

Voter Guide for Kerr County

General Election on Tuesday - November 3, 2026

Get Ready to Vote in the General Election in Texas!

Read both the Texas State Voter Guide and the Kerr County Voter Guide

The Texas State Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Texas with information on candidates for US Senator, Governor, and Lieutenant Governor. Other state office candidate responses are featured: Attorney General, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Commissioner of the General Land Office, Commissioner of Agriculture, as well as Texas State Courts. All these elections are for offices that serve every citizen in the state of Texas. This voter guide is printed in color and has a larger paper format.

The Kerr County Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas with information on candidates for district offices such as the US House of Representatives, Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives, and Court of Appeals, as well as candidates for local offices. This voter guide is printed on colored paper and has letter sized paper format.

Both voter guides are available in printed form at public libraries and other locations. Voters may read and print both voter guides at the League website: lwvhillcountrytexas.org.

VOTE411.org is a League website that provides the election information on the candidates: a voter enters the address on their Voter Registration card to access the information.

Deadline Dates for General Election on Tuesday - November 3, 2026			
Register to Vote/Change Address	Monday	October 5	Last day to register to vote
Voting by Mail	Friday	October 23	Last day to apply for Ballot by Mail
	Tuesday	November 3	Last day to return Ballot by Mail
Early Voting	Monday	October 19	First day to vote in person
	Friday	October 30	Last day to vote in person
Election Day	Tuesday	November 3	Vote in person at a precinct polling place



League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas

P. O. Box 290303 Kerrville, Texas 78029-0303

Email: president@lwvhillcountrytexas.org

Website: lwvhillcountrytexas.org

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan civic organization and does not support or oppose any candidate or candidates or political party or parties. This Voter Guide provides voters an opportunity to read about candidates who have filed for an office. The League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas makes contact with each candidate in a contested election using a variety of methods to contact and invite each candidate to participate in a county voter guide. The candidate makes the decision about responding to the voter guide invitation, as participation is voluntary. All responses to questions come directly from the candidates and are not edited by the League of Women Voters.

The Kerr County Voter Guide is protected by copyright.

For permission to duplicate this county voter guide, please email: president@lwvhillcountrytexas.org.

Any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has *not* been authorized by the League.

Election and Voting Information for Kerr County

Sample ballots and other information from the Kerr County Election Department posted online:

<https://kerrcountytexas.gov/voting-in-kerr-county/kerr-county-elections>

Take a photo ID with you to the voting location.

Remember: no cell phones, no texting, no photos, no campaign material, and no loitering.

Curbside voting is available during Early Voting and on Election Day if a voter is physically unable to enter the polling place. One parking space at each polling location is designated as curbside voting.

Your orange voter registration card lists the elections for your residence address.

EARLY VOTING: two locations

Ingram West Kerr County Annex 510 College Street

Kerrville Hill Country Youth Event Center 3785 Highway 27 East

Monday October 19	Tuesday October 20	Wednesday October 21	Thursday October 22	Friday October 23	Saturday October 24
8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm

Sunday October 25	Monday October 26	Tuesday October 27	Wednesday October 28	Thursday October 29	Friday October 30
10am to 4pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm

ELECTION DAY: Tuesday - November 3, 2026 Locations open 7:00am to 7:00pm

Registered voters must go to the precinct location on their orange voter registration card.

Pct	Name & Address of Polling Place	Pct	Name & Address of Polling Place
101	Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center 125 Lehmann Drive in Kerrville	303	Calvary Temple Church 3000 Loop 534 in Kerrville
107	Thunder Hills Biker Church 111 Camino Real in Kerrville	308	Covenant Life Fellowship - Hill Country 6650 Highway 27 in Comfort
109	Northwest Hills Community Center 200 Northwest Hills Drive in Kerrville	312	Zion Lutheran Church 624 Barnett Street in Kerrville
113	St. Paul's Methodist Church 135 Methodist Encampment in Kerrville	314	First Baptist Church 625 Washington Street in Kerrville
118	Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center 125 Lehmann Drive in Kerrville	404	Mountain Home Fire Department 5475 Junction Highway in Mountain Home
119	Riverside Church of Christ 625 Harper Road in Kerrville	405	Hunt Community Center (new location) 107 Dutch Lane in Hunt
202	American Legion Hall (new location) 300 FM 480 in Center Point	406	Kerr County West Ingram Annex 510 College Street in Ingram
211	Union Church Building 101 Travis Street in Kerrville	410	Divide Volunteer Fire Department (new location) 4180 Highway 41 in Mountain Home
215	Hosanna Lutheran Church 134 Camp Meeting Road in Kerrville	416	Western Hills Baptist Church (new location) 2010 Goat Creek Road in Kerrville
220	Faith Christian Church 1205 Sidney Baker South in Kerrville	417	Western Hills Baptist Church 2010 Goat Creek Road in Kerrville

Kerr County 2026 General Election - District Offices

United States Congress - House of Representatives - Texas Congressional District 21

The United States House of Representatives has 435 seats and is the lower chamber of Congress. Texas has 38 congressional districts. Texas Congressional District 21 serves 9 counties - all of 7 counties: Bandera, Blanco, Comal, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, and Real, and parts of 2 counties: Bexar and Hays. The term of office is two years.

Duties: represents a specific geographic area of a state; creates, debates, and votes on bills that become federal law; creates and votes on a two-year budget; and oversees the administration of public policy by serving on committees.

Kristin Hook - Democrat	Mark Teixeira - Republican
Website: https://www.drkristinhook.org/	Website: No response received.

Background What training and experience qualify you to serve as the Representative for Texas Congressional District 21?

Hook: As a former middle school teacher with a PhD in animal behavior, I'm well-prepared to handle Congress! As a working-class Texan, I'm committed to building an economy that works for us instead of billionaires and special interests. As a public servant in the federal government, I've fought corruption, protected your tax dollars from waste and abuse, helped draft laws that protect our environment, expanded access to health care, and stood up for veterans, nursing home residents, children, and working families. As a scientist, I'm trained to solve problems, and that's what I will do for our district.

Teixeira: No response received.

Issues What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of Congress?

Hook: The most pressing issues are addressing the high cost of living and corruption. Far too many people are working hard and doing everything right but still can't afford necessities like housing, healthcare, groceries, gas, childcare, or a secure retirement on a fixed income. I want our economy to work for every generation of Texans, especially our middle class, and will protect and expand Social Security and Medicare. Meanwhile, billionaires and corporations are paying less in taxes than teachers and donating to politicians who are there to serve them instead of us. I will work to get money out of politics.

Teixeira: No response received.

Priorities What are your three top priorities for the next session of Congress?

Hook: My priorities are affordability, accountability, and opportunity. I will fight to lower taxes for working families, raise wages, lower everyday costs, and expand earned benefits like Social Security and the VA. I will demand accountability from politicians and corporations who put profits over people, are undermining our constitution, and are putting our precious water resources at risk. I will expand opportunity by investing in public schools and advocating for healthcare for all. Our government is like a hammer – it can be used to build or break things. I want to build a better future so every Texan can thrive.

Teixeira: No response received.

Healthcare What steps should Congress take to make sure that healthcare is effective, affordable, and accessible for all Americans?

Hook: Congress must hold Big Insurance and Big Pharma accountable by cracking down on price-gouging and expanding Medicare's power to negotiate drug prices. We should strengthen and defend the Affordable Care Act, closing the Medicaid coverage gap in states that haven't expanded it. Capping out-of-pocket costs for insulin and other essential medications, as we did for seniors on Medicare, would ease the burden on working families. Congress should also support rural hospitals and community clinics, so no American is left without access to care nearby. Finally, cracking down on surprise billing ensures patients aren't blindsided by costs they never agreed to.

Teixeira: No response received.

Concerns What legislation would you support or introduce that would address the top concerns of voters in Texas Congressional District 21?

Hook: Our district is growing fast, and residents are rightly concerned about water, AI data centers, and surveillance cameras. I share these concerns. I'll fight to expand federal funding for rural water infrastructure and drought resilience, so no family worries about having enough safe water. I'll support a moratorium on AI data centers, stopping these water-guzzling, energy-draining facilities here in TX-21 and nationwide. And I'll fight to require a warrant before law enforcement can track Americans using Flock cameras and other AI surveillance – because your Fourth Amendment rights don't disappear just because government uses new technology to watch you.

Teixeira: No response received.

Texas Legislature - Senate District 24

The Texas Senate has 31 seats and is the upper chamber of the Texas Legislature. Texas Senate District 24 serves 13 counties: Atascosa (part), Bandera, Bell, Burnet, Coryell, Gillespie, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Llano, Medina, Sutton, and Williamson (part). The term of office is four years.

Duties: passes bills on public policy that become law for the State of Texas; sets levels of state spending by passing a two-year budget; votes to raise or lower taxes for the state; and votes to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes of bills.

Pete Flores - Republican	Joe Paz Herrera - Democrat
Website: No response received.	Website: https://herrerafortexas.com/

Background What training and experience qualify you to serve as the Senator for Texas District 24?

Flores: No response received.

Herrera: I bring more than 20 years of business and leadership experience, supported by a BBA from UTSA and an MBA from Our Lady of the Lake University. Throughout my career, I have managed large budgets, negotiated complex agreements, and worked with businesses and communities across Texas. Living in Natalia, Texas has also given me firsthand insight into challenges involving healthcare access, public education, water, property rights, and affordability. I will bring that real-world experience and a practical, accountable approach to the Texas Senate, putting the needs of District 24 residents ahead of partisan politics.

Issues What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of the Texas Legislature?

Flores: No response received.

Herrera: The next Legislature must focus on affordability, strengthening public education, protecting property and water rights, and improving access to healthcare in rural communities. We also need to address rapid growth by investing in water infrastructure, roads, flood prevention, and a reliable electric grid while ensuring large developments and data centers do not unfairly burden local taxpayers or resources. Finally, we must strengthen public safety and emergency preparedness. Texas is growing rapidly, and our priority should be ensuring that growth improves the quality of life for Texans rather than leaving families and rural communities behind.

Priorities What are your top three priorities for the next session of the Texas Legislature?

Flores: No response received.

Herrera: My top three priorities would be: 1. Strengthening public education by increasing classroom funding, supporting teachers and staff, and keeping taxpayer dollars in our public schools. 2. Protecting Texas families and communities by addressing rising costs, expanding rural healthcare access, improving public safety, and protecting individual freedoms. 3. Protecting our water, land, and infrastructure by strengthening property rights, investing in water and flood infrastructure, and ensuring data centers and large developments do not threaten local water supplies or shift costs onto Texas families.

County Authority What steps should the Legislature take to increase the authority of counties, including data centers, electricity/grid, land development, water, and other resources?

Flores: No response received.

Herrera: Texas should give counties greater authority to manage growth and protect local resources. Counties need reasonable tools to address land development, data centers, quarries, water use, and projects that place significant demands on the electric grid and local infrastructure. I support giving counties greater oversight and planning authority while respecting private property rights and avoiding unnecessary regulation. Local officials and residents understand their communities best and should have a meaningful voice when major projects could affect water supplies, roads, public safety, property values, or taxpayers.

Concerns What legislation would you support or introduce to address the top concerns of voters in Texas Senate District 24?

Flores: No response received.

Herrera: I would support legislation that protects our water supply and strengthens safeguards for clean, reliable drinking water. I support pausing further data center expansion until Texas has stronger protections for water, electricity, and surrounding communities, while giving counties greater authority over major developments. I will defend property rights and ensure local landowners are not pushed aside for the benefit of powerful corporations. I would also prioritize adequately funding our public schools, supporting teachers, and addressing affordability so working families can keep more of what they earn while ensuring our communities have the resources they need to thrive.

Texas Legislature - House of Representatives District 53

The Texas House of Representatives has 150 seats and is the lower chamber of the Texas Legislature. Texas House District 53 serves 16 counties: Bandera, Crane, Crockett, Edwards, Kerr, Kimble, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Medina, Menard, Pecos, Real, Schleicher, Sutton, and Upton. The term of office is two years.

Duties: passes bills on public policy that become law for the State of Texas; sets levels of state spending by passing a two-year budget; votes to raise or lower taxes for the state; and votes to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes of bills.

Kathryn Hartmann - Democrat	Wes Virdell - Republican
Website: kathrynhartmannhd53.com	Website: virdellfortexas.com

Background What training and experience qualify you to serve as the Representative for Texas House District 53?

Hartmann: I began teaching in 1987 and a pediatric physical therapist since 2005. I have seen first-hand and worked with families that are struggling with the cost of food and resources due to the cuts from the budgets of SNAP, WIC, Medicaid and school funding. Texas is the 8th largest economy in the world, yet our teacher's payrate is 40th in the Nation. As a teacher I was the Student Council Club Sponsor at Bandera HS. I was also elected the student representative and then the Treasurer of the UT Health Medical School Student Council. I will work to improve affordability.

Virdell: I have served as Texas State Representative for 2 years now and have been involved in the legislative process since 2011. While serving in the US Air Force, I worked on Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles. I have also been a small business owner in the trucking industry and grew up in my parent's diesel repair company that was founded in 1993. I am a blue-collar legislator who prefers common sense and direct honesty over political pandering and cowardice.

Issues What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of the Texas Legislature?

Hartmann: TEA and the current administration want to change the social studies curriculum to focus only on Texas and American Studies. If these changes occur then many students who move from state to state or outside the USA would have deficiencies in world social studies knowledge as compared to same aged peers. Our education system has declined from 7th under Ann Richards to 27th-41st today due to Republican funding and policy changes. Do not cut budgets by 3% for agencies and universities, impose regulations and increase taxes (instead of tax breaks) on data centers, and reinforce the power grid.

Virdell: Creating an environment where the legislators listen to the people of Texas instead of the people in their bubble. Common sense often falls on deaf ears within the Texas Capitol. Legislators sometimes think they know other people's industries better than the experts in the industry. They need to be reminded that they are not the experts in other industries. They also need to be more cognizant of the herd mentality trap and that they need to stand up for their values and not betray themselves in exchange for a seat at the table.

Priorities What are your three top priorities for the next session of the Legislature?

Hartmann: I will work to increase funding for public schools so administrators will have fair and equal resources to hire exceptional staff. Increase funding for children with disabilities in public schools, and for medical needs. Increase funding for all children 0-5 to receive WIC. Vote against a Texas First Curriculum. Increase regulations for all AI and Data Centers and require them to pay sales tax. Increase property taxes for all foreign countries who own land in Texas, as well as imposing increased corporate tax for foreign entities. Vote to give our farmers and ranchers rights to form their own trade policies.

Virdell: Property rights to include reforming eminent domain. Privacy rights to include ending mass surveillance by our own government. Reforming misdemeanor and felony classifications. Felonies should be reserved for the most heinous crimes and people shouldn't carry the title of felon for the rest of their lives for low level crimes.

County Authority What steps should the Legislature take to increase the authority of counties, especially in regards to data centers, electricity/grid, land development, quarries, water, and other resources?

Hartmann: The legislature needs to repeal House Bill 2127 (2023). HB 2127 limits the local authority of counties. Currently, counties must lobby their legislator to address their concerns, or they can use TAC (Texas Association of Counties) to take their concerns to the legislators. This HB allows any person who is harmed by HB 2127 to sue the city or county for damages that can lead to lawsuits against the local government. Previously they had government immunity. Only then, can people of the county retain their sliver of regulatory power over data centers, electricity/grid, land development, water and conservation of resources.

Virdell: As a Republican, the core belief that local government governs best is a main tenant of our party. The problem we face is governments in liberal cities have abused their regulatory power. Texas has passed bills to reign in liberal cities that have bad regulations, but we need to recognize rural counties and the need to regulate in ways that is best for their counties. We need to reevaluate how to allow counties to have some limited regulatory authority related to large industry.

Concerns What legislation would you support or introduce to address the top concerns of voters in Texas House District 53?

Hartmann: I will introduce a bill to give landowners increased rights under eminent domain to protect themselves from private companies who simply fill out a form and are granted permission to invade and use a landowner's property for their personal gain because "it will help Texas". I would support and propose a bill concerning expanding county authority to manage rapid infrastructure projects. I would also propose campaign contribution limits to diminish corruption in our Texas government and work with TAC (Texas Association of Counties) at legislative conferences to represent their concerns in the legislature.

Virdell: I introduced 50 bills last session related to several issues and I will be refiling just as many or more next session. They can be viewed at the Texas Legislature Online website by clicking on my link and then clicking bills authored. I will be filing bills related to 765kv, data centers, eminent domain, and many more.

Texas 4th Court of Appeals - Chief Justice

The Fourth Court of Appeals is one of 14 intermediate appeals courts in Texas with jurisdiction over a 32-county region of the state. This court is composed of a Chief Justice and six other justices, who are each elected for a term of six years. Kerr County is one of the counties served by the Fourth Court of Appeals.

The Fourth Court hears appeals in civil and criminal cases from district and county courts: civil cases where judgment rendered exceeds \$250, exclusive of costs, and other civil proceedings as provided by law and criminal cases except in post-conviction writs of habeas corpus and where the death penalty has been imposed.

Duties of the Chief Justice: presides over the panel of justices, court proceedings, oral arguments, and administrative conferences; manages workflow and coordinates case distribution among the justices; handles administrative oversight for the internal operating procedures of the court; hears and decides the civil and criminal appeals from lower trial courts, votes on panel decisions and writes legal opinions.

Antonia "Toni" Arteaga - Democrat	Bert Richardson - Republican
Website: www.JudgeArteaga.com	Website: electjudgerichardson.com/

Qualifications What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position?

Arteaga: 20+ yrs judicial experience in civil & criminal law. Executive experience in several judicial leadership positions, including Pres. of the TX Assoc. of District Judges with 400+ TX judges as members.

Richardson: Former Asst. DA, Asst. US Attorney, Adjunct Prof. Of Law, Board Certified in Criminal Law, State District Court Judge for 15 years, Judge - Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Distinguished Law Graduate

Ethics How will you ensure your rulings remain impartial and free from both political pressure and the interests of your campaign donors?

Arteaga: My decisions are guided by judicial independence, fidelity to law, respect for precedent, and fairness to every party. That is what I have done for the past 20 years. As the most senior judge at the Bexar County Courthouse, I have a reputation for rulings that are based on the facts and applicable law.

Richardson: For the last 25+ years I have consistently followed the law in high profile political cases, actual innocence cases and death penalty cases. I have written numerous published opinions that support that claim that I have been a fair and impartial jurist.

Equity What barriers prevent Texans from accessing the court system, and what can courts do to reduce those barriers?

Arteaga: There are always financial hurdles in securing legal counsel, but studies show that Texas now has one of the highest rates of cases that have at least one self-represented litigant (SRL) involved. There are a variety of organizations that help SRLs, like Texas Rural Legal Aid and San Antonio Legal Services Association. Judges provide court-appointed counsel when a person's liberty is at stake.

Richardson: The biggest barrier to accessing the court system is financial. Appointing and compensating qualified attorneys would be one way. In the alternative, public defender offices are another means of achieving that goal.

Precedent What factors should the Court of Appeals consider when deciding whether to change a past court ruling?

Arteaga: A careful review of applicable statutes, including any changes in the law would be absolutely necessary. Consistency and precedent are invaluable in the rule of law and society's reliance and respect for the rule of law. Thus, a transparent thorough analysis with a clear reasoning would be required before changing any long-standing legal precedent.

Richardson: 1) Was the case probably decided. 2) Is the precedent no longer workable. 3) Has the legislature changed the law. 4) Have higher courts written on the legal issue and held differently.

Philosophy What is your judicial philosophy?

Arteaga: Judges must apply the law as written, and ensure that each litigant who appears before the court has the opportunity to be heard, treated with respect and receive timely rulings.

Richardson: I believe judges should follow the constitution and apply the law according to its original meaning. In other words, as the law is written. If laws need to be changed that is the role of the legislature unless the laws passed are unconstitutional.

Kerr County 2026 General Election

The following candidates are on the ballot and are unopposed.

All candidates were elected in the Republican Party Primary Election in March 2026.

District Judge, 198th Judicial District: M. Patrick Maguire (Bandera County and Kerr County)

County Judge: Tom Jones

Judge, County Court at Law: Robert Hunter Moose

District Clerk: Eunavae Baublitt Tonroy

County Clerk: Carl Berthold

County Treasurer: Tracy Soldan

County Surveyor: Lee C. Voelkel

County Commissioner Precinct 1 (unexpired term): Clay Lambert

County Commissioner Precinct 4: Guy "Bubba" Walters

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1: Mitzi M. French

Justice of the Peace Precinct 2: J. R. Hoyne

Justice of the Peace Precinct 3: Taylor Robertson

Justice of the Peace Precinct 4: Don Harris

Kerr County Commissioners Court - Commissioner, Precinct 2

A county commissioner in the state of Texas is elected to the County Commissioners Court to conduct the general business of the county. The Court consists of the county judge who is elected at large and four commissioners who are elected by geographical precinct. Each commissioner is typically responsible for building and maintaining county roads and bridges within the precinct. The term of office is four years.

Duties: adopts the county budget and the county tax rate; approves all budgeted purchases of the county; sets all salaries and benefits for county employees; authorizes all county contracts; provides and maintains all county buildings and facilities; and fills vacancies in elective and appointed county offices.

Rich Paces - Republican	Jeremy Walther - Independent
Website: https://richpaces.com/	Website: https://gokerrcounty.org/

Background What training and experience qualify you to serve as the Kerr County Commissioner for Precinct 2?

Paces: I have served as Kerr County Commissioner for the past four years. Before taking office, I gained 36 years of experience in the upstream oil and gas industry, including 16 years in executive management. I managed annual operating budgets exceeding \$1 billion and developed extensive experience in operations, project management, contracts, procurement, financial analysis, and cost control. I am also a registered professional engineer, volunteer firefighter, and president of the tri-county Sub-Regional Planning Commission opposing BESS. This combination of county, executive, engineering, financial, emergency-response, and community-service experience more than qualifies me to continue serving the residents of Precinct 2.

Walther: I grew up in Kerr County and returned with my family in 2012. I hold a degree in Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M and worked as an ecologist in environmental consulting, giving me firsthand watershed management experience. I founded Pint & Plow Brewing Company and Trailhead Beer Garden, managing operations and budgets in a tight-margin industry. I also founded the Kerrville Urban Trail System and am a founding director of the Kerr County River Foundation, work that requires raising private funds, coordinating with multiple government agencies, and delivering public infrastructure and services without burdening taxpayers.

Issues What are the most pressing issues facing the Kerr County Commissioners Court?

Paces: The most pressing issues are completing flood recovery, implementing an effective countywide Flood Warning System, protecting public safety, maintaining roads and essential services, and controlling spending and property taxes. Kerr County must also manage responsible growth, protect groundwater, strengthen election integrity, and oppose unsuitable industrial development, including Battery Energy Storage Systems in our drought-prone and environmentally sensitive Hill Country. Commissioners must address these challenges while recognizing the limits Texas law places on county authority and working effectively with cities, volunteer fire departments, groundwater officials, state agencies, legislative representatives, neighboring counties, and the public.

Walther: We need a creative effective plan to deal with the inevitability of growth and change in our county. Water security will continue to be a growing concern as groundwater demands increase throughout our region, and a holistic watershed perspective is needed to protect the Guadalupe River and its tributaries. The county's emergency preparedness systems need real investment, not just for floods. Infrastructure, especially roads and bridges, need to be on maintenance-based systems instead of repair-based systems to save taxpayer money and provide sound transportation for the long-term.

Budget Do you feel the budget for Kerr County is adequate? Explain.

Paces: The current 2025-26 recurring expenditure budget of \$54.8 million exceeds estimated revenue of \$50.9 million, which declined because of flood-damaged properties. Including \$8.7 million in non-recurring expenditures produced an estimated \$12.7 million deficit and a projected year-end reserve balance of only \$14.6 million. However, the county typically spends less than budgeted, resulting in higher reserves than originally forecast as seen in our latest projections. While the budget is adequate to fund essential services and recovery needs, continued discipline is necessary. I remain committed to controlling expenditures, maintaining adequate reserves, and keeping county property taxes as low as possible.

Walther: Kerr County's budget consistently relies on reserve funds to be balanced. No matter the reason, this is a dangerous pattern that needs correction. As stewards of taxpayer money, commissioners should exhaust efficient, prudent and creative approaches before any tax increases or cuts in services are considered. This means aggressive pursuit of cost recovery agreements for shared service, building more robust grant-writing programs, and growing private partnerships like Kerr County Sheriff's Foundation, Kerrville Pets Alive, and Kerr County River Foundation to help fund equipment, services, and infrastructure without new taxpayer burden.

Priorities What are your top three priorities, if elected as the Kerr County Commissioner for Precinct 2?

Paces: My top priorities are improving county services and infrastructure without raising property taxes; continuing to help residents and businesses rebuild from the 2025 and 2026 floods while ensuring an effective countywide Flood Warning System is implemented; and continuing to lead the regional fight against Battery Energy Storage Systems invading our drought-prone and environmentally sensitive Hill Country and work to amend legislation to better regulate our grid, improve its reliability and eliminate unnecessary costs that burden all Texas ratepayers. These priorities reflect the county's immediate recovery needs and our long-term responsibility to protect residents, taxpayers, property, natural resources, and public safety.

Walther: In response to every development project that nobody asked for, every hard question without a clear answer, and every challenge that threatens Kerr County, I will lean on three pillars. The first is Fiscal Responsibility: working toward department budgets that are more honest, transparent and effective. The second is Community Collaboration: talking to anyone, understanding their perspective and finding solutions that work for everyone, not just one group. The third is Strategic Planning: fiercely protecting the qualities that make Kerr County special for us and future generations.

Authority How do you plan to address your priorities within the scope of your authority as a county commissioner?

Paces: I will use the Commissioners Court's budget and contracting authority to adequately fund the Sheriff's Office, emergency services, and Road and Bridge Department while maintaining a responsible road maintenance cycle. I will continue connecting flood-affected residents and businesses with recovery funding and help guide implementation of the Flood Warning System, public education, and emergency coordination. I will support enforcement of applicable fire and safety codes for Battery Energy Storage Systems and advocate for stronger state fire-safety and cybersecurity laws where county authority is limited. Progress will require sound budgeting, regional cooperation, public communication, and majority support from Commissioners Court.

Walther: County Commissioners have a difficult job serving their constituents with dwindling tools to do so, as the State continues to strip authority from local governments. Within these constraints, I will multiply my effectiveness through creative approaches and strengthened relationships inside and outside Kerr County. Talking with commissioners in Texas counties who have already faced similar growth pressures will help prevent us from spinning our wheels. I will also invest in partnerships with regional organizations and nonprofits that support causes mattering to everyone in Kerr County.

Center Point ISD School Board of Trustees

NOTE: School board elections are nonpartisan. Candidates do not declare a political party preference.

Some voters in Kerr County are eligible to vote in the Center Point ISD School Board Election.

Check the boxes on your voter registration card or consult the State of Texas website, [votetexas.gov](https://www.votetexas.gov), and follow the instructions to check your voter registration status and eligibility to vote in this election.

The Center Point ISD School Board of Trustees consists of seven members elected by eligible voters. Each trustee serves in an at-large position for the term and represents the entire school district. Elections are held in November of even-numbered years. The term of office is four years.

Duties: adopt goals and priorities and monitor success; adopt policies and review for effectiveness; hire and evaluate the superintendent; adopt a budget and set a tax rate; and communicate with the community.

The election is for **three at-large positions** on the Center Point ISD School Board of Trustees. The three candidates with the highest number of votes will be declared elected.

Harry Joe Holt Jr.	Mary L. Lambert	Jesse Segura
N/A	N/A	No response received.
Robbin Smith	Ren Trapino	Josh Whitworth
Email: radartx@hctc.net	N/A	Phone: 830-377-8993

Background What training and experience qualify you to serve as a Trustee on the Center Point ISD School Board?

Holt: I was born and raised in Center Point and attended Center Point schools K–12. I have raised my family and built my business here. Through the Athletic Booster Club, school activities, volunteer work, and community service, I have learned the importance of working together, listening to others, and following through.

Lambert: I was a teacher for 35 years. I have taught in Texas public schools and private schools both in Texas and internationally. I spent my last 6 & 1/2 years teaching in Center Point, which is where I went to school for 5 & 1/2 years. I was a teacher and principal of a small Christian School for 4 years. I was a Literacy Coach in Austin, Texas where I worked with teachers to support them in reading and writing instruction. I have a great love for children and want to see each one of them grow to love learning!

Segura: No response received.

Smith: I have a BA in English from UTSA. My family and I moved to Center Point in 1999. My kids graduated from CPISD in 2013 and 2015. I retired from CPISD in 2025, having worked in the Business Office for 18 years as a Clerk and a year or two as a Teacher's Aide and Substitute. I stayed involved with students after my kids graduated by keeping the books for Basketball games at CPISD for several years. I served as Elementary PAT President for a couple of years and was in charge of the Class of 2013 Project Graduation.

Trapino: Ren Wright Trapino has lived in Center Point for 10 years, teaching Art at Notre Dame School in Kerrville and as a Substitute teacher in KISD, and CPISD. She has taught for 40 years as a licensed K-12 Art teacher with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from Denver University which included studying Art for one year in Rome, Italy. She also earned a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction Design from Colorado Christian University and teaches Summer Art camps in our area.

Whitworth: I have lived in Center Point for 41 years and am a proud graduate of Center Point High School. I am also a second generation CPISD graduate and my kids will also be CPISD graduates. Throughout the years I have been involved with Center Point Little League as a Coach and really enjoyed living and supporting the community I live in. I also make every effort to be at as many events as possible. I have many hours of training in leadership roles at the job I have been at for 20 years.

Issues What are the most pressing issues facing the Center Point ISD School Board?

Holt: I believe Center Point ISD is doing a good job. Our challenge is to continue building on that success by supporting our students, teachers, and staff, maintaining a safe learning environment, and using our resources responsibly while providing the best opportunities possible for every student.

Lambert: Center Point ISD has been losing students to other districts. I love this town, and loved growing up here! I believe the people and culture of this town helped mold me into the person that I am today! I want to see Center Point ISD become the school district that every parent wants for their children! I want Center Point to be known as a school of excellence in education and building of Godly character.

Segura: No response received.

Smith: A possible pressing issue facing the Board is hiring and retaining good teachers. The Board needs to make sure the Teachers and Support Staff have the backing of the Board and Administration. Another issue is Student Retention. The Board needs to listen to the concerns of the Teachers and Parents regarding the education of the students. At the end of the day, the Students are the ones who matter.

Trapino: Students in Center Point keep leaving our school. Thirty left last year and another forty students have left this year. I would like to know why and how we can keep local families enrolling their children in Center Point Schools.

Whitworth: Declining enrollment is a major issue, which is impacting funding.

Concerns What are citizens and parents telling you about school district concerns?

Holt: The parents and citizens I talk with care deeply about our school and its future. They want continued communication, opportunities for students, support for our teachers and staff, and responsible decisions that keep Center Point ISD moving in a positive direction. I share those same goals.

Lambert: I want to see each child excited about who they are and excited about the endless possibilities for their future! I would love to see the high school offer more college level courses and trade skills, like the exemplary culinary program, that would give the students an advantage when they graduate. It is the school's privilege and honor to partner with parents and students to prepare them for their future, exemplify excellence and godly character, and become leaders in our community, state, and world.

Segura: No response received.

Smith: Parents are concerned about discipline (or lack of discipline) in the classrooms. Some students are allowed to misbehave with little or no consequences. They feel this could affect what and how the students learn. Parents feel the Teachers and Support Staff need more help with classroom discipline. Some citizens are concerned with declining enrollment. Some citizens also feel that there should be term limits for Board members.

Trapino: That they can get a better education elsewhere. However, I hope and pray that a Classical and Challenging Education may be implemented for all children in our Center Point community that will be attractive and bring students back. Our School should be one that advances each and every student into the best individual they can be, able to give back to our community with the services and honest leadership we need, as soon as they graduate.

Whitworth: It really concerns me that we have so many kids that have left the district to go to a school right down the road. I would like to form a community committee to talk about ways to improve student education. Many parents have told me that they would like more opportunities for their children academically, such as in class instruction for Dual Credit courses instead of teaching themselves on a computer. They would also like to have a course that teaches about ACT and SAT to be better prepared for college.

Comfort ISD School Board, Trustee District 2

NOTE: School board elections are nonpartisan. Candidates do not declare a political party preference.

Some voters in Kerr County are eligible to vote in the Comfort ISD School Board Election, District 2.

Check the boxes on your voter registration card or consult the State of Texas website, votetexas.gov, and follow the instructions to check your voter registration status and eligibility to vote in this election.

The Comfort ISD School Board of Trustees consists of seven members. Each member is elected by the eligible voters of a specific geographic area of the school district, but all members serve the entire school district. Comfort ISD School Board districts include portions of two counties: Kendall and Kerr. Elections are held in November of even-numbered years. The term of office is four years.

Duties: adopt goals and priorities and monitor success; adopt policies and review for effectiveness; hire and evaluate the superintendent; adopt a budget and set a tax rate; and communicate with the community.

Alison E. Judkins	Dawn Kay Lantz
Email: alisonjudkins@yahoo.com	Email: elantz@hctc.net

Background What training and experience qualify you to serve as a Trustee on the Comfort ISD School Board?

Judkins: The relationships I have built through serving on the PTA, CYFA Board, CABC Board, and as a Trustee have prepared me to continue serving our community. My working relationships with students, teachers, and administrators will allow me to build on the district's achievements and move our goals forward. A strong foundation has been established, and I am committed to continuing that work. Attending district meetings, events, and school board trainings will remain a top priority. My ability to collaborate, ask thoughtful and difficult questions, and work toward success for every student will help me best serve the Comfort community.

Lantz: I was a graduate of Comfort ISD and am parent of a graduate and grandparent of children who attend Comfort ISD. I have 28 years of experience with the local and city government. I understand local and state laws as it pertains to legislature demands of the district. As a retired elected official for Kerr County I understand that I represent all constituents in my district and will strive to do what is best for the district and students of CISD.

Issues What are the most pressing issues facing the Comfort ISD School Board?

Judkins: Like many districts across Texas, Comfort ISD is facing a deficit budget. As unfunded mandates continue to grow, we must find creative solutions to address funding gaps. Setting legislative priorities and partnering with neighboring districts to advocate in Austin are important parts of this work. At the same time, we are focused on improving accountability outcomes while educating the whole student—not simply teaching to a test. Student attendance also plays an important role, and our district is encouraging families to partner with us to ensure students are present and receive the instructional time they need to succeed.

Lantz: Funding all curricular activities equally and ensuring the teachers pay scale is comparable to other local, same sized districts. As a board member I think I need to ensure all students excel and succeed.

Concerns What are citizens and parents telling you about school district concerns?

Judkins: Parents and community members have raised concerns about district facility maintenance. As a Board, we took these concerns seriously and spent two full days walking the district to assess needs. This led to the creation of a facilities committee and ultimately the passage of a bond, with numerous improvements now underway. Communication remains an area where our community would like to see continued growth. We are utilizing multiple communication methods and remain committed to improving transparency. Campus and district accountability are also priorities, and changes have been made, with new strategies implemented to strengthen accountability across the district.

Lantz: The parents have raised concerns to me about better maintenance and upkeep for the facilities and the standardized testing scores for Comfort ISD students. The parents are also concerned about expensive equipment not properly stored and maintained. The parents are appreciative of the upgraded sports facilities but concerned other areas don't receive the same attention.

Harper ISD School Board

NOTE: School board elections are nonpartisan. Candidates do not declare a political party preference.

Some voters in Kerr County are eligible to vote in the Harper ISD School Board Election.

Check the boxes on your voter registration card or consult the State of Texas website, [votetexas.gov](https://www.votetexas.gov), and follow the instructions to check your voter registration status and eligibility to vote in this election.

The Harper ISD School Board of Trustees consists of seven members elected by eligible voters. Each trustee serves in an at-large position for the term and represents the entire school district. Elections are held in November of even-numbered years. Harper ISD includes portions of three counties: Gillespie, Kerr, and Kimble. The term of office is four years.

Duties: adopt goals and priorities and monitor success; adopt policies and review for effectiveness; hire and evaluate the superintendent; adopt a budget and set a tax rate; and communicate with the community.

The election is for **four at-large positions** on the Harper ISD Board of Trustees. The four candidates with the highest number of votes will be declared elected.

Paul Anderson	Bill Bacon	John Fogle
Email: paul.anderson@cpa.com	Email: bill.baconharperisd@gmail.com	No response received.

Timothy Holmes	Mary Krebs
No response received.	Email: mary.krebs@yahoo.com

Background What training and experience qualify you to serve as a trustee on the Harper ISD School Board?

Anderson: As a current Harper ISD School Board Trustee and current and past board member of multiple nonprofits in the Harper and surrounding Hill Country area, I am well acquainted with what it takes to collaboratively run a successful board. And as a CPA with school district auditing and accounting experience, I will continue to assist the board, staff, and community to strategically assess and address crucial funding challenges facing our district. Additionally, volunteering with our Harper youth sports teams and being married to a HISD teacher help keep me abreast of topics of importance facing our community and school.

Bacon: I served in public schools for 29 years as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. I worked in and managed facilities, maintenance, security, transportation, personnel, instructional services, budget, finance, and school board and public relations. Early in my career at the Divide School District, I brought the district from TEA ratings of "Academically Acceptable", to "Recognized" and then to "Exemplary", a rating that was continued throughout my career until retirement. Financially, (early 2000s) the district would be closed. I found ways for the district to stay open and be financially sound with about \$4 million in fund balance when I retired.

Fogle: No response received.

Holmes: No response received.

Krebs: As a parent of former Harper ISD students, I worked closely with teachers and staff to help my children succeed and prepare for their futures. My 40-year career in law enforcement strengthened my leadership, sound judgment, and commitment to public service. Now retired, I can devote more time to advocating and volunteering for the school and community while supporting the education and well-being of every student, teacher, and staff member.

Issues What are the most pressing issues facing the Harper ISD School Board?

Anderson: Like many districts, Harper ISD is facing increasing costs, aging facilities, and the need to attract and retain high performing teachers. And these challenges are increasing due to continued inflation, the advent of vouchers, competition from competing districts, and insufficient financial support from our state government. I plan to capitalize on my expertise in school district finance as a current Trustee and my budgeting background as a CPA and small business owner to assist our Superintendent and school staff in maximizing our allotted dollars and to creatively pursue other avenues of funding that are not subject to state recapture.

Bacon: Maintaining the highest quality education is important. We must attract the best teachers for our students. The best way to bring great teachers to our district for our students is through great administration, contagious enthusiasm, and competitive salaries. Our new administration is already well on track to providing our whole school district with an organizational environment that will be the envy of all of the surrounding districts. We should spend wisely, attract more students (which is the surest way of keeping more of our local tax revenue), and explore ways to increase revenue from other revenue sources.

Fogle: No response received.

Holmes: No response received.

Krebs: The safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff remains a top priority. I will continue to provide strong oversight of campus security along with the Chief of Police of Harper ISD. I support programs that build positive social skills and ensure students have trusted ways to report concerns. By working closely with district leadership, families, and the community, I can help sustain a safe, supportive learning environment where students thrive and employees feel valued. I will also continue to support the mental health and well-being of our teachers and staff as their workload and responsibilities continue to grow.

Concerns What are citizens and parents telling you about school district concerns?

Anderson: The need to better engage with parents and community partners and the desire to expand opportunities for both students and staff are probably the most frequent comments I hear as a current Trustee. As a parent of children who attend our schools, those concerns are also my own. I want to work with my fellow Trustees and our Superintendent to address these challenges and to create a culture of continuous improvement to become the school district of choice in the Texas Hill Country.

Bacon: The concerns of the people in our district focus on maintaining the highest quality of education (retaining high quality educators for our students), being sure our school taxes are being used wisely (both in what we spend locally and what we must send to the state), and maintaining a safe campus. Schools are forced to consider security problems that are different from those in the past. We will look for opportunities to make our campus safer. Years ago, I was one of the first superintendents in the state to have our staff be armed and trained in school shooter situations.

Fogle: No response received.

Holmes: No response received.

Krebs: The primary concern I hear from citizens and parents is student safety and security. As a former law enforcement officer, I will continue to monitor these concerns and work with the Safety and Security Committee. At the same time, parents and citizens recognize Harper ISD's strong educational and social opportunities and its willingness to listen to families, staff, students, and the community. As a board member, I will remain accessible, encourage open communication, and support partnerships that strengthen the district and improve education for every student.

League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas

For over forty years, this League has served Kerr County and now serves six counties in the Texas Hill Country: Bandera, Blanco, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, and Llano. Members of this League live in all six counties. Both men and women over the age of 16 are members of the League and there are various membership levels with annual dues as a part of the membership. Visit the website to join: lwvhillcountrytexas.org

If reading this Voter Guide has helped you to be informed and vote, please consider a donation, in any amount, to help the Hill Country Texas League continue to offer this service to voters. Donations are accepted through lwvhillcountrytexas.org or mail to the post office box listed on the front page.