



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

2022
RICHARDSON

NON PARTISAN

VOTERS GUIDE

EARLY VOTING □ APRIL 25, 2022 – MAY 3, 2022 TIMES VARY

ELECTION DAY □ MAY 7, 2022 □ POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM

BE A TEXAS VOTER

About This *Voters Guide*

This printed *Voters Guide* lists items that will be on the ballot for the City of Richardson and Richardson ISD May 7 election, which includes Texas Constitutional Amendments and Trustee elections for Richardson ISD and Dallas College. Candidate responses are presented as submitted without editing. For Richardson ISD candidates, more questions and responses can be found at www.Vote411.org.

This *Voters Guide* is a community service to voters of the City of Richardson and the Richardson ISD. This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Richardson which never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. Call 972-479-0584 or email league@lwvrichardson.org for questions.

Eligibility for Voting

You must be a citizen of the United State, registered to vote in the county of your residence 30 days prior to Election Day, and must be at least 18 years old on Election Day. You cannot vote if you have been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote or are a convicted felon who has not completed your sentence, probation and/or parole.

Polling Place Locations

Voters registered in Dallas and Collin Counties may vote in person at any of their county's polling locations during Early Voting and on Election Day. For addresses of locations open during Early Voting and on Election Day, see

- Dallas County: www.DallasCountyVotes.org or call 469-627-8683.
- Collin County: www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information/ or call 972-548-4100.

Polling Place Times & Dates

Monday April 25 – Saturday April 30 8AM to 5PM
Sunday May 1* 12PM to 6PM*

*Collin County polls closed Sunday

Monday May 2 & Tuesday May 3 7AM to 7PM
Saturday May 7 (ELECTION DAY) 7AM to 7PM

Find More Information

You may see all items on your ballot on-line at www.Vote411.org.

The League of Women Voters of Richardson has a wealth of nonpartisan, practical information for voters:

Facebook: LWVRichardsonTX
Web: www.lwvrichardson.org
Twitter: @LWVRichardson
Phone: 972-479-0584

Other Websites

Dallas County Elections Dept. DallasCountyVotes.org
Texas Secretary of State VoteTexas.gov
League of Women Voters of Texas LWVTexas.org

Other Telephone Numbers

Dallas County Elections Department 469-627-8683
Texas Secretary of State-Elections Division ... 800-252-8683
League of Women Voters of Texas 512-472-1100

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Early Vote by Mail (Absentee)

<https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/voter/regabbm.shtml>

Because of changes enacted by the state legislature in 2021, it is important that voters applying for mail ballots not use application forms issued before 2022. The new forms and also mail ballot envelopes ask voters to provide additional identification. We recommend voters provide BOTH a Texas Driver's License or Texas Personal Identification Number AND the last four digits of their social security number on the new application form and ballot envelopes.

You are eligible to vote early by mail if you are registered and:

- 65 years of age or older on Election Day;
- Out of the county during the entire election including early voting;
- Sick or Disabled;
- Expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day; or
- Confined in jail but eligible to vote.

Deadline to request an Application for Ballot By Mail: April 26

Deadline to return complete Ballot By Mail: May 7

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RICHARDSON ISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES GENERAL ELECTION

www.risd.org

RISD voters elect board members to serve three-year staggered terms. Five trustees represent specific geographic areas (known as Single-Member Districts), while two At-Large trustees represent the entire district. Service on the board is voluntary and members must complete an extensive orientation as well as continued training throughout their terms. Some of the Board's general responsibilities include:

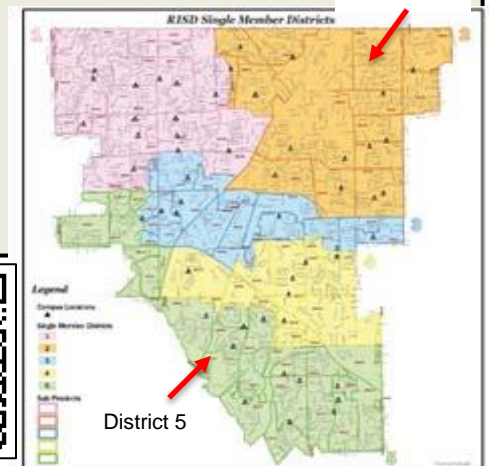
- Setting district policies and supporting administrators and teachers in the execution of those policies.
- Employing and evaluating the superintendent.
- Adopting the annual budget.
- Levying/collecting taxes and issuing bonds.
- Performing specific duties imposed by the state.

All RISD Trustee districts on the May 7th ballot are for Single-Member Districts, meaning you must live in the district to vote in that election.

For the online RISD District Map:

Scan QR code or go to

<https://tinyurl.com/yyp39b9k>



RISD TRUSTEE DISTRICT 2 (3 candidates)

Only registered voters living in Richardson ISD's District 2 are eligible to vote in the District 2 election. District 2 includes most of the Berkner High School attendance area and some of the Pearce High School attendance area.



Sherry Clemens (1st of 3 candidates for RISD District 2, Ballot Position 1)

Occupation: Business Owner
Education: Bachelor of Science, Texas A&M University; Master of Educational Administration, Texas A&M-Commerce
Website: sherryclemens.com
Campaign Email: sherry@sherryclemens.com
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/sherryclemensforrisd>

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: List the educational background and community involvement that qualify you for this office. (500-character limit)

A: Bachelor of Science, Texas A&M University, 2002

Master of Educational Administration, Texas A&M University-Commerce, 2008

Head Start Program Specialist, 2002-2004

Teacher - 1st and 3rd Grades, 2004-2010

I have been a RISD volunteer and PTA Member since 2013. I have served as a Council Delegate for the RISD Council of PTAs, Chair of Hospitality Committee, Co-chair of Field Day, Library volunteer, Book Fair volunteer, Kindergarten Classroom volunteer, We Read Together volunteer, and more.

Q: SUPERINTENDENT HIRING: List the top 3 qualities that you expect the Richardson ISD Superintendent to possess. (500-character limit)

A: The board must select a superintendent committed to the following goals: one who will partner with parents and teachers, focus on educational outcomes, and commit to financial accountability and transparency. Our new superintendent must be able to cast a vision of unity for RISD.

Q: SEL: What is your opinion of the district's Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) efforts? (700-character limit)

A: Our students must feel safe mentally & physically in order to realize their full academic potential. We must provide a nurturing environment that ensures the needs of every student are met. As your trustee, I would examine the current SEL & Connecting Cultures curricula in place- is it producing outcomes that have led to better diversity, equity, and inclusion? Does it comply with HB 3979 and the new TEC guidelines? Are teachers trained to teach SEL lessons or should our certified school counselors teach these lessons? Is it beneficial to spend 25 minutes out of the instructional day for SEL? Does it represent a neutral curriculum and free from social and political opinions?

Q: BOOKS: How will you approach the current push to remove from school libraries and classrooms books that some parents deem "objectionable"? (700-character limit)

A: As a public school district, we must be responsible for keeping our students' minds safe. Research shows that children's brains are not ready for adult topics. We have age-appropriate lines with other things- alcohol, voting, movies, etc. There must be set lines on the appropriateness of books given to children in public schools. The content in Young Adult books can be severely inappropriate and shocking to adults, let alone children- many include graphic, pornographic content. As your trustee, I would work with my colleagues to create a policy that protects our students from pornographic material being available and distributed in RISD.

Richardson ISD District 2 (3 candidates) -continued-



Vanessa Pacheco (2nd of 3 candidates for RISD District 2, Ballot Position 2)

Occupation: Vice President
Education: MBA, Global Leadership
Website: www.pacheco4risd.com
Campaign Email: pacheco4risd@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pacheco4RISD/>

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: List the educational background and community involvement that qualify you for this office. (500-character limit)

A: Leadership ISD 2021 Fellow: School Board Governance Fellowship and Equity and Inclusion Fellowship

MBA, Global Leadership, University of Texas at Dallas, Scholar with Distinction

BBS, Management Information Systems, Dallas Baptist University

Participant in the NABSE Parent Commission

Q: SUPERINTENDENT HIRING: List the top 3 qualities that you expect the Richardson ISD Superintendent to possess. (500-character limit)

A: The future superintendent must have strong KPIs, be an influential effective leader, process improvement and be efficiency driven. Be progressive with insight about the diversity and promote inclusivity in all decisions. Understand budget allocations and be reasonable with removing programs/initiatives that have not worked. Should create a 'buy in' for new efforts and changes, be a creative while improving the culture within from its leadership to the support staff and students.

Q: SEL: What is your opinion of the district's Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) efforts? (700-character limit)

A: We are complex human beings, and we bring our complexities to all aspects of our lives. I will work to ensure we maintain and improve SEL, it is our duty to help our students re-center and focus on learning at school. It is important to have educators, staff, and support to come into the classroom without bias and have the support of appropriately trained individuals to assist. Our students should interact, converse, and have respect over differences, while finding solutions to situations that are not acceptable. Engaging and teaching our kids to collaborate with teachers, et.al with respect and openness will make them more successful as adults.

Q: BOOKS: How will you approach the current push to remove from school libraries and classrooms books that some parents deem "objectionable"? (700-character limit)

A: Let us remember Richardson ISD is home to a wide array of demographics. Not every student will come from the same background, believe the same things, or grow at the same pace. Our schools should always be a welcoming and learning home for every student. Many of the curriculum decisions are made by the State Board of Education and the local boards do not have a large involvement. Parents should always feel welcome to attend board meetings, meet with teachers, and contact principals to discuss what their child is learning. As a Trustee, I would always be open to hearing the concerns from parents and ensure our students are always receiving the finest and most appropriate material.

Richardson ISD District 2 (3 candidates) -continued-



Eron Linn, Incumbent (3rd of 3 candidates for RISD District 2, Ballot Position 3)

Occupation: Federal Relations Manager
Education: Bachelor of Arts, Texas Tech University
Website: www.eronlinn4risd.com
Campaign Email: eron@eronlinn4risd.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/EronLinnforRISD

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: List the educational background and community involvement that qualify you for this office. (500-character limit)

A: Before my election in 2015, I proudly served my community through appointments to Richardson Zoning Board of Adjustment and on the Richardson City Planning Commission. I served for six years on the Board of Richardson Chamber of Commerce, twice as chair of the Public Policy Committee. I also served two years on the board for the Richardson YMCA where I also volunteered as a youth sports coach. Finally, I am a proud graduate of Inside RISD (2011) and Leadership Richardson (Class 27).

Q: SUPERINTENDENT HIRING: List the top 3 qualities that you expect the Richardson ISD Superintendent to possess. (500-character limit)

A: It's important our next Superintendent is an expert in curriculum and instruction; a visionary leader who supports teachers and staff through a culture centered on strong academic outcomes for all students. This person should also be an excellent manager of both people and budgets, as RISD has over 5,000 employees and has a long history of strong, financial stewardship. This person should know the District and be able to "hit the ground running" on day one for the benefit of everyone in RISD.

Q: SEL: What is your opinion of the district's Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) efforts? (700-character limit)

A: I support RISD's social and emotional learning efforts. RISD's program centers on raising academic outcomes by improving attitudes and behaviors while reducing emotional stress for our students in the classroom. Teachers encourage students to manage their emotions, show empathy for others, and make responsible and caring decisions for their fellow students. As a parent of three RISD students, I'm grateful that our teachers are encouraged to engage with their students on a social and emotional level as, in many cases, it is the best way to ensure that a student is emotionally well and is ready to learn.

Q: BOOKS: How will you approach the current push to remove from school libraries and classrooms books that some parents deem "objectionable"? (700-character limit)

A: There's been discussions among a group in our community about banning or removing certain books. As a student of history, I don't know any society that has benefited from banning knowledge. A majority of RISD's books have been placed in school libraries for academic reasons, including books that focus on a student's social and emotional well-being, and I feel that students can benefit more about subjects by educating themselves using different points of view. I believe that community input is always valued and RISD is currently going through an engagement process to create a Graduate Profile for our students that I'm hopeful will help our community achieve a consensus on this conversation.

RISD TRUSTEE DISTRICT 4 (1 candidate)

Only registered voters living in Richardson ISD's District 4 are eligible to vote in the District 4 election. District 4 covers some of the Berkner High School attendance area, some of the Lake Highlands High School attendance area, and some of the Richardson High School attendance area.

Regina Harris, Incumbent, unopposed

RISD TRUSTEE DISTRICT 5 (3 candidates)

Only registered voters living in Richardson ISD's District 5 are eligible to vote in the District 5 election. District 5 covers most of the Lake Highlands High School attendance area and some of the Richardson High School attendance area.



Rachel McGowan (1st of 3 candidates for RISD District 5, Ballot Position 1)

Website:	www.RachelForRISD.com
Campaign Email:	Rachelmcgowan4risd@gmail.com
Occupation:	Business Sales Executive
Campaign Twitter Handle:	@rembanks
Campaign Phone:	214-810-0660
Education:	Bachelor of Arts in General Studies with a concentration in Communications and Business
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/RachelForRISD/

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: List the educational background and community involvement that qualify you for this office. (500-character limit)

A: I have been an active PTA member for over 10 years and have served on committees in RISD and within our city. As your Trustee, I will bring all of this experience to the table. I believe RISD is a premier school district and as a Trustee, I will work to build upon our history of excellence. I will fight for our schools to be a place of safety, respect, pride, and where ALL kids are welcome and excited to learn.

Q: SUPERINTENDENT HIRING: List the top 3 qualities that you expect the Richardson ISD Superintendent to possess. (500-character limit)

A: Most importantly, we will need a Superintendent with a strong ability to build trust within the Board and community. We need a Superintendent that has strong communication skills and an ability to clearly communicate and deliver on the District's vision. We need a Superintendent that is committed to staying in our community and doing the hard work of closing the achievement and progress gaps that exist.

Q: SEL: What is your opinion of the district's Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) efforts? (700-character limit)

A: Social and emotional learning has become a polarizing buzzword.

Mental and behavioral wellness is a critical issue that can't be ignored in our schools. Ensuring all students feel safe and welcomed is critical to learning at high levels. Many students need the support system of a school counselor or a teacher that cares, especially during these challenging times.

Q: BOOKS: How will you approach the current push to remove from school libraries and classrooms books that some parents deem "objectionable"? (700-character limit)

A: In listening to the voice of librarians at many board meetings I have attended, I understand the importance of having a wide variety of books that appeal to the common and unique experiences our students engage with in the world. This is part of all students feeling safe and welcomed in our schools. I believe we must have trained librarians and professional educators that can use common sense when evaluating what is age-appropriate for our students. I also believe parents should feel welcome to bring concerns to librarians or principals over issues with particular texts they have and want to discuss.

Richardson ISD District 5 (3 candidates) -continued-



Kile Brown (2nd of 3 candidates for RISD District 5, Ballot Position 2)

Website:	www.kile4risd.com
Campaign Email:	kile@kile4risd.com
Occupation:	Head of IoT Bus Dev
Campaign Twitter Handle:	@kile4risd
Campaign Phone:	214-663-9025
Education:	B.S. Int'l Pol Science, Minor in Systems Engineering, United States Military Academy at West Point
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/Kile4RISD

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: List the educational background and community involvement that qualify you for this office. (500-character limit)

A: BS Int'l Political Science, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY

I have corporate and volunteer experience that prepare me to contribute day one as a Board Trustee.

I have years of executive hiring experience applicable to hiring our new Superintendent.

I have provided governance for a multi-million dollar non-profit and its executive. I also have experience bringing never-been-done-before solutions to some of the biggest companies in the world and negotiating the respective contracts.

Q: SUPERINTENDENT HIRING: List the top 3 qualities that you expect the Richardson ISD Superintendent to possess. (500-character limit)

A: We should hire an Executive Search firm soon. This provides transparency and validates our new leader.

I would like to see candidates who have: 1) improved academic performance across the board. 2) created an enthusiastic culture for staff and faculty in which they know they have support from the top as well as a place to grow and flourish throughout their careers. 3) experience working in an economically and racially diverse district.

Q: SEL: What is your opinion of the district's Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) efforts? (700-character limit)

A: SEL captures in a purposeful way, inherent skills that many of us have gleaned through the course of our interaction with others.

The intent is to help students be better prepared to learn and consequently, learn more effectively and efficiently, as well as to work better and more positively with others.

My skills for interacting with and striving to better understand others have served me immensely, not just throughout my military and business life, but in life period.

The pandemic has impacted our students emotionally as well as academically. While this is not an excuse for poor academic results, we should account for it to improve learning outcomes.

Q: BOOKS: How will you approach the current push to remove from school libraries and classrooms books that some parents deem "objectionable"? (700-character limit)

A: Our district has a process in place for vetting and selecting books for both School Libraries and Classroom Libraries. If parents wish to review or challenge any titles in a RISD library, they should engage with their respective school's staff.

Overall, fear of ideas or books to the point of limiting them or even banning them has not fared well historically for those doing the banning.

Richardson ISD District 5 (3 candidates) -continued-



Jan Stell (3rd of 3 candidates for RISD District 5, Ballot Position 3)

Website: <https://www.JanforRISD.com>
Campaign Email: Jan@JanforRISD.com
Occupation: Real Estate Agent
Education: B.A. and M.A. in Education
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JanforRISD>

Q: QUALIFICATIONS: List the educational background and community involvement that qualify you for this office. (500-character limit)

A: - B.A. and M.A. in Education from Austin College - Board Member for the Lake Highlands YMCA - Dallas Leadership program with Metrotex - Prison Fellowship for Seagoville Federal Prison - Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity in Guatemala - Various PTA positions

My educational background, work experience, and community involvement give me a unique perspective into RISD.

Q: SUPERINTENDENT HIRING: List the top 3 qualities that you expect the Richardson ISD Superintendent to possess. (500-character limit)

A: Hiring the next RISD Superintendent is a very important job. The top 3 qualities I would expect the next RISD Superintendent to possess include (1) understanding the culture and diversity of the students, teachers, and administration in Richardson ISD; (2) valuing the district's money, time, and energy; and (3) being open to constructive improvement for the district with a positive attitude. I will work hard to find a qualified and passionate Superintendent for RISD.

Q: SEL: What is your opinion of the district's Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) efforts? (700-character limit)

A: I understand the district's Social and Emotional Learning efforts, especially after the pandemic that has created additional learning challenges for our students and teaching challenges for our teachers. But unfortunately, in the last 10 years, RISD has seen a decline in student test and competency scores. In 2019, test scores in 3rd grade reading and math was 31% for masters grade level (meaning little to no academic intervention needed). We need to advocate for stronger academic teaching so that our students can have a foundation of education to build upon. Schools should focus on helping students "meet" and "master" material, not just "approach grade level."

Q: BOOKS: How will you approach the current push to remove from school libraries and classrooms books that some parents deem "objectionable"? (700-character limit)

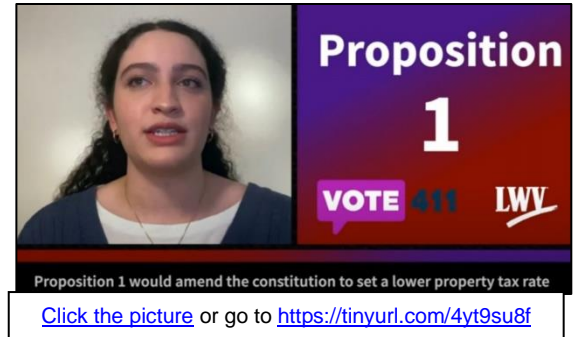
A: The current increase of parental concerns about school curriculum is an important issue to address. Parents have a right to be concerned with their child's education, and the school district must improve on communication with parents and be more transparent with what is being taught in our classrooms. A potential solution could be creating a vetting committee that includes parents to review books of concern and for students to have parental approval when accessing these books of concern. We need to make sure that books are age and material appropriate for school libraries and classrooms.

Two (2) Texas Constitutional Amendments

All registered voters who live in Texas will have 2 proposed Constitutional Amendments on their ballot. Below is the wording of the propositions, as well as pro-con statements provided by LWVTexas in both text and video formats.

PROPOSITION 1 (SJR 2 - 87TH LEGISLATURE, 2ND SPECIAL SESSION)

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for the reduction of the amount of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for general elementary and secondary public school purposes on the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled to reflect any statutory reduction from the preceding tax year in the maximum compressed rate of the maintenance and operations taxes imposed for those purposes on the homestead.”



EXPLANATION

The Texas Constitution puts a ceiling on school property taxes paid by homeowners who are disabled or at least 65 years old. This means that for disabled and elderly homeowners, certain property tax rates cannot be higher than what they were the year they first qualified for this exemption. Since school property taxes make up most of a homeowner's tax bill, their property tax bills are essentially frozen unless improvements are made to their residence or they move.

In 2019, the Texas State Legislature passed a law which provided a property tax reduction to many home-owners. However, this reduction did not apply to disabled or elderly homeowners because under the Texas Constitution, their tax rate is frozen.

Proposition 1 would amend the Constitution to allow disabled and elderly homeowners to receive the benefits from the 2019 property tax reduction that other homeowners received. This amendment would result in freezing their tax rate at a lower rate. This will allow all homeowners to benefit from the lower tax rates passed in 2019.

The law related to this proposed amendment requires that the state reimburse school districts for revenues lost due to this proposition.

Supporters say:	Opponents say:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed amendment would provide significant property tax relief to disabled and elderly homeowners.• This amendment would allow more people to benefit from lower tax rates passed in 2019.• Many individuals who are disabled or elderly live on fixed incomes. The proposed amendment would provide them with financial relief as well as budget certainty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opponents argue that this proposition does not resolve the problem of relying on property taxes to fund public schools.• While school districts are to be reimbursed by the state for any revenues lost, the proposed amendment could reduce funds for public schools if proper formulas are not put in place.• There may be other Texans more in need of tax relief, and some homeowners in the groups given tax relief by this proposition may not be in need.

Two (2) Texas Constitutional Amendments -continued-

PROPOSITION 2 (SJR 2 - 87TH LEGISLATURE, 3RD SPECIAL SESSION)

“The constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.”



EXPLANATION

Currently, homeowners are able to reduce the market value of their primary residence by \$25,000 when calculating their annual school property taxes. The proposed amendment would increase the amount of that reduction to \$40,000. This could lower homeowners' annual property tax bills.

The law related to this proposed amendment requires that the state reimburse school districts for revenues lost due to this proposition.

Supporters say:	Opponents say:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This amendment would save homeowners money in the form of property tax relief.• This proposition should not impact public school revenues because the state would be required to make up any shortfall.• This decrease in property taxes would particularly help low to moderate-income homeowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed amendment could reduce public school revenues if the formulas put in place by the state do not fully reimburse the local school districts for the losses.• This property tax reduction will cost the state money if they reimburse lost revenue to school districts. The cost to the state will depend on the laws passed to make up any shortfall.• The proposed amendment does not benefit those who are not homeowners, including renters who send their children to public schools.

Election Deadlines May 7, 2022



- Register to vote by: **Apr 7**
- 1st day Early Voting in-person: **Apr 25**
- Request ballot by mail: **Apr 26**
(received-by date)
- Last day Early Voting in-person: **May 3**
- Return Ballot By Mail: **May 7**
- Election Day: **May 7**

League of Women Voters of Richardson

www.lwvrichardson.org

Donate online with credit card or donate by mail.



Membership is open to everyone!
You must be 16 years old to vote at a League meeting.

DALLAS COLLEGE GENERAL ELECTION

Dallas College Board of Trustees consists of 7 members elected from single member districts who serve without compensation for 6 year staggered terms. The Board oversees 7 campuses with over 86,000 students and 6,300 paid faculty, staff and administrators. The annual budget for Dallas College is nearly \$560 M. The Trustees set the tax rate to cover the cost of operations of Dallas College.

Questions To Dallas College Candidates

ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION: In 2020 and 2021, the seven campuses of DCCCD were merged into one institution. The purpose of the merger was to eliminate certain barriers that were making it difficult for some students to earn degrees. Do you think the change has accomplished its purpose? What other modifications would you like to see now to improve functioning of the system and if so, what would those modifications be?

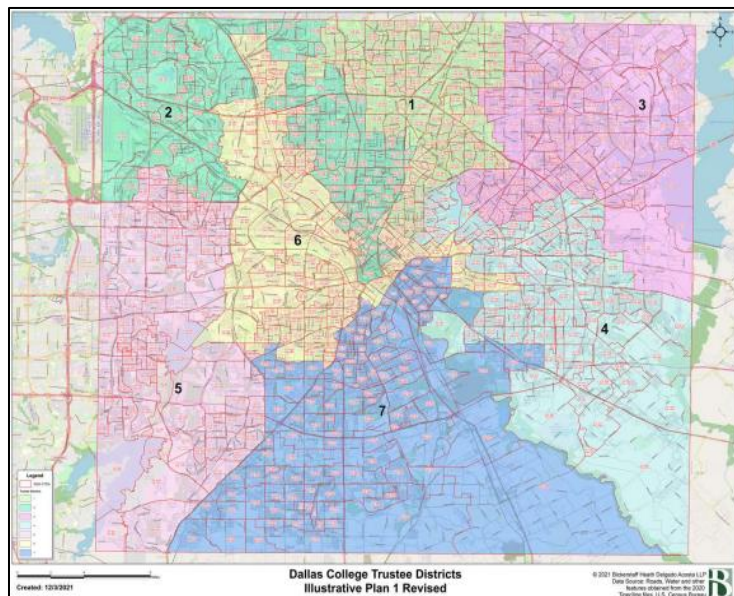
STUDENT SUPPORT FOLLOWING MERGER: Many long time employees at Dallas College were asked to or voluntarily left their positions during the merger into one college creating an environment of uncertainty. Some of these were in student support positions. How will the campuses continue to meet the needs of the diverse student communities they serve and what services are the most important to survive?

ENROLLMENT/COMPLETION RATES: How have Dallas College's student enrollment and completion rates fared over the last few years? To what do you attribute changes?

TUITION PAID PROGRAM WITH FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: How well is Dallas County Promise - the program where students who complete associate degrees at Dallas College may be eligible to earn tuition free degrees at participating four-year college/universities - being implemented?

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: What are the biggest opportunities for Dallas College as it relates to career development of its student body?

OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE: What do you view as Dallas College's biggest opportunity and/or challenge during the next Trustee term?



For the online
Dallas College District Map:
Scan QR code or go to
<https://tinyurl.com/234absya>

DALLAS COLLEGE TRUSTEE DISTRICT 1 (3 candidates)

All registered voters who live in Dallas College Board of Trustees District 1 may vote for the candidates running for the unexpired term in the District 1 Board of Trustees Election. The winner of this election will only serve until May 2024.



Lynn Davenport (1st of 3 candidates for Dallas College District 1, Ballot Position 1)

Occupation: Host of Social Impact
Age: 50
Education: B.S. Corporate Health and Minor in Psychology from The University of North Texas 1995
Campaign Phone: 214-673-4018
Website: <https://www.obbmnetworkpodcasts.com/social-impact-podcast>
Campaign Email: ldaven@me.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ldaven/>
Campaign Twitter Handle: @lynnsdavenport

ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION: Under the leadership of recently retired Chancellor Dr. Joe May, Dallas College consolidated and homogenized seven unique campuses. He used certain barriers as cover to impose the controversial corporate-style consolidation despite complaints from longtime faculty and the declining student body. Dallas College passed a \$1.1 billion bond in 2019 while student enrollment continues to decline and spending is increasing. Dallas County residents deserve taxation with true representation to ensure the money is spent on education and preserving academic integrity for those seeking higher education.

STUDENT SUPPORT FOLLOWING MERGER: The real number of employees asked to leave was greater than what was reported. At least 1300 employees were terminated and Dallas College paid out \$12M in severance packages with non-disclosure agreements. As a trustee, I will work to build back those supports in order put the community back in our community colleges. As a former recruiter and coach of unemployed people, I understand how to guide Dallas College toward attracting more students. I will work with the new chancellor to restore confidence in the course offerings and hold him accountable.

ENROLLMENT/COMPLETION RATES: Enrollment is down, but Dallas College continues to build new facilities and hold ground-breaking ceremonies. I attribute the failed leadership and the rubber-stamping board as a primary reason for the decline. Trustees are supposed to hold the chancellor accountable for his/her performance. That had not been happening since Dr. May joined. The new chancellor was hired from within, so it will be an uphill battle to ensure he does not repeat the same mistakes. We need new trustees who will question the status quo.

TUITION PAID PROGRAM WITH FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Dallas County Promise was a deal done between Dr. Joe May and the Commit Partnership which did not live up to its promise. Students (minors) are forced to sign a pledge while in high school, regardless of their plans to attend a community college. Parents must sign a waiver to forgo their FERPA (privacy) rights while the school districts and Dallas College hand over massive amounts of data to the non-profit. Only a small percentage actually receive the "free college" that was promised to the students. This program and the data privacy agreements need to be evaluated and examined more closely.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: The pendulum has shifted so far away from prioritizing academic rigor and integrity in favor of workforce training. There should be a balance in course offerings to attract the best faculty, as well as provide applicable training for those wanting to earn credits toward specific trades and careers.

OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE: It will take time to restore the confidence in Dallas College, but with trustees working with the new chancellor it can be done. The board will need to set measurable goals and evaluate the initiatives being offered through Dallas College. I will bring a fresh set of eyes and honest conversations to the table. We can no longer afford to be in denial about the issues and how they have impacted faculty and students. Real solutions can only come if we are honest about the problems. I am looking forward to the work and view the trustee role as an opportunity to help Dallas College be a trusted resource for Dallas County residents.

Dallas College District 1 (3 candidates) -continued-



Catalina E Garcia (2nd of 3 candidates for Dallas College District 1, Ballot Position 2)

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ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION: Consolidation did not accomplish the goals of saving money & helping students get credit. Dallas College paid over \$12 million to outside consultants, & then made major budget cuts in all the wrong places, terminating experienced faculty, librarians & other student support personnel. Many courses were cut or are provided at only one campus, so it is difficult for students to obtain associate degrees in 2 years. I recommend: 1) fiscal responsibility & review; 2) student and faculty input; and 3) a moratorium on A) outside consultants, B) terminations of experienced faculty & staff, and C) elimination of courses necessary for degree completion.

STUDENT SUPPORT FOLLOWING MERGER: These decisions are harmful to students, faculty & staff. Students need experienced faculty. Student support positions (especially librarians, academic counselors, & mental health counselors) are crucial. Some librarians & counselors have now been hired, but they do not have the experience of those terminated. To address poor student retention & graduation rates, qualified academic counselors must be hired. For student health, qualified mental health counselors must be available. According to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, the suicide rate for college students is on the rise. This problem cannot be ignored.

ENROLLMENT/COMPLETION RATES: Enrollment at Dallas College has dropped 15% since Fall 2019. Though Hispanics constitute almost 50% of the student body, more Anglos transferred to a 4-year college. According to the "College Scorecard," maintained by the U.S. Dept. of Education: In the past 8 years, out of 4,177 Dallas College students, 61% withdrew, 29% transferred, & only 9% graduated. [See, <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/school/?224615-Dallas-College>]. The enrollment drop can be blamed on the pandemic and the economy, but the low retention & graduation rates are due to lack of funds and the difficulty students are experiencing in obtaining courses needed to graduate.

TUITION PAID PROGRAM WITH FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: The biggest obstacle of the Dallas County Promise program is the lack of assistance to students. There are many limitations and conditions. If a student sits out a semester to earn money for college, s/he must re-apply. English as a Second Language (ESL) students are eligible, but Dallas College has been eliminating English proficiency courses. Only half the program applicants submit their financial applications. Many do not understand that the program covers only tuition and books, but not supplies, transportation, rent or food. Incoming students need adequate counseling and assistance with the application process.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: The greatest of these opportunities is the relationship between Dallas College & the local business community for the dual purpose of enhancing the job marketability of the students and serving the needs of local businesses. Dallas College has started building this bridge, but it must be maintained & strengthened with internships, guest lecturers, & part-time job opportunities. Dallas College must also provide opportunities for interaction with the community through community education courses, seminars, community speakers, & campus events. Such interaction will demonstrate to taxpayers that their tax dollars are being put to effective use.

OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE: The biggest opportunity is building on the relationship of Dallas College with the business community. The biggest challenge is re-building the trust of the students, faculty & staff. Morale is low. I can help. In addition to my experience as a small business owner, I have 40 years of board & community work. Education is the ultimate equalizer in our society. I am a product of public education, from elementary school thru medical school. I am committed to give back to the public education system. After recently retiring as a medical doctor, I have the time, experience, & commitment to effectively serve as a Dallas College Trustee.

Dallas College District 1 (3 candidates) -continued-



Gretchen Minyard Williams, Incumbent (3rd of 3 candidates for Dallas College District 1, Ballot Position 3)

Occupation:	Realtor
Age:	65
Education:	Texas Christian University, BBA, Hillcrest High School graduate
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ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION: The move from DCCCD to Dallas College was to provide better student experience. It showed that the experiences, services, and program offerings varied greatly. There is an accreditation rule that required students to take a certain percentage of their degree from just one campus, yet thousands of students were attending more than one of the seven campuses. The consolidation provided efficiencies that we have been able to invest in instruction and student services. I also will closely watch the budget allocations to ensure that savings are realized and that dollars continued to be invested in student support.

STUDENT SUPPORT FOLLOWING MERGER: In the old structure there was a duplication of efforts which did impact some positions. As new positions were created, employees were given the opportunity to apply. We have outstanding employees who are now serving in those roles. For those that did not find a role, we offered severance, placement support, and an educational stipend. We wanted to ensure that these employees were prepared to reenter the workforce.

The efficiencies garnered in the consolidation allowed us to reinvest directly into student services. This includes hiring 250 student success coaches to directly support students. This improved our advisor to student ratio.

ENROLLMENT/COMPLETION RATES: Dallas College enrollment and completion rates were on an upward trajectory until the pandemic hit. Community college enrollment nationally is down about 10% and about the same here in Texas. Dallas College is outperforming those numbers, but our enrollment is still down by about 5%. As we have looked at enrollment patterns, we have seen declines in our working, adult age population. These are students who are still sorting through some of the challenges of the pandemic, such as finding reliable childcare. Dallas College continues to focus on partnering with social service providers to ensure our students have access to what they need.

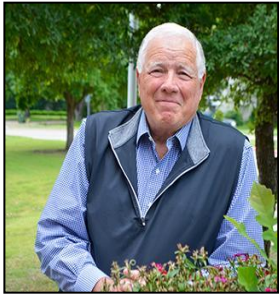
TUITION PAID PROGRAM WITH FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: Dallas County Promise is making a tremendous difference in the lives of students. The Board routinely hears from students who have indicated that they would not be in college if it was not for the Promise. For so many students, the cost of college is out of reach. The Promise has removed that financial barrier. I look forward to expanding the Promise to other high schools in Dallas County so even more can have this opportunity.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: We have many students who take their basic courses with us and then can transfer those credits to a university. For other students, they are looking to earn a short term certificate or degree and go into the workforce. A few years ago, Dallas College launched a first of its kind Labor Market Intelligence Center. The data from this center allows us to ensure that our programs are relevant to the workforce. In today's economy, many of these short term programs can lead to high wage jobs in automotive, HVAC, and technology. We now offer a 4-year degree in early childhood education to help address the teacher shortage.

OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE: Dallas College is built upon the 50 plus year legacy. As the nature of work has changed post-pandemic, so has the nature of education. I want to ensure we are able to retain our outstanding faculty and staff and attract new ones with relevant incentives. I want to ensure that we continue to expand our successful partnerships with area ISDs to ensure students can participate in Early College High School and P-TECH programs. Last year we had almost 2,000 high school students graduate with an associates degree or certificate. I will continue to be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars to ensure they are used to support our students.

TRUSTEE DISTRICT 3 (2 candidates)

All registered voters who live in Dallas College Board of Trustees District 3 may vote for the candidates running for the unexpired term in the District 3 Board of Trustees Election. The winner of this election will serve for six years.



Paul Mayer (1st of 2 candidates for Dallas College District 3, Ballot Position 1)

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Education:	BA Education/Biology Texas Lutheran University
Age:	72

ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION: With the new structure of "Schools Of", the goal of eliminating the barrier of having to achieve a certain number of hours at a particular campus has been achieved. Going forward the need is to further work on streamlining the process. There are new operational channels and new leadership that will need to reestablish connections that may have been disrupted during the merger.

The ultimate goal is to perfect the pipeline for students to get the appropriate skills that match up with a desired employer.. That will happen best with more intentional connections with the employers.

STUDENT SUPPORT FOLLOWING MERGER: There is a entire organization devoted to helping students navigate the path to their desired outcome. This group not only addresses the academic needs but additionally a wide variety of wrap around services that include day care, transportation, food, and clothing.

For a short time the absence of the traditional student support positions were felt. My experience is that the new organization is in place and achieving the goal of removing the barriers to achieving the kind of help students are needing.

ENROLLMENT/COMPLETION RATES: The biggest change in enrollment happened as a result of the pandemic. Moving to virtual classrooms handicapped students without computer access. With the return to classrooms and with the expansion of access to virtual learning the enrollments are coming back. The new organization structure also includes new classrooms within adversely impacted neighborhoods. Bringing the resources closer to the students that need it the most.

TUITION PAID PROGRAM WITH FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: From the numbers there are 21,000 students in the current cohort. This represents 57 high schools. Over half (57%) have reached the financial aid stage. Applications to Texas Colleges that partner with the promise is 75%.

Since this is an area that is being measured closely it will continue to get the attention it needs to grow.

Based on this I would say that the implementation is going well.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: The biggest opportunity for career development is to expand the relationships with Employers. The more Dallas College understands the needs of the folks that will hire students, the better able they will be to align the career path.

You see this being played out currently with the addition of new course options that allow for short term intensive training that result in a stackable credentials. This allows for students to successfully enter the world of work sooner and continue to build on their skill sets. This is an employer driven need.

OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE: Biggest challenge will be finalizing the implementation of the reorganization. While the basic framework is in place there remains the job of implementing the finer points of completing the structure.

The biggest opportunity will be the execution of the bond program. This will have a new emphasis as a result of the consolidation in to one Dallas College. Building facilities that match the goals of removing barriers will be an exciting opportunity.

Dallas College District 1 (2 candidates) -continued-



Soji John (2nd of 2 candidates for Dallas College District 3, Ballot Position 2)

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Occupation: In-House Counsel

ONE COLLEGE CONFIGURATION: The merger has helped with the most immediate problem it was trying to address: students relying on multiple colleges had difficulty in meeting graduation requirements. With accreditation of Dallas College as a single unit, this significant problem is being addressed. The merger allows us to also deal with more fundamental problems such as the flexibility in coursework required for future students' needs, the ability to better utilize technology, and the ability to provide student services more uniformly and more efficiently. There is still a lot of work to be done. We need to take a holistic view the Dallas College as a seven-campus system

STUDENT SUPPORT FOLLOWING MERGER: Change creates uncertainty and it is possible with the merger that not all the changes right first time. Because we are talking about people's livelihood and their lives, we need to be most sensitive when it comes to eliminating positions. At the same time, we need to ensure that student services are maintained or improved with the merger. The most important services are those fundamental to students, such as education, safety (campus police), health services, library & learning center, tutoring & success coaching, etc. The limitation in providing services is cost. It is possible that we can efficiently expand services across campus such

ENROLLMENT/COMPLETION RATES: Dallas College's enrollment has fared relatively well in the last few years but there has been a significant decrease in enrollment and graduation. Until then the enrollment and degrees awarded had generally increased at a rate of over 10%. (This is certainly not across the board, e.g., continuing education students dropped.) The change to a single College took place within the pandemic so some may argue that the merger had a negative impact on enrollment/graduation, but if we look across different universities across the Dallas metroplex where many universities had a much large drop, it is evident that Covid was the common denominator.

TUITION PAID PROGRAM WITH FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES: The Dallas County Promise program has had a positive impact on student participants. The number of students utilizing the program between the first and second year has almost doubled and FAFSA completion has also increased. Hispanic and Latin student participation in the program has also increased and a majority have received Pell Grants or loans. Participation in the program also resulted in a greater percentage of students continuing their education. The program appears to be successful. We should not be content, however, and continue to address our population where cost is a barrier to furthering their education.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT: The biggest opportunity is the number and variety of potential employers in Dallas and adjacent counties. There are many high-tech and financial companies that are moving to the Dallas area. They will require an educated workforce and provide for well-paying jobs with opportunity for growth. To take advantage of this, the College needs to engage with potential employers, understand how needs are changing, and choose the right degree/certification programs for those needs, and continuously monitor to update these programs as required. We also need to engage with the community and match their employment needs with our students.

OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE: With the merger, Dallas College now can better tailor our courses to the future needs of our community. As stated above, employer needs are changing at a faster pace than ever and we're moving to a high-tech society. Dallas College is starting to be positioned to be flexible enough to meet these needs. We need to continue the process. We need to enhance our use of technology which is required to serve our students as each campus specializes and we diversify course offerings that can be accessed across the metroplex. So aside with engaging with our community as stated above implementing a structure that is flexible enough to grow to meet