's campaign website lists strengthening public schools, protecting access to healthcare, defending workers' rights, and government accountability.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: Lopez-Resendez, who grew up in the Rio Grande Valley and is the daughter of immigrants, told the Austin American-Statesman that immigration reaches every corner of Texas and that students she grew up with who were not U.S. citizens "will have a voice in the Capitol."

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: In her Ballotpedia candidate survey, Lopez-Resendez lists gun safety through prevention and education and protecting civil rights and democratic institutions among her priorities.

Education: Lopez-Resendez's campaign website supports fully funding public schools, investing in teachers, and expanding student opportunities.

Healthcare: Lopez-Resendez's campaign website supports abortion access and states that health care decisions should be made by patients and medical professionals.



HOWARD OLSEN

Republican

Background: Combat veteran with 11 years of military service; first run for office.

Website: howardolsen4texas.com

Stated priorities: No campaign website or questionnaire responses were located as of October 2026. Olsen did not complete Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection survey.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

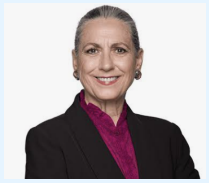
Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Education: Olsen's campaign website says teachers in overcrowded classrooms deserve better resources.

Healthcare: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Texas House District 51



LULU FLORES

Democratic, incumbent

Background: State representative since 2023 and Austin attorney.

Website: voteluluflores.com

Stated priorities: Flores's stated priorities are women's autonomy in healthcare decisions, voting rights, and healthcare access.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation): SB 17 (foreign land ownership restrictions) – No; HCR 90 (support for a Texas trade office in Jerusalem) – Yes

Immigration: Flores's campaign website calls for ending state spending on border walls, which it describes as a partisan priority, in favor of basic needs. No other immigration position was located.

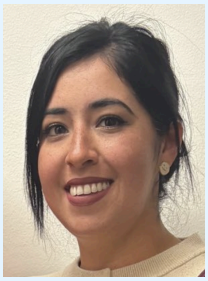
Religious Freedom: Flores signed the November 2025 joint statement by House members asking the Governor to rescind his proclamation designating CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood as foreign terrorist organizations. Flores signed the May 2026 letter from 41 legislators asking the Governor to rescind his threat to withhold state grant funding from Grand Prairie over a

privately organized Eid event at the city-owned Epic Waters water park, which the city canceled. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 10 (Ten Commandments display) – No; HB 4211 (residential property restrictions and dispute forums) – No.

Civil Rights: Flores's campaign website supports expanding voting access, including online and same-day voter registration, and policing changes such as ending qualified immunity and no-knock warrants. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 326 (antisemitism definition in student discipline) – Yes; SB 2972 (campus expressive activity) – No.

Education: Flores's campaign website supports increasing state funding for public schools and raising teacher salaries. *Final Texas House votes, 2025 (state legislation):* SB 2 (education savings accounts) – No.

Healthcare: Flores's campaign website supports expanding Medicaid, a full year of postpartum Medicaid coverage, and protecting abortion access. In a legislative newsletter, she wrote that she supported the 2025 law clarifying medical exceptions to the state's abortion ban, adding that "if it were up to me, abortion would be legal."



JESSICA MARTINEZ

Republican

Background: Grew up in the Del Valle area; first run for office.

Website: jessicaforhd51.com

Stated priorities: Martinez's campaign website states she grew up in the Del Valle area and is running to give the district "a voice." No issue positions were located on the site, and she did not complete Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection survey as of October 2026.

Key Issues and Record

Foreign Affairs: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Immigration: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Religious Freedom: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Civil Rights: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Education: Martinez's campaign website supports refocusing education on academic excellence, expanding workforce programs, and defending parents' right to guide their children's education. It also says local schools are cutting their budgets while large companies receive tax breaks.

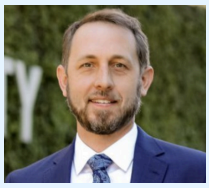
Healthcare: No position was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Travis County Races

Travis County Judge

The county judge presides over the Commissioners Court, which sets the county budget and tax rate, and directs the county's emergency management. The office is elected countywide to a four-year term.

Unopposed.



ANDY BROWN

Democratic, incumbent

Background: Travis County judge; attorney.

Website: voteandy.com

Stated priorities: Brown's stated priorities are criminal justice reform, expanding mental and behavioral health services, and child care and workforce development.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

County Commissioner, Precinct 2

County commissioners serve on the Commissioners Court, which sets the county budget and tax rate. Each is elected from one of four precincts to a four-year term, so only the precinct covering your address appears on your ballot.

Unopposed.



BRIGID SHEA

Democratic, incumbent

Background: County commissioner since 2015; former Austin City Council member.

Website: brigidshea.com

Stated priorities: Shea's stated priorities are climate and water conservation, affordable housing, and criminal justice reform.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Shea named housing affordability as the county's greatest challenge and said she would use county tools to help residents afford to live where they work. She said she has helped deliver more than 13,500 affordable homes.

County Commissioner, Precinct 4

County commissioners serve on the Commissioners Court, which sets the county budget and tax rate. Each is elected from one of four precincts to a four-year term, so only the precinct covering your address appears on your ballot.

Unopposed.



GEORGE MORALES III

Democratic, incumbent

Background: Appointed commissioner in 2026; former constable with 27 years of public service.

Website: georgeforcommissioner.com

Stated priorities: Morales's stated priorities are fixing roads and better coordination with transit and health agencies.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Morales named health care, transportation, and displacement as the county's greatest challenges and said he would work with Central Health, Capital Metro, and county health and human services to address them.

County Clerk

The county clerk keeps the county's official records, such as property deeds and marriage licenses, and serves as clerk of the county courts. The office is elected countywide to a four-year term.

Unopposed.



DYANA LIMON-MERCADO

Democratic, incumbent

Background: Travis County clerk since 2023.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: No campaign platform was located.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

District Clerk

The district clerk keeps the records of the district courts, which hear felony, family, and larger civil cases, and manages jury summonses. The office is elected countywide to a four-year term.

Unopposed.



VELVA L. PRICE

Democratic, incumbent

Background: Travis County district clerk.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: No campaign platform was located.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

County Treasurer

The county treasurer receives and deposits county funds and pays them out as directed by the Commissioners Court. The office is elected countywide to a four-year term.

Unopposed.



DOLORES ORTEGA CARTER

Democratic, incumbent

Background: Travis County treasurer.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: No campaign platform was located.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Constable, Precinct 4 (Unexpired Term)

Constables are peace officers who serve court papers, carry out court orders, and provide security for justice of the peace courts. Each is elected from a precinct to a four-year term.

Unopposed.



GABRIEL "GABE" PADILLA

Democratic, incumbent

Background: Background in law enforcement, court security, and civil process.

Website: gabeforconstable.com

Stated priorities: Padilla's stated priorities are community-first public safety, training and accountability, and professional civil process service.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Travis Central Appraisal District, Board of Directors, Place 1

The appraisal district sets property values for tax purposes. Its board hires the chief appraiser, approves the district's budget, and appoints the board that hears property value protests. Directors do not appraise property or set tax rates. Voters countywide elect three of the nine directors in nonpartisan races.

Unopposed.



SKYLER KORGEL

Nonpartisan

Background: Legislative director in the Texas House of Representatives.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Korgel's stated priorities are training for Appraisal Review Board members who decide the values of large commercial and industrial properties, and oversight of state-required audits of homestead exemptions.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Travis Central Appraisal District, Board of Directors, Place 2

The appraisal district sets property values for tax purposes. Its board hires the chief appraiser, approves the district's budget, and appoints the board that hears property value protests. Directors do not appraise property or set tax rates. Voters countywide elect three of the nine directors in nonpartisan races.

Unopposed.



BRIAN PEÑA

Nonpartisan

Background: Government relations and policy specialist for the Texas State Teachers Association; holds a business degree in accounting from UT Austin.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: No campaign platform was located.

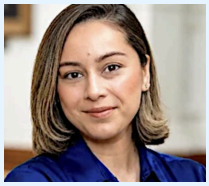
Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Travis Central Appraisal District, Board of Directors, Place 3

The appraisal district sets property values for tax purposes. Its board hires the chief appraiser, approves the district's budget, and appoints the board that hears property value protests. Directors

do not appraise property or set tax rates. Voters countywide elect three of the nine directors in nonpartisan races.



YVONNE MUÑOZ

Nonpartisan

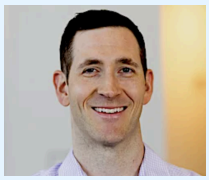
Background: Chief of staff in the Texas House of Representatives; previously worked about five years at an education nonprofit.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Muñoz's stated priority is making appraisal district information accessible to residents who may not know what to ask.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.



PHIL GORMAN

Nonpartisan

Background: Consultant who advises companies on controlling cloud computing costs; treasurer of the Circle C Homeowners Association.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Gorman's stated priority is closer review of the appraisal district's budget and spending.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

City Council, Trustees, and School Board Races

These nonpartisan races appear only on the ballots of voters who live inside the city, school district, or single-member district named. Check your sample ballot to see which, if any, apply to you. Candidates are listed alphabetically; this guide does not endorse or oppose any candidate.

City of Austin

Austin City Council races appear only on ballots of voters who live in the listed council district. Council members serve four-year terms. If no candidate wins a majority, a runoff will be held December 12.

The city council is a city's governing body. It adopts the city budget, sets the city's property tax rate, and passes local laws on matters such as zoning, public safety, streets, parks, and utilities. City council races are nonpartisan.

Austin City Council, District 1

Open seat; Council Member Natasha Harper-Madison is term-limited.



ALEXANDRIA ANDERSON

Nonpartisan race

Background: Health and wellness entrepreneur; neighborhood association chair, contact team co-chair, and chair of two City of Austin commissions; housing advocate.

Website: alexandriaforaustin.com

Stated priorities: Anderson's top priority is housing stability: deeply affordable housing, preserving existing affordable homes, and larger housing options for families. She supports multi-year financial planning, closer scrutiny of major contracts and incentives, sidewalks, safer pedestrian and bike infrastructure, Vision Zero strategies, and stronger CapMetro connections.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Anderson graded the city's affordable housing work a C-minus and said development must include deeply affordable housing, tenant protections, and steps to prevent displacement.



STEVEN BROWN

Nonpartisan race

Background: Neuro and spine clinical consultant with 20 years in healthcare; Givens Park Advisory Board member and Ending Community Homelessness board member; born and raised in East Austin.

Website: brownforaustind1.com

Stated priorities: Brown's stated priority is making City Hall work for residents, guided by "integrity, equity, accountability, and no private commitments." He supports regular program audits, plain-language justification for new spending, holding the line on taxes absent a clear reason, better sidewalks, crosswalks and bus stops, and transit-oriented development.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Brown graded the city's affordable housing work a C, saying residents keep getting priced out. He cited his push for a working kitchen at Givens Park and said he would hold the line on taxes unless there is a measurable reason to raise them.



AMBER K. GOODWIN

Nonpartisan race

Background: Travis County assistant district attorney; founder of the Community Justice Action Fund; chair of the City of Austin's gun violence task force.

Website: amberforaustin.com

Stated priorities: Goodwin's top priority is treating affordability as infrastructure, with housing stability as the foundation for safer neighborhoods. She supports coordinating housing, health, and public safety budgets around anti-displacement, eviction protection, and violence prevention, and transit-oriented development paired with guaranteed affordability.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Goodwin called the city's housing work "not equitable" and said she would pair anti-displacement tools such as eviction and homestead protections with a District 1 economic opportunity fund.



MICHAEL NAHAS

Nonpartisan race

Background: Economist and researcher with a master's degree in economics from UT Austin; chair of the city's Economic Prosperity Commission; board member of a nonprofit housing cooperative.

Website: mike4austin.org

Stated priorities: Nahas says the city has borrowed about $3.1 billion from its pension funds and pledges to stop further pension borrowing and refinance that debt at lower interest. His top priority is lowering rent and taxes, prioritizing development that brings in more tax revenue than it costs in services, and building housing near downtown with wide sidewalks, protected bike lanes, and fast buses.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Nahas graded the city's housing work an A-minus, citing falling rents. He said the city is borrowing $3.1 billion from its pension funds and that he would move that debt to lower-interest bonds.



MISAEL RAMOS

Nonpartisan race

Background: Community organizer; foreclosure prevention specialist; chair of the Blackland Community Development Corporation and neighborhood association president.

Website: misaelforaustin.com

Stated priorities: Ramos pledges to lower costs for working families and to stand up to "developer interests, tech billionaires, and the status quo." He opposes cuts and layoffs in favor of reining in contracts and consultants, supports more east-west bus connections, and wants anti-displacement funding prioritized in the next phase of Project Connect.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Ramos said the city is delivering little deeply affordable housing and called for social housing. He said the city should rein in contracts and consultants instead of making cuts and layoffs.



PORTIA RIGGINS

Nonpartisan race

Background: Accounting professional, student, and community advocate; former Travis Central Appraisal District appraisal support staff and City of Austin 311 employee; born and raised in District 1.

Website: voteforportiariggins.com

Stated priorities: Riggins's top priority is the city budget: reviewing departmental spending and outcomes, funding essential services, and requiring measurable results. She supports sidewalks, street safety, accessible infrastructure, and transit connections, and says major projects should protect existing residents from displacement.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Riggins said she would judge the city's housing work by results such as units preserved and residents served, not a letter grade, and would review departmental spending and service outcomes.

Austin City Council, District 3



GAVINO FERNANDEZ JR.

Nonpartisan race

Background: Retiree; more than 50 years of civic engagement through the neighborhood association El Concilio; former chief of staff to a Travis County Precinct 4 commissioner. Describes himself as the Democratic Socialist candidate in the race.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Fernandez supports a complete audit of every city department, a one-year reduction in non-emergency spending, consolidating duplicate functions, and reducing top management pay above $150,000. He would maintain funding to end homelessness, expand mental health care for young families and homeless teenagers, and assign social workers to help people navigate services, and he calls for enforcing truck restrictions and better traffic planning in East Austin neighborhoods.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Fernandez called for a complete audit of every city department and a one-year reduction in non-emergency spending. He said he would maintain homelessness funding and increase mental health care for young families and teenagers.



EDUARDO "LALITO" ROMERO

Nonpartisan race

Background: Technology analyst; daily rail commuter.

Website: instagram.com/eduardoforaustin

Stated priorities: Romero's top priority is affordability, including major investment in city-owned public housing for young professionals, cutting waste, and "progressive revenue strategies" rather than regressive fees. On homelessness he supports expanded mental health services and job pathways alongside enforcement against violence and theft, and on transit he supports safer, more reliable CapMetro service, affordable micromobility, and better bike and pedestrian connections.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Romero named affordability as his top priority and called for city-owned public housing and cuts to waste in the budget. He said the city should expand mental health services while enforcing laws against violence and theft.



NEHA SHAH

Nonpartisan race

Background: Product manager at Expedia Group with 20 years in technology product management; small business founder; MBA; volunteer deputy voter registrar since 2018; naturalized citizen.

Website: nehaforatx.com

Stated priorities: Shah's stated priority is transparency on spending, votes, and influence at City Hall. She supports freezing the police department budget, auditing existing bonds before new ones, accountability for Project Connect and the Convention Center, ending corporate tax breaks without community benefits, and moving homelessness services under the city's housing department. Her platform also lists immigrant safety, environmental protections, preventing displacement, digital inclusion, and small business support.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: Shah opposes encampment sweeps that do not address root causes and supports stronger east-west transit connections and microtransit. In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Shah said clearing encampments without addressing root causes is ineffective and that homelessness services should move under the city's housing department. She said she would freeze the police budget and audit existing bonds before new ones.



BROCK SKINNER

Nonpartisan race

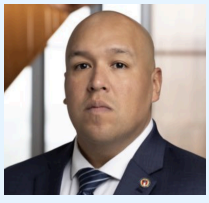
Background: Business development professional; Austin resident for 12 years; describes himself as an independent candidate focused on local issues.

Website: vote4brock.com

Stated priorities: Skinner's stated priorities are public safety, affordability, infrastructure, and responsible spending. He opposes unnecessary tax increases and supports a position-by-position review of city spending, outcome-based funding and audits for homelessness providers, moving people from encampments into shelter, treatment, and housing while enforcing laws protecting public spaces, and fixing existing roads before new transportation projects.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Skinner said he would oppose unnecessary tax increases and review city spending position by position. He said homelessness funding should be tied to outcomes, with laws protecting public spaces enforced.



JOSÉ VELÁSQUEZ

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Austin City Council member for District 3 since 2023, representing portions of East and South Austin.

Website: None located

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: Velásquez did not respond to Community Impact's September 2026 candidate questionnaire. In August 2026 he was one of three council members, with Mayor Kirk Watson and Council Member Marc Duchen, to vote against calling the $295 million parks and library bond election.

Austin City Council, District 5



FARRAH ABRAHAM

Nonpartisan race

Background: Self-employed business owner with more than 18 years running small businesses; UT Austin–certified paralegal; South Austin parent.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Abraham's top priority is neighborhood safety, including stabilizing emergency response times and supporting first responders. She supports stabilizing property taxes, auditing city spending to cut administrative costs, trauma-informed homelessness services that combine shelter with mental health and addiction care, and down-payment programs that include freelancers and gig workers.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Abraham named neighborhood safety and emergency response times as her top priority. She said she supports stabilizing property taxes and auditing city spending, and gave the city's housing work an "incomplete."



RYAN ALTER

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Austin City Council member for District 5 since 2023; degrees in engineering, government, and law; five legislative sessions as a Texas Legislature staffer.

Website: ryanforatx.com

Stated priorities: Alter's stated priorities are continuing to lower housing costs, preventing homelessness, efficient spending (he initiated a city efficiency audit), and expanding the mental health crisis response model he has championed.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: Alter says the council nearly doubled the senior homestead exemption and nearly doubled shelter and housing capacity during his term, and that fewer people became homeless in each of the past two years. He credits changes to the city's housing rules with Austin leading the nation in housing construction and falling housing costs. In August 2026 he was part of the council's 8–3 majority that voted to call the $295 million parks and library bond election.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Alter said the council nearly doubled the senior homestead exemption and nearly doubled shelter and housing

capacity during his term, and that fewer people became homeless in each of the past two years. He credited changes to the city's housing rules with lowering housing costs.



LIZ BRINK

Nonpartisan race

Background: Union electrician with more than 15 years running panel and prefab shops.

Website: lizbrinkatx.com

Stated priorities: Brink's stated priorities are transparency and accountability, addressing homelessness as a public safety and environmental issue, and an in-depth audit of city spending before any tax increase. She supports Proposition I, moving from a housing-first to a treatment-first homelessness policy, and enforcing the camping ban.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Brink graded the city's affordable housing work a D, citing fee-in-lieu options that let developers avoid building affordable units. She said the city should move from a housing-first to a treatment-first homelessness policy and enforce the camping ban.



DAVID WEINBERG

Nonpartisan race

Background: Full-time candidate with 25 years of work in government and public service.

Website: davidforatx.com

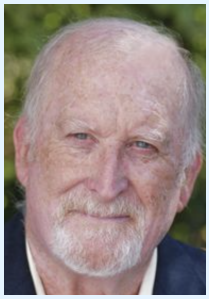
Stated priorities: Weinberg's stated priorities are listening to residents, constituent service, affordability, public safety, and improving parks, public schools, and public amenities. He supports a full audit of city spending before any future tax increase and distributing homelessness services across the city rather than concentrating them in one district.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Weinberg called the city's housing policy "a mixed bag," saying new rental construction has helped rents but the HOME initiative is not creating affordable housing in District 5. He said homelessness services should be distributed across the city.

Austin City Council, District 8

Open seat; Council Member Paige Ellis is term-limited.



JEFFERY BOWEN

Nonpartisan race

Background: President of the Austin Neighborhoods Council and chair of the City of Austin Board of Adjustment; 2024 mayoral candidate.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Bowen's stated priorities are reducing the city's bond debt and deficit, supporting audits of city programs to measure performance, leadership, responsible spending, public safety, and responsiveness.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Bowen graded the city's affordable housing work a C-minus and said the HOME initiative has not produced affordable housing. He called city spending "out of control" and said he would work to reduce bond debt and support audits of city programs.



SELENA XIE

Nonpartisan race

Background: Commander with Austin-Travis County EMS, ICU nurse, and labor leader.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Xie's top priority is making District 8 "more affordable, safe, resilient, and responsive." She supports regular audits of every city department, outcome-based budgeting, and spending transparency, and more sidewalks, transit options, trails, and bike infrastructure, and says the city must do much more on affordable housing.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Xie said the city has made meaningful investments in affordable housing but needs more deeply affordable and family-friendly housing. She said she would support regular audits of every city department and outcome-based budgeting.

Austin City Council, District 9



RICH HEYMAN

Nonpartisan race

Background: Professor of urban studies for more than 20 years; longtime work with community organizations and neighborhood groups.

Website: richforaustin.org

Stated priorities: Heyman says growth has benefited the wealthy while working people struggle, and pledges to shift development policy toward working families and local businesses, invest in housing for families earning under $40,000, distribute homelessness services across all 10 districts, and end tax breaks and deals for wealthy companies. His platform also lists a climate equity plan and protecting public spaces and jobs from privatization.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Heyman called for ending "back-room deals" and secret votes and for genuine public participation at council meetings. He said he would work to stop tax breaks for wealthy companies.



KAI HUANG

Nonpartisan race

Background: No biographical information was located.

Website: None located

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: Huang did not respond to Community Impact's September 2026 candidate questionnaire, and no campaign platform was located.



KATIE KAM

Nonpartisan race

Background: Civil and transportation engineer, community and regional planner, former Austin ISD teacher, small business owner, and former city employee; Austin resident since 1983.

Website: katiekamforaustin.com

Stated priorities: Kam's top priority is "win-win" solutions developed through public engagement on transportation, housing, public safety, parks, and infrastructure. She supports reducing tax and fee burdens, thorough audits, prioritizing core services such as sidewalks, streets, drainage, and parks, tailoring homelessness services to specific groups, reducing evictions, and canceling the planned South Austin navigation center.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Kam said the city should reduce tax and fee burdens, conduct thorough audits, and prioritize core needs such as sidewalks, streets, and drainage. She said homelessness plans should be tailored to specific groups and that the planned South Austin navigation center should be canceled.



ZO QADRI

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Austin City Council member for District 9 since 2023; community organizer and state and local policy professional.

Website: zoforaustin.com

Stated priorities: Qadri says he is running again to continue progress on housing, transit, and affordability. On homelessness he emphasizes prevention, shelter, services, and permanent housing with measurable results, and on spending he supports protecting essential services and the city workforce along with internal reviews of spending, contracts, and programs.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Qadri said he recently led an evaluation of the city's homelessness programs and supports internal reviews of spending, contracts, and programs. In August 2026 he was part of the council's 8–3 majority that voted to call the $295 million parks and library bond election.



DAVE THADANI

Nonpartisan race

Background: University of Texas at Austin student; member of the Texas State Employees Union.

Website: https://daveforaustintx.com/

Stated priorities: Thadani says he is running to restore transparency and accountability at City Hall and takes no corporate funding. His platform centers on renter protections, including a public portal scoring landlords on code compliance; safer, more walkable streets with better drainage, green space, and transit; and affordable housing for families, workers, and students.

Record and Public Statements

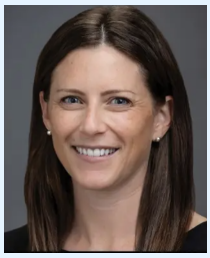
Public statements and actions: Thadani did not respond to Community Impact's candidate questionnaire. His campaign publishes a running public log of the steps he has taken as a candidate.

Austin Community College District Board of Trustees

Trustees are elected at large by voters across the college's taxing district and serve six-year terms.

The board of trustees governs the community college district. It hires the college's chief executive, adopts the budget and property tax rate, sets tuition, and approves college policy. Trustees serve six-year terms, and the races are nonpartisan.

Place 1



DANA WALKER

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: ACC trustee for six years; retired from technology consulting for private companies and the federal government.

Website: danawalkerforacc.com

Stated priorities: Walker's stated priorities are expanding the college's free tuition program and making it permanent, student fluency in AI and technology, and taxpayer-conscious decision-making.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Walker said cost is only one barrier to education and called for partnerships that support students with food, mental health, childcare, housing, and emergency assistance.



GLORIA GONZALES-DHOLAKIA

Nonpartisan race

Background: Vice president of alumni and public policy at the Jeremiah Program; Leander ISD trustee; former ACC adjunct instructor; holds a Ph.D.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Gonzales-Dholakia's stated priorities are increasing student completion, strengthening pathways to careers and four-year universities, and removing barriers that keep students, including student-parents, from finishing.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Gonzales-Dholakia called for stronger partnerships with school districts so career training starts in high school, flexible scheduling for working parents, and expanded dual-credit programs.

Place 2

Unopposed.



GIGI EDWARDS BRYANT

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: ACC trustee seeking a third term.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: No campaign platform was located.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Place 3



TREVOR HALE

Nonpartisan race

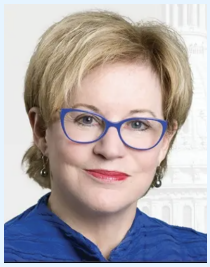
Background: Retired professor and administrator who worked at Huston-Tillotson University, Texas A&M, and the University of Houston-Downtown; former scientist at the Office of Naval Research; holds a Ph.D.

Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trevor_Hale

Stated priorities: Hale's stated priorities are reducing logistical and financial barriers to higher education and career training, increasing transparency at the college, and improving how it communicates its community impact.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Hale said the college is doing a "tremendous job" and could improve most in connecting skills training to jobs, saying career placement should be "job one."



NAN McRAVEN

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: ACC trustee and four-term board chair; owner of McRaven Consulting; former Motorola vice president and Travis County budget director.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: McRaven's stated priorities are affordability for students and the community, maintaining the free tuition program for graduating seniors, and preparing students for good-paying jobs.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, McRaven said the college must manage its budget to continue the free tuition program trustees adopted in 2024, and should make registration, advising, and financial aid easy to navigate.

Austin Independent School District

Austin ISD trustee races appear only on ballots of voters who live in Austin ISD; district seats appear only for voters in that trustee district, and the at-large seat appears for all Austin ISD voters. Austin ISD faces a possible state takeover after two middle schools received a fifth consecutive failing rating; under a takeover, the Texas Education Agency could appoint a board of managers in place of elected trustees.

The board of trustees governs the school district. It hires and evaluates the superintendent, adopts the district's budget and property tax rate, sets district policy, and calls bond elections. Trustees do not run schools day to day. School board races are nonpartisan.

Austin ISD Trustee, District 1



CHERYL BRADLEY

Nonpartisan race

Background: Former Austin ISD trustee for District 1 (2002–2015); works in veteran services at the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Website: https://www.cherylbradleyford1.com/

Stated Priorities: Bradley says she is running because she believes the district is not putting children first, citing its number of F-rated campuses. She says trustees need to ask hard questions of district leaders.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Bradley named a possible Texas Education Agency takeover as the district's first challenge and said students must remain the primary focus, with the goal of lifting all F-rated schools. She said the district should focus on struggling campuses and review whether its administrative structure supports teaching and learning.



CANDACE L. HUNTER

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Austin ISD trustee for District 1 (Northeast Austin) since 2022; the only incumbent seeking reelection among the five seats on the ballot.

Website: https://hunterforaisd.wixsite.com/my-site

Stated Priorities: Hunter's campaign site describes her focus as advocating for teachers, students, and families. She says she is running again to continue the district's ongoing work to improve student outcomes.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Hunter named state intervention as the district's biggest challenge and said she would support the administration in appealing or modifying any state agreement and work to minimize harm to families and teachers. She said the district must improve how it communicates with families about budget decisions.

Austin ISD Trustee, District 4

Open seat; Trustee Kathryn Whitley Chu did not file for reelection.



EDWARD M. BRADFIELD

Nonpartisan race

Background: Former Lamar Middle School PTA president.

Website: https://www.edward4aisd.com/

Stated Priorities: Bradfield says he decided to run after seeing how the district communicated with affected schools, parents, and staff about a 2025 proposal to move Dobie Middle School students to Lamar Middle School. He names the district's budget as one of his most pressing issues and opposes a state takeover of the district.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Bradfield said the district's biggest challenge is managing the consequences of waiting too long to act, including state-required intervention, closures, budget deficits, and declining enrollment. He said he would cut executive and central-office positions before student services and protect special education and campus librarians.



TRICIA MITCHELL KIM

Nonpartisan race

Background: Mental health care administrator; former communications chair of the Austin Council of PTAs; former Austin ISD student and parent.

Website: https://sites.google.com/view/tricia4aisd?pli=1&authuser=0

Stated Priorities: Kim says she will protect local control, honor Austin's history, and advocate for a baseline academic standard on all campuses. She says she will represent the parent perspective on the board and provide consistent, transparent engagement and communication.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Kim named a potential Texas Education Agency intervention and failing campuses as the district's biggest challenge, and said she would demand transparency about student progress and seek input from teachers and guardians



JESSICA NEUFELD

Nonpartisan race

Background: Former advocacy chair of the Lamar Middle School PTA.

Website: https://www.jessieforaisd.com/

Stated Priorities: Neufeld says she is running to keep community voice in decisions about Austin ISD schools as the district faces a possible state takeover, and to advocate for public school funding. Her campaign site describes her goals as thriving students, supported teachers, and clear communication that builds trust across neighborhoods.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Neufeld said the district's biggest challenge is what she described as an effort to weaken Texas public education through underfunding, vouchers, charter school expansion, and state takeovers. She said she would hold the district accountable while pushing the state for more resources.

Austin ISD Trustee, District 6

Open seat; Trustee Andrew Gonzales did not file for reelection.



SARAH DILLE

Nonpartisan race

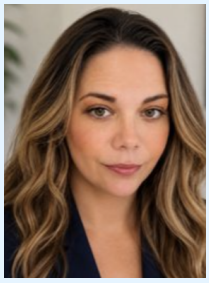
Background: Educator for 26 years, including at Navarro High School in Austin ISD; now trains teachers at the University of Texas.

Website: sarahforaisd.com

Stated Priorities:

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Dille named protecting the district's autonomy as its biggest challenge and said a state takeover would remove important decisions from the Austin community. She said she would encourage more long-term budget planning and prioritize student-facing services.



MARIE LEBRON

Nonpartisan race

Background: Community advocate.

Website: https://marieforaisdtrustee.com/

Stated priorities: Lebron's stated priorities are student outcomes, literacy, special education, fiscal accountability, and meaningful community engagement; she says the district needs trustees who "listen, ask hard questions" and advocate for students, families, and staff.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Lebron said the district faces several challenges at once, including possible state intervention, financial pressures, enrollment losses, and school closures. She said she would prioritize the campus-level needs of students and staff while rebuilding trust and financial transparency.



ALEX SAN MARTIN

Nonpartisan race

Background: Former teacher in Austin ISD and Houston ISD; former legislative aide at the Texas Capitol with experience at the San Antonio and Bexar County tax offices.

Website: alexforaisd6.com

Stated priorities: San Martin's stated priorities are student learning and financial responsibility, supporting teachers, and protecting schools "from state overreach" through his policy experience.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: San Martin has said that if the district improves academics and student outcomes, "the state won't bother us."

Austin ISD Trustee, District 7

Open seat; Trustee David Kauffman did not file for reelection.



JIMMY COUNIHAN

Nonpartisan race

Background: Communications director for a Texas state representative; Bowie High School graduate who served on a district advisory council as a student.

Website: https://www.jimmyforaisd.com/

Stated Priorities: Counihan says he wants to preserve student programs despite budget cuts by raising new revenue, including leasing closed campuses to service providers such as Austin Community College or medical providers, with community input. He also wants more academic support and training for new teachers.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: Counihan has said that if the Texas Education Agency took over the district and sidelined the elected board, he would be a voice for the community. In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Counihan named the effect of declining enrollment on the budget as the district's biggest challenge and said he would work to understand why families are leaving. He said he would cut waste at district headquarters to restore funding for community and academic support programs.



LAURIE SOLIS

Nonpartisan race

Background: Former president of the Austin Council of PTAs and longtime district volunteer; her three children graduated from Austin ISD schools.

Website: https://laurieforaisd.com/

Stated Priorities: Solis says she wants to help Austin ISD improve its reputation with families and teachers, creating a culture where teachers feel supported and families want to enroll. She also wants to improve communication between the district and parents and to focus on math instruction.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: Solis says she hopes to help improve the district's reputation and would be a voice for the community if the state took over the district. In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Solis said the district's biggest challenge is supporting and retaining its people, and that the budget should prioritize keeping and developing strong teachers and staff. She said she would engage families, educators, and the community in open dialogue about the district's challenges.

Austin ISD Trustee, At-Large Position 9

Open seat; Trustee Arati Singh did not file for reelection.



KIRK BECKER

Nonpartisan race

Background: Retired information technology support worker; ran for Austin mayor in 1997.

Website: https://www.kirk4aisd.com

Stated priorities: Becker says he is running to address students leaving Austin ISD for charter schools, and proposes shifting the district's students to nonprofit-run charter schools, which he says would increase funding because charters do not pay into the state's recapture program. He says his priority on the district tax rate would be $0.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Becker named the state's recapture of district tax revenue and the possible takeover as the district's biggest challenge.



PAMELA MATHAI

Nonpartisan race

Background: Teacher for 15 years in Houston, Dallas, and Austin ISDs; parent of an Austin ISD student.

Website: https://www.pamelaforaisd.com/

Stated Priorities: Mathai says her top priority is protecting teacher autonomy and the district's independence, and that she will work to protect Austin ISD from a state takeover. She says she will prioritize funding schools based on need, protect staff pay, and monitor the budget closely with input from all stakeholders.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: Mathai says the possibility of a state takeover motivated her to run, and she opposes a takeover. In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, she said she would advocate at the Legislature for a higher per-student basic allotment and against vouchers, and for more investment in transportation and special education services.



CYNTHIA SOLIZ

Nonpartisan race

Background: Education attorney who works with public school districts and parent of two Austin ISD students.

Website: https://www.cynthiasolizforaustinaisd.com

Stated Priorities: Soliz says her top goal is to reduce the impact on students of any Texas Education Agency action, whether a full takeover, conservatorship, or monitoring. She says this means minimizing disruption at the campus level, with support where needed and autonomy where it is not.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: Soliz hopes the district can negotiate a lesser form of state intervention than a full takeover. In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, she said she has done

education work in Austin since 2008, on issues including bilingual education and lead remediation.

Del Vale Independent School District

Del Valle ISD is in southeastern Travis County. Trustees are elected from single-member districts to four-year terms, so only the district covering your address appears on your ballot.

The board of trustees governs the school district. It hires and evaluates the superintendent, adopts the district's budget and property tax rate, sets district policy, and calls bond elections. Trustees do not run schools day to day. School board races are nonpartisan.

Del Valle ISD Trustee, Single Member District 3



CHARLES BURTON

Nonpartisan race, Incumbent

Background: Del Valle ISD trustee for Single Member District 3 since his February 2025 appointment to fill a vacancy; educator with more than 20 years in public education and former head football coach at Del Valle High School.

Website: https://burtonfordelvalle.com/

Stated Priorities: Burton says students should be college and career ready, knowing how to apply to colleges, trade schools, or the military and prepared to succeed in the path they choose. He says families should work together with district leadership and that his goal is to make Del Valle ISD a district families choose.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: When he was appointed, Burton said he saw board service as a chance to "reconnect with our community" and make a difference in the lives of students.



CLAIRE CAMPOS-O'NEAL

Nonpartisan race

Background: Founding president of the Del Valle ISD Education Foundation and a member of its board of directors.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: No campaign platform was located.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Del Valle ISD Trustee, Single Member District 5



JASON SIERRA

Nonpartisan race, Incumbent

Background: Del Valle ISD trustee for Single Member District 5 since his August 2025 appointment to fill a vacancy.

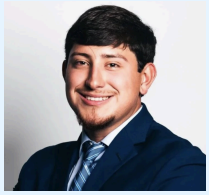
Website: None located

Stated Priorities: None located

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: None located

Del Valle ISD Trustee, Single Member District 7



JOSH CASTRO

Nonpartisan race

Background: Born and raised in Del Valle and a graduate of Del Valle High School; small business owner.

Website: https://www.joshcastrofordvisd.com/

Stated Priorities: Castro's stated priorities are putting students, staff, and teachers first, improving school grades, taking care of taxpayer money, listening to the community, and bringing Del Valle together.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: None located



SUSANNA LEDESMA-WOODY

Nonpartisan race, Incumbent

Background: Del Valle ISD trustee since 2011 and board vice president; project manager at Advanced Micro Devices. Longtime resident of southeastern Travis County and president and founding member of the Del Valle Community Coalition.

Website: votesusanna.net

Stated Priorities: Ledesma Woody's stated priorities include public school funding, competitive pay and support for teachers and staff, safe and modern schools, career and college opportunities, mental health and student support services, responsible use of taxpayer dollars, and transparency in district decisions.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: None located

Del Valle ISD Trustee, Single Member District 8



ROBERT "BOBBY" HIDROGO

Nonpartisan race

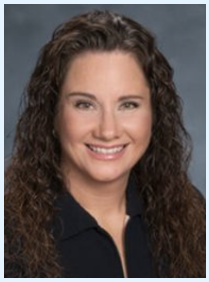
Background: No biographical information was located.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: No campaign platform was located.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: None located



DARLA WEGNER

Nonpartisan race, Incumbent

Background: Del Valle ISD trustee for Single Member District 8 and board secretary; a trustee since before 2014 and board president from November 2024 to July 2026. She also serves as a board representative on the District Advisory Team.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: No campaign platform was located.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: None located

Del Valle ISD Trustee, Single Member District 9



STEPHANIE ARELLANO

Nonpartisan race

Background: Del Valle ISD alumna and parent, as she described herself at a November 2025 board meeting.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: None located

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: Speaking to the board in November 2025 in support of a family member's employee grievance, Arellano said district culture "requires accountability, leadership, and willingness to confront what is wrong."



MIKE RANDOLPH

Nonpartisan race

Background: Del Valle ISD parent and founding president of the Gilbert Elementary parent-teacher organization; holds a master's degree in education and formerly led talent programs at Tesla.

Website: https://www.mikefordelvalle.com/

Stated Priorities: Randolph's stated priorities are a board that listens to teachers and parents, retaining teachers, improving student attendance, and ensuring the district receives its fair share of tax revenue from Tesla.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: None located



GLORIA VERA-BEDOLLA

Nonpartisan race, Incumbent

Background: Districtwide engagement coordinator in Austin ISD's family and community engagement office, with more than 20 years of community engagement experience.

Website: https://www.gloriaverabedolla.com/

Stated Priorities: Vera-Bedolla says she is running because she believes in thoughtful leadership, meaningful community engagement, and keeping students at the center of board decisions.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: None located

Round Rock Independent School District

Round Rock ISD covers parts of Williamson and Travis counties. Trustees are elected at large, so all Round Rock ISD voters may vote in every race. Trustees serve four-year terms.

The board of trustees governs the school district. It hires and evaluates the superintendent, adopts the district's budget and property tax rate, sets district policy, and calls bond elections. Trustees do not run schools day to day. School board races are nonpartisan.

Round Rock ISD Trustee, Place 3



GREGORY GLENN ANDREW

Nonpartisan race

Background: Family nurse practitioner and retired U.S. Army Reserve major; Round Rock ISD substitute teacher from 1997 to 2002.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: Andrew says his priorities are educational excellence, student and faculty satisfaction, and helping the district adapt to budget changes without cutting educators' salaries and benefits.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Andrew named the district spending beyond its budget as its most pressing issue.



AMBER FELLER LANDRUM

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Round Rock ISD trustee for Place 3 since 2018 and former board president; licensed professional counselor; Round Rock resident since 2002 and district volunteer since 2008, including as chair of a subcommittee of the 2018 Citizens Bond Committee.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: Landrum says her priorities are improving student outcomes and retaining teachers and staff, including through higher pay.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Landrum named the budget as the district's most pressing issue and said she would balance it by raising revenue and finding efficiencies while protecting classrooms.



AYAAN AHMED MOLEDINA

Nonpartisan race

Background: Federal policy director at Students Engaged in Advancing Texas, an education policy organization; Round Rock ISD graduate who has worked in Congress and the Texas Legislature.

Website: ayaan4rrisd.com

Stated priorities: Moledina says his priorities are mental health and suicide prevention education, protecting diversity and inclusion programs, reducing reliance on standardized tests, and reforming student discipline.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Moledina named disparities between campuses as the district's most pressing issue, citing gaps in PTA budgets.



VERA SOUTHWELL

Nonpartisan race

Background: No biographical information was located.

Website: https://verasouthwell.com/

Stated Priorities: Southwell says her priorities are listening to students, families, and staff, connecting their experiences with district data, setting clear priorities, measuring results, and holding the board accountable.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Southwell named financial sustainability and effective use of resources as the district's most pressing issue.

Round Rock ISD Trustee, Place 4

Unopposed.



ALICIA MARKUM

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Round Rock ISD board president; trustee for Place 4 since 2022.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: No 2026 campaign platform was located. Markum is the only candidate who filed for this seat.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In a January 2026 district feature on its trustees, Markum said a strong public school system is essential to a thriving community and that every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential

Round Rock ISD Trustee, Place 5

Open seat; Trustee Amy Weir did not file for reelection.



MIRIAM ROSE ARORA

Nonpartisan race

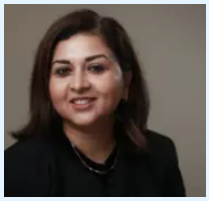
Background: Round Rock resident since 2012 and parent of two Round Rock ISD students; manages partnerships and contracts with employer recruiting and hiring platforms.

Website: miriamforrrisd.com

Stated priorities: Arora's priorities, which she calls "Rigor, Responsibility and Readiness," are strong early reading, competitive teacher pay, parent involvement, disciplined spending, and college, career, and certification programs aligned with a changing workforce. She calls protecting classrooms while rebuilding reserves the top issue, citing a projected $23.6 million shortfall, and would review overtime, stipends, vacancies, and vendor contracts.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Arora named protecting classrooms while rebuilding reserves as the district's most pressing issue, citing a projected $23.6 million shortfall. She said she would review overtime, stipends, vacancies, and vendor contracts.



MEGHNA ROY

Nonpartisan race

Background: Round Rock ISD parent and technology executive (chief product and technology officer); fine arts advocate; volunteer for human rights, education, and child advocacy for 25 years.

Website: www.meghnaroy.com

Stated priorities: Roy's stated priorities are expanding advanced academics and career and technical education, strong extracurriculars, retaining teachers, librarians, and staff, matching spending to actual enrollment, and actionable transparency for families. She identifies the budget squeeze from flat state funding, declining enrollment, and "public dollars moving to private schools," along with teacher turnover, as the district's most pressing issues.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Roy named two pressing issues for the district: a budget squeeze from flat state funding, declining enrollment, and "public dollars moving to private schools," and educators leaving over pay and working conditions.

Round Rock ISD Trustee, Place 6



FABIAN CUERO

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Business intelligence professional with nearly two decades of school and community service; appointed to Round Rock ISD Place 6 in September 2025 after Trustee Tiffanie Harrison resigned.

Website: cuero4rrisd.com

Stated Priorities:

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Cuero said the state continues to underfund public schools, forcing difficult budget decisions, and that the district must make those choices transparently to avoid misinformation and community backlash.



TROY JAMES EVANOVICH

Nonpartisan race

Background: Veteran with 29 years of military service; B.S. in education with Round Rock ISD classroom experience; quality executive and community leader.

Website: troyfortrustee.com

Stated priorities: Evanovich pledges "disciplined leadership, classroom perspective, fiscal responsibility," and a focus on student success. He supports competitive teacher pay paired with disciplined district budgeting, reducing time, paperwork, and personal-expense burdens on teachers, and judging major decisions by whether they strengthen the classroom.

Record and Public Statements
Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Evanovich named improving student achievement while retaining teachers and maintaining financial stability as the district's most pressing challenge. He said the district must keep resources focused on classrooms and rebuild trust through transparent decision-making.

City of Pflugerville and Pflugerville ISD

Pflugerville and Pflugerville ISD cover parts of Travis and Williamson counties. City council members and trustees are elected at large to three-year terms. Pflugerville City Council Place 6 and 14 proposed amendments to the city charter are also on the ballot for Pflugerville residents; check your sample ballot for those items.

The city council is a city's governing body. It adopts the city budget, sets the city's property tax rate, and passes local laws on matters such as zoning, public safety, streets, parks, and utilities. City council races are nonpartisan.

Pflugerville City Council, Place 2

Both candidates currently serve on the council; Rogers holds Place 6.



DAVID ROGERS

Nonpartisan race

Background: Pflugerville City Council member for Place 6, running for Place 2.

Website: electmisterrogers.com

Stated Priorities: Rogers says his priorities are affordability and accountability, including responsible spending, affordable taxes and utility costs, public safety, reliable water, better roads, parks, and economic development.

Record and Public Statements
Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Rogers named affordability as the city's greatest challenge. He said he was the only council member to vote to let residents vote on the city's debt for a City Hall project.



CEASAR RUIZ

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Pflugerville City Council member for Place 2.

Website: None located

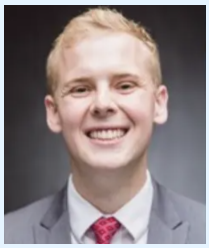
Stated Priorities: Ruiz says his priorities are public safety, affordability, and economic development, with growth that protects what makes Pflugerville home.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Ruiz named affordability as one of the city's greatest challenges and said the city should pursue economic development that brings higher-paying jobs and strengthens the tax base.

Pflugerville City Council, Place 4

Open seat; Council Member Rudy Metayer is term-limited.



TRENT BARLOW

Nonpartisan race

Background: No biographical information was located.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Barlow says he wants to represent all residents and that as the city grows it must protect taxpayers, expand economic opportunity, support local businesses, and ensure residents can trust how decisions are made and tax dollars spent.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Barlow named growth as the city's greatest challenge and opportunity, and said the city must build infrastructure for newcomers without overburdening current residents.



GREGORY L. HARRINGTON

Nonpartisan race

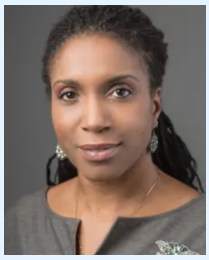
Background: Pflugerville resident for 28 years; community organizer at the local, state, and federal levels; member of the Pflugerville Charter Commission.

Website: gregory-harrington.com

Stated priorities: Harrington says the city's greatest challenge is recognizing that Pflugerville is no longer a small town and needs services and amenities to match its size; he pledges to help educate residents about needed growth areas and to support businesses, including through the Pflugerville Community Development Corporation, under the slogan "Move Pflugerville Pforward."

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Harrington said the city's greatest challenge is recognizing that Pflugerville is no longer a small town and needs services and amenities to match its size.



DE JUANA "DE J." LOZADA

Nonpartisan race

Background: Pflugerville resident for 20 years; business owner with federal, state, and local public service experience; vice president of the Pflugerville Economic Development Corporation.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: Lozada's stated priorities are affordability, economic development, and transparency. She says the city must protect taxpayers, expand economic opportunity, support local businesses, and ensure residents can trust how decisions are made and tax dollars spent.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Lozada named affordability as the city's greatest challenge and said she would advocate for responsible spending and economic development that strengthens the tax base.

Pflugerville ISD Trustee, Place 6



JEAN MAYER

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Pflugerville ISD trustee for Place 6 since 2020; nonprofit leader, multimedia business owner, parent, and public policy advocate.

Website: JeanPforPflugerville.com

Stated Priorities: Mayer's stated priorities are increasing enrollment, advancing the district's state and federal legislative priorities, and continuing progress on its strategic plan, with a focus on responsible stewardship, student outcomes, and safety and security.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Mayer said she wants the district to establish a stakeholder legislative advisory committee, strengthen enrollment and marketing, and expand programming aligned with college, military, and employment pathways.



NICOLE TORAN

Nonpartisan race

Background: Transplant education advocate with 29 years in health care and higher education; veteran; doctoral candidate; community volunteer.

Website: nicoleforpflugerville.org

Stated priorities: Toran proposes turning closed schools into student enrichment and innovation centers through partnerships with groups such as Boys & Girls Clubs, offering tutoring, mentoring, and STEM programs.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Toran proposed turning closed schools into student enrichment and innovation centers through partnerships with groups such as Boys & Girls Clubs, offering tutoring, mentoring, and STEM programs.

Pflugerville ISD Trustee, Place 7

Other candidates for this seat, if any, were not located; check your sample ballot.



CHEVONNE LORIGO-JOHST

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Pflugerville ISD board president and Place 7 trustee since 2023; small business owner and parent of five Pflugerville ISD students. Former parent-teacher organization president with about 15 years on district committees.

Website: chevonne4pfisd.com

Stated priorities: Lorigo-Johst's stated priorities are budget stewardship that keeps classrooms, staff, and student services first; advocacy at the Capitol for school funding, equity, and local control; and safe campuses, counselors in schools, strong student services, and clear accountability. Her campaign highlights her work on English learner and special education services.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Leander Independent School District

Leander ISD covers parts of Williamson and Travis counties. Trustees are elected at large to four-year terms, so all Leander ISD voters may vote in every race.

The board of trustees governs the school district. It hires and evaluates the superintendent, adopts the district's budget and property tax rate, sets district policy, and calls bond elections. Trustees do not run schools day to day. School board races are nonpartisan.

Leander ISD Trustee, Place 1

Open seat; Trustee Trish Bode did not seek reelection.



SERENITY COATS

Nonpartisan race

Background: Accredited financial counselor with 20 years of experience in education and military family and community advocacy; Leander ISD parent and district volunteer.

Website: serenity4lisd.com

Stated priorities: Coats's stated priorities are engaging legislators for adequate state funding, operational and fiscal efficiency, balancing campus use so resources reach classrooms, campus safety, improving enrollment and attendance, college, career, and military readiness, and adding career exploration to financial education.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Coats said she wants the district to expand academic programs, add career exploration to its financial education curriculum, and grow partnerships that promote military and career readiness.



GERALD PRATER

Nonpartisan race

Background: Gerald Prater passed away in early October 2026. Longtime Leander ISD parent and volunteer; candidate for Leander ISD Place 5 in 2024.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: No 2026 campaign platform was located.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: No public statement was located in the materials reviewed for this guide.

Leander ISD Trustee, Place 2

Open seat; Trustee Gloria Gonzales-Dholakia did not seek reelection.



MEG DEAN

Nonpartisan race

Background: Technical writer, analyst, and former teacher.

Website: megdean.org

Stated priorities: Dean says she is running to prevent school closures, arguing that most closures would save little money, crowd students into portable buildings, and could cost the district enrollment and funding.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Dean said most school closures would save little money, crowd students into portable buildings, and could cost the district enrollment and funding.



PERLA MUÑOZ HOPKINS

Nonpartisan race

Background: Educator, veteran, and former Leander ISD teacher with master's degrees in teaching, adult education, and Spanish; parent of three Leander ISD graduates.

Website: perla4lisd.com

Stated Priorities: Hopkins says her priorities are parents, students, and teachers. She says the district should collaborate with local law enforcement, cut spending that does not directly support student learning and teacher retention, and lower taxes.

Record and Public Statements
Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Hopkins said she supports orchestra programs at secondary schools and overturning the district's clear-bag policy and its 90-second limit on public comment at board meetings.



CHITRA NEDUN

Nonpartisan race

Background: Leander ISD parent, community volunteer, and technology leader.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: Nedun's stated priorities are supporting students through early intervention, special education, bilingual, and advanced academic programs; balancing enrollment across campuses; protecting classroom funding; and restoring public trust through transparent communication.

Record and Public Statements
Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Nedun said she would advocate for expanded business, trade, and entrepreneurship programs, workforce housing partnerships for educators, and open community forums.

Leander ISD Trustee, Place 6

Marques was appointed in October 2025. Other candidates for this seat, if any, were not located; check your sample ballot.



LAURA MARQUES

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Leander ISD trustee for Place 6 since her October 2025 appointment to fill a vacancy; parent of two Tarvin Elementary students; holds a Ph.D.

Website: None located

Stated Priorities: NA

Record and Public Statements
Public statements and actions: Marques says she intends to keep working to represent the whole Leander ISD community.

Leander ISD Trustee, Place 7



JASON EMBRY

Nonpartisan race

Background: Strategic communicator and education advocate.

Website: jasonembry.com

Stated priorities: Embry's stated priorities are reversing the decline in student enrollment to maintain academic programs and giving parents greater input in district decisions; he describes public education as a promise to invest in every child regardless of income or learning challenges.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Embry said he would explore creating programs at existing campuses, such as magnet programs, to increase choice within the district.



PAUL GAUTHIER

Nonpartisan race, incumbent

Background: Leander ISD trustee for Place 7 since 2022.

Website: None located

Stated priorities: Gauthier says after four years on the board there is still "too much waste" in the district, including spending that does not help students and a lack of support for overworked teachers and staff.

Record and Public Statements

Public statements and actions: In Community Impact's candidate Q&A, Gauthier said the district's attendance thresholds for consolidating and closing schools, set at 500 and 400 students, are too high and should be changed immediately.

Local ballot measures

Local measures appear only on ballots inside the jurisdiction named. Descriptions summarize what each measure would do and the main arguments made for and against it; this guide takes no position on any measure. Where a proposition letter is not shown, check your sample ballot for the letter assigned.

City of Austin Proposition A: Parks and recreation bonds ($260 million): Would authorize $260 million in general obligation bonds for parks, repaid through property taxes. The package includes about $65.5 million for recreation buildings and facilities, including a senior wing at the Gus Garcia Recreation Center; $65 million for parkland improvements; about $29.5 million for park infrastructure; $65 million for four pools (Garrison, Big Stacy, Walnut Creek, and Civitan); and $35 million for new parks, trails, and land acquisition. Supporters, including the council majority and the Austin Parks Foundation, say aging parks and pools need investment now. Opponents, including Mayor Kirk Watson and Council Members Marc Duchen and José Velásquez, who voted against calling the election, cited affordability concerns, city financial staff's recommendation to wait until 2028, and roughly $1 billion in previously approved bonds not yet spent.

City of Austin Proposition B: Library bonds ($35 million): Would authorize $35 million in general obligation bonds, repaid through property taxes, for $20 million to renovate and expand the Hampton Branch at Oak Hill Library in Southwest Austin and $15 million for a new library and public health center in Colony Park in East Austin. Supporters say both projects have long been delayed; opponents raised the same affordability and timing concerns as for Proposition A.

City of Austin charter amendment: Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission: Would clarify that the commission that redraws council districts every 10 years is independent of City Council, allow it to review districts after city boundary changes, set an effective date for its plans, enlarge the pool of potential appointees, and make college students eligible to serve.

City of Austin charter amendment: Weekly council meetings: Would delete the charter requirement that City Council meet at least once a week. The council now typically meets every other week and cancels other scheduled meetings to comply.

City of Austin charter amendment: Council rules by ordinance: Would delete the requirement that City Council adopt its meeting rules and procedures by ordinance.

City of Austin charter amendment: Campaign finance limit adjustments: Would set the annual adjustment of local campaign contribution limits on January 1 instead of during summer budget adoption.

City of Austin charter amendment: Timing of petition elections: Would require elections on citizen-petitioned ordinances and charter amendments to be held on the next available November election in an even-numbered year, instead of the next available election date. Supporters, including Council Members Ryan Alter and Paige Ellis, say this puts these questions before the most voters and avoids costly low-turnout special elections. Critics, including Save Austin Now and a member of the city's charter review commission, say it would delay citizen initiatives and limit when residents can bring questions to voters.

City of Austin charter amendment: Appointment of the city attorney: Would give City Council, rather than the city manager, the power to appoint and remove the city attorney.

City of Austin charter amendment: Non-substantive updates: Would make technical, non-substantive language changes throughout the charter, including removing provisions superseded by state law or court orders.

City of Austin charter amendment: Independent affordability and efficiency audit (citizen petition, reported as Proposition I): Placed on the ballot by a petition from the political action committee Save Austin Now, signed by more than 20,000 voters. It would require an independent affordability and efficiency review of city government before any property tax rate increase, with the outside contractor required to identify annual and multi-year savings, and would make the requirement part of the charter so it could be changed only by voters. Supporters say it would make accountability for city spending permanent after voters rejected a tax increase in 2025. Opponents, including Mayor Kirk Watson and a city employees' union, say the city already approved an independent citywide audit program in February 2026, and Watson has argued that requiring the auditor to find savings creates a conflict of interest.

Round Rock ISD Proposition A: Voter-approval tax rate election: Would raise Round Rock ISD's maintenance and operations tax rate by 6 cents per $100 of taxable value, to about $0.7654. The district says the added revenue would fund a 2% general pay raise, raise starting teacher pay to $58,000, and address pay compression. Part of the new revenue would be subject to state recapture. Trustees voted unanimously to call the election, saying state funding has not kept pace; if the measure fails, the district's tax rate would stay at the level set without the increase. Appears only on ballots of voters who live in Round Rock ISD.

Leander ISD Proposition A: Voter-approval tax rate election ("School Funding Election"): Would ratify a Leander ISD tax rate of $1.1169 per $100 of taxable value, 3 cents above the $1.0869 rate that would otherwise apply, by raising the maintenance and operations rate. The district estimates about $6.7 million in added revenue after state recapture and says the average homeowner would pay about $27.56 more per year than last year. Homeowners 65 or older with a school tax ceiling would not see an increase on their homestead. District leaders, including Superintendent Chris Clark and board president Anna Smith, say the money is needed to address budget deficits after about $26 million in cuts over two years, and that further reductions would be required if it fails. If voters reject it, the rate returns to $1.0869. Appears only on ballots of voters who live in Leander ISD.

Del Valle ISD Proposition A: Voter-approval tax rate election: Would set a Del Valle ISD tax rate of $1.0328 per $100 of taxable value. The district says it would bring about $13.9 million a year in new maintenance and operations funding to replace one-time retention payments with ongoing raises for teachers and staff and to support programs and staffing at the district's second high school, scheduled to open in 2028. The district estimates the cost at about $0.76 a month for a home at the district's average value of $233,000; an earlier district estimate put it at about

$5.75 a month. District officials say operating costs have risen nearly 25% with inflation while state basic funding has barely changed. Appears only on ballots of voters who live in Del Valle ISD.

Manor ISD Propositions A and B: School bonds ($400 million): Proposition A ($391.5 million) would fund an expansion of Manor New Tech High School, a rebuild of Bluebonnet Trail Elementary, renovations and consolidation at Manor High School including a theater and a facility for students ages 18 and older, renovations at Decker and Blake Manor elementary schools, districtwide safety and security upgrades, and new buses. Proposition B ($8.5 million) is a separate proposition; check your sample ballot for its purpose. The district says the tax rate would rise about 3.85 cents if both pass, but because property values fell, the average homeowner's school tax bill would still be about $9.56 a month lower than last year. The board voted unanimously to call the election; voters rejected a previous Manor ISD bond in November 2025. Appears only on ballots of voters who live in Manor ISD.