

Voter Guide for Bandera County

Primary Elections on Tuesday - March 5, 2024



League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas

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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 League of Women Voters.

Get Ready to Vote in a Primary Election in Texas!

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

The Texas State Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Texas with information on candidates for President and US Senate, as well as state offices like Railroad Commissioner, Texas State Courts, and State Board of Education. All these elections are for offices which serve every citizen in the state of Texas. This voter guide is printed in color and has a large format using newsprint paper.

The County Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas with information on candidates for state districts like US Congress House of Representatives, Texas Legislature House of Representatives, and Court of Appeals, as well as candidates for county 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 website: lwvhillcountrytexas.org.

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

Deadline Dates for Primary Elections on Tuesday - March 5, 2024

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|--|---------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Register to Vote/Change Address | Monday | February 5 | Last day to register to vote |
| Voting by Mail | Monday | January 1 | First day to apply for Mail in Ballot |
| | Friday | February 23 | Last day to apply for Mail in Ballot |
| | Tuesday | March 5 | Last day to return Mail in Ballot |
| Early Voting | Monday | February 20 | First day to vote in-person |
| | Friday | March 1 | Last day to vote in-person |
| Election Day | Tuesday | March 5 | In-person at voting location |

Election and Voting Information for Bandera County

Sample ballots and other Information from the Bandera County Election Department posted online:
<http://www.banderacounty.org/page/elections.home>

Take a photo ID with you to the voting location.

Curb-side voting is available for Early Voting and on Election Day.

Remember: no cell phones, no texting, no photos, no campaign clothing or material, no loitering

Yellow voter registration card details the elections for the voter residence address.

EARLY VOTING AT THE MAIN LOCATION: Weekend Voting only at this location.

Bandera Ray Mauer Courthouse Annex 403 12th Street

| Monday February 19 | Tuesday February 20 | Wednesday February 21 | Thursday February 22 | Friday February 23 | Saturday February 24 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Presidents Day | 7:30am to 5:30pm | 7:30am to 5:30pm | 7:30am to 5:30pm | 7:30am to 5:30pm | 7:00am to 7:00pm |

| Sunday February 25 | Monday February 26 | Tuesday February 27 | Wednesday February 28 | Thursday February 29 | Friday March 1 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1:00pm to 7:00pm | 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 |

EARLY VOTING AT THE TWO BRANCH LOCATIONS: No weekend voting at these locations.

Lakehills Lakehills Area Library 7200 FM 1283

Medina Bandera County - Medina Annex 161 East Parker Street

| Monday February 19 | Tuesday February 20 | Wednesday February 21 | Thursday February 22 | Friday February 23 | Saturday February 24 |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Presidents Day | 7:30am to 5:30pm | 7:30am to 5:30pm | 7:30am to 5:30pm | 7:30am to 5:30pm | Not Open |

| Sunday February 25 | Monday February 26 | Tuesday February 27 | Wednesday February 28 | Thursday February 29 | Friday March 1 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Not Open | 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 7 Locations open 7:00am to 7:00pm

Voter must go to the precinct location on the yellow voter registration card.

| Precinct # | Location | Address | City |
|------------|--|------------------------|------------|
| 101 | Shepherd's Gate Church Fellowship Hall | 614 Polly Peak Drive | Bandera |
| 102 | Pipe Creek Volunteer Fire Dept | 1331 FM 1283 | Pipe Creek |
| 203 | Lakehills Area Library | 7200 FM 1283 | Lakehills |
| 204 | Lakehills Area Library | 7200 FM 1283 | Lakehills |
| 305 | Ray Mauer Annex | 403 12th Street | Bandera |
| 306 | Medina Annex | 161 East Parker Street | Medina |
| 407 | Bandera ISD Bus Barn | 1576 Highway 173 South | Bandera |
| 408 | Tarpley Community Center | 232 Valentine Lane | Tarpley |
| 409 | Bandera ISD Bus Barn | 1576 Highway 173 South | Bandera |
| 410 | Vanderpool Volunteer Fire Dept | 32647 FM 187 | Vanderpool |

Bandera County 2024 Primary Elections - State Districts

United States Congress - House of Representative District 21

The United States House of Representatives has 435 seats and is the lower chamber of the US Congress. US House of Representatives Texas District 21 serves 10 counties: Bandera, Bexar (part), Blanco, Comal, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Real, and Travis (part). The term of office is two years.

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

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| Democratic Primary | Kristin Hook | Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary. |
| Republican Primary | Chip Roy | Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary. |

State Board of Education District 1

The Texas State Board of Education has 15 members who are elected from single member geographical districts. The Governor appoints one elected member to chair the board. The term of office is two years or four years. Bandera County is one of 30 counties in SBOE District 1.

Duties: setting curriculum standards; reviewing and adopting instructional materials; establishing graduation requirements; overseeing the Texas Permanent School Fund; appointing board members to military reservation and special school districts; providing final review of rules proposed by the State Board for Educator Certification; and reviewing the commissioner's proposed award of new charter schools, with authority to veto a recommended applicant.

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| Democratic Primary | Gustavo Reveles | Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary. |
| Republican Primary | Michael (Travis) Stevens | Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary. |

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 the law for the State of Texas; sets levels for state spending by passing a two-year budget; votes to raise and lower taxes for the state; and votes to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes of bills.

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| Democratic Primary | Joe P. Herrera | Candidate is unopposed in the Democratic Primary. |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|

Republican Primary

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| Hatch Smith | Website: www.hatchsmithfortexas.com | Wes Virdell | Website: www.VirdellforTexas.com |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|

What in your background qualifies you to serve the as a state representative in Texas?

Smith: I am a multigenerational rancher in Texas with an extensive background in finance, manufacturing, healthcare and agriculture. I served on the Lower Colorado River Authority and Governor's Council for Broadband. These board positions gave me a unique perspective on our states and specifically House District 53's standing with water, power transmission and generation and broadband needs.

Virdell: I currently serve as the Texas State Director for Gun Owners of America. I have been attending the Texas Capitol since 2011 and helped to pass Open Carry, Constitutional Carry, and other pro-2A bills. I also worked this last session to kill 152 anti-2A bills. While serving in the US Air Force, I worked on Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and served as a Military Training Leader.

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

Smith: No response received.

Virdell: Several legislators who campaign as Republican have worked behind the scenes to kill Republican legislation and they place Democrats in top committee positions. We must change how the House functions to ensure Republican bills aren't killed.

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

Smith: Water – We need to really focus on conservation and common sense management of our States most precious resource. Issue range from private damns trapping public waters, phosphorus levels in waste water disposal, surface and ground water management and regulatory oversight. If Texas is going to continue to say we are pro-growth, we need to better manage our water. Infrastructure – our rural counties are in need of assistant with roads, water utilities, power, and law enforcement. Many are already overburdened with the boarder crisis and expanding population growth. We also need to work on making our electric grid MORE RELIABLE! Healthcare –

Virdell: Water, border security, and federal overreach are my three priorities for the next session.

What are your priorities for education in the next session of the Legislature?

Smith: Hatch believes in empowering parents to make the educational choices that are best for their children – period. A one-size-fits-all approach to educating the next generation has proven to be a failure time and again. In the Texas House, Hatch will fight to ensure the rural schools that make up the backbone of our district are fully funded, and that the decisions about how to use those funds reside at the local level – not with politicians or unelected state bureaucrats. Hatch also believes that Educational Savings Accounts have a place in the equation, particularly for those children with special education requirements

Virdell: I have strong concerns for what children are being taught in public schools. After public schools mandated masks on children and inappropriate books have been found in school libraries, many conservatives have lost faith in our school system. Many parents want to see their kids have the opportunity to move to a better school where woke agendas are not being pushed on to them. I support allocated tax dollars following the student and I believe competition among schools is healthy.

What are the greatest concerns of the voters in your district?

Smith: Border security and water! Our federal government has failed to protect our borders and until we can elect a Republican to the White House, we need to continue with Operation Lone Star and give our DPS and other state agencies the resources they need to continue to slow the illegal immigration and document the criminals coming across.

Virdell: After our current State Rep wasted millions in taxpayer money to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton while presenting no real evidence, no sworn testimony, and a rushed process, residents of this district want to know they have a State Rep that will actually represent this district instead of catering to special interest groups.

Texas 4th Court of Appeals

The 4th Court of Appeals is one of 14 state courts and has jurisdiction in a 32-county region of the state. This court has a Chief Justice and six other justices, who are elected at large for a term of six years.

Duties: receives appeals in civil and criminal cases from district and county courts; has intermediate appellate jurisdiction of both civil and criminal cases appealed from lower courts; in civil cases where judgment rendered exceeds \$250, exclusive of costs, and other civil proceedings as provided by law; and in criminal cases except in post-conviction writs of habeas corpus and where the death penalty has been imposed.

Justice, Place 2

Democratic Primary

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| Velia J. Meza | Beth Watkins |
| No contact information received. | Website: www.KeepBeth.com |

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

Meza: I currently serve as a Criminal District Court Judge in San Antonio, Texas. I have 22 years of combined jury trial and appellate experience in both criminal and civil matters.

Watkins: I have been on this bench 5 years, am one of the most productive justices in the State, and am rarely overturned. I'm Board Certified in civil appellate law. I work really hard and I love my job!

Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

Meza: The public can rest assured that campaign contributions are used for the specific purposes allowed by the Texas Ethics Commission. Judges routinely file campaign finance reports to assure full compliance and transparency.

Watkins: This is a hard question, but I have an easy answer—I do not accept campaign contributions from lawyers or parties appearing before me. Period.

Judges must avoid even the appearance of impropriety, and taking campaign contributions from someone who has a case pending in your court just doesn't pass the smell test.

Separation of Powers: What is your view of the role of courts relative to the other branches of government?

Meza: My view is that the Judiciary is an independent branch of government. We are called upon to interpret the law. We are also called upon to collaborate with the other branches for the proper functioning of our government. As part of an independent Judiciary, I faithfully and impartially discharge my duties without regard for a litigant's background, influence, or status.

Watkins: The US Constitution is a sacred document and I revere it. I have taught constitutional law at St. Mary's University School of Law for years and have studied the Constitution extensively. The Framers created three separate, distinct—and equal—branches. Our role is to interpret the laws passed by the legislature and to resolve conflicts that arise in their execution. It's a brilliant system.

Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

Meza: We need to encourage access to justice as early as law school and encourage the State Bar members to remain engaged in representing those who cannot afford representation. When I was in private practice I frequently helped single moms to establish or collect court ordered child support payments for their children.

Watkins: To live our values of "justice for all," we must close the justice gap. We need more funding for legal aid organizations, so they can represent low-income Texans in critical cases involving landlord-tenant disputes, child support, and insurance conflicts. Groups like the Texas and San Antonio Bar Foundations do this work every day. I am a proud long-time sustaining member of both organizations.

Court System: What effect will the new business court and statewide court of appeals have on the administration of justice in Texas?

Meza: Since the courts were recently created by our Legislature and have not started operating, it is unclear how the courts will improve or not improve the administration of justice in Texas.

Watkins: I understand lawsuits have already been filed to challenge these courts. Those challenges could come through my court. The Texas Canons of Judicial Conduct provide, "A judge shall abstain from public comment about a pending or impending proceeding which may come before the judge's court...." As a result, I must respectfully decline to answer this question.

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| Republican Primary | No one filed for this office |
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Justice, Place 3

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| Democratic Primary | Cynthia Marie Chapa | Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary. |
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Republican Primary

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| Todd McCray | Website: www.mccrayforjudge.com | Michael J. Ritter | Website: www.vote4ritter.com |
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Qualifications: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

McCray: 34 years experience representing both the State of Texas as prosecutor and low-income individuals in trial and appeal court. Tried 100 plus jury trials. Board Certified by the TBLS since 1997.

Ritter: I'm a current elected official with 10+ years of judicial experience. I've written 450+ opinions and worked on 1,000+ appeals. I'm double board certified in both civil appeals and criminal appeals.

Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?

McCray: Our judicial system should be independent, fair and impartial. Candidates should refrain from financial dealings that reflect adversely on impartiality. Although the Code of Judicial Conduct does not prohibit candidates from soliciting funds for appropriate expenses, in order to uphold judicial integrity, candidates should adhere to the Judicial Conduct Code and personally observe those standards.

Ritter: Voters should select candidates with judicial experience and a proven record of applying the law fairly, despite having received donations. Candidates without prior judicial experience are more likely to be influenced by the donors who got them into office. Judges' ability to rule fairly, uninfluenced by donations, only comes from confidence in their experience and qualifications to be a judge.

Separation of Powers: What is your view of the role of courts relative to the other branches of government?

McCray: Our judicial branch of government should be independent and impartial relative to the other branches. Judicial independence is derived from the U.S. Constitution which means that courts should be protected from undue influence from the other branches. Judges should be free to decide cases fairly and impartially, relying only on the facts and law. The judiciary should uphold the rule of law.

Ritter: My judicial philosophy is very conservative. To protect the rule of law, judges must not be activists who legislate from the bench. When judges impose their own personal views of what the law should be (not what it is), it's wholly unfair to those who followed the law, destroys confidence that judges are unbiased, and ends up in reversals from higher courts, just wasting everyone's time and money.

Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?

McCray: I have 34 years of experience representing the rights of low income and underserved individuals before trial and appellate courts throughout Texas. Board Certification was established by the Texas Supreme Court to "promote the availability, accessibility and quality of services of attorneys to the public." Advocacy for access to justice improves equity for all Texans.

Ritter: One access-to-justice barrier is the unnecessary costs of inefficient courts. Inefficient courts run by inexperienced judges only increase the expense of hiring a lawyer to go through wasteful proceedings. Judges also take too long to rule. Many don't show up to work because they know voters often don't find out. With experienced judges, you get better courts and more affordable justice for all.

Court System: What effect will the new business court and statewide court of appeals have on the administration of justice in Texas?

McCray: As a board-certified attorney I am able to say that Texans will benefit from courts and judges that have the experience and expertise to fairly and efficiently resolve cases. Trial and appeal courts with more experienced judges operate more effectively, alleviate caseloads in trial and appeal courts, and burdens on the higher courts.

Ritter: The new courts will reduce inefficiencies by ensuring more qualified judges, but at a cost. Our appellate courts are so backlogged that we now must pay more tax dollars on more courts. All courts must implement better efficiency methods. While working for the judiciary, that's what I've done. If all judges would do the same, we wouldn't need to pay more taxes for bigger government and more courts.

Justice, Place 4

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| Democratic Primary | Luz Elena Chapa | Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary. |
| Republican Primary | Lori Massey Brissette | Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary. |

Justice, Place 5

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| Democratic Primary | Liza A. Rodriguez | Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary. |
| Republican Primary | Adrian Spears | Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary. |

Justice, Place 7

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Democratic Primary | No one filed for this office | |
| Republican Primary | Lori I. Valenzuela | Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary. |

Bandera County 2024 Primary Elections - County

Democratic Primary - No one filed to run for a county office.

Republican Primary - All candidates listed below are on the ballot and are *unopposed*.

District Attorney, 198th: Stephen Harpold

Bandera County Attorney: Janna Lindig

Bandera County Commissioner Precinct 3: Jack U. Moseley

Kerr County Constable Precinct 1: Phillip Tobin

Kerr County Constable Precinct 3: Don Walters

Kerr County Constable Precinct 4: Rod Chalmers

The Bandera County elections listed below are on the ballot with more than one candidate.

Bandera County Sheriff

A county sheriff in the state of Texas is elected for a term of four years.

Duties: serves as a licensed peace officer who is responsible for enforcing the criminal laws of the State of Texas; manages and operates the county jail; supervises prisoners in the county jail; provides security for the county and district courts; serves writs and processes of the courts; seizes property after judgment; and enforces traffic laws on county roads.

Republican Primary

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|------------------------------|---|
| Daniel R. (Dan) Butts | Campaign Email: d.butts@sbcglobal.net |
| Will Dietrich | Campaign Email: dietrich4banderacountysheriff@gmail.com |
| Josh Teitge | Campaign Facebook: Josh Teitge for Bandera County Sheriff |

What in your background qualifies you to serve as the Bandera County Sheriff?

Butts: I attended and graduated from the Tx DPS Academy in 1979. I served as a Highway Patrol Trooper in Bandera for 22 years then promoted to Sergeant. As a Sergeant I had several assignments. In the San Antonio District, I was the Sergeant in charge of the District Accident reconstruction team. In Austin I served as Department armorer and firearms instructor for the DPS recruit school. I Served as a Sgt. in DPS for 9 years. Retired in 2010 with over 31 years of service. I was elected Sheriff of Bandera Co. in 2012 and have served for 11 years.

Dietrich: I have over 30 years of progressively more responsible Law Enforcement experience in the State of Texas. I have been a patrolman and front-line supervisor in cities with populations from a thousand to almost one hundred thousand. I am a graduate of the I.A.C.P. West Point Leadership Program. I served diligently and faithfully as the Bandera City Marshal for nine years. I am experienced with the big city crime problems we are starting to see in our county, and I have a proven record of building relationships and trust in the community that I live in.

Teitge: Decades of Law Enforcement experience allows me to address specific requirements for the county. I have served in Leadership/Administration for multiple Law Enforcement and Military organizations overseeing hundreds of individuals and millions of dollars in budgets. I have proven success in personnel management, budgeting, logistics, fleet maintenance, and organization planning required for the modernization of the department in a rapidly changing county. Further, my Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, 24,296 hours of Texas of Peace Officer Education, experience and training arms me with the tools to protect the community, lead the department, and ensure equal enforcement for all.

What are the most pressing issues facing the Bandera County Sheriff?

Butts: Our duty is to serve and protect the lives and property of the citizens and visitors to Bandera County. Manpower is a pressing issue. This has been an issue Since Covid and the School Shooting in Uvalde. The Manpower issue is related to Pay. I am working to bring our pay up to equity with the surrounding Counties. This will allow us to attract more qualified applicants. Being fully staffed allows us to better serve and protect Bandera County and its citizens.

Dietrich: The Bandera County Sheriff needs to recruit, hire, train and retain professional employees in order to deliver the level of service the citizens deserve. We need more officers patrolling our neighborhoods, looking for crime, drugs or people to help. We must rebuild the relationships with the community that have been damaged. We need to enforce professional, customer service and training standards on all Sheriff's Office employees. We will be open, up front and honest with our citizens about crime and safety issues and provide equal protection under the law to everyone.

Teitge: Most important is the rampant drug problem. Drug manufacture, delivery, and use is a catalyst for many other crimes including murder, assault, robbery, theft, and burglary. When we eliminate the criminal drug problem, we reduce associated person and property crimes. I will aggressively seek out and eradicate the drug element by immediately establishing a Counter-Narcotics/Violent Crime Task Force with proactive Law Enforcement Officers who rapidly deploy, dismantle, and arrest the criminal drug networks. Working closely with Local, Multi-County, State, Federal Agencies and Criminal Prosecutors, we want to ensure these criminals are eliminated from our County.

What are the citizens of Bandera County telling you about law enforcement problems?

Butts: The Three main concerns we here from citizens are Crime Rate, Drugs and Traffic. The citizens are concerned with Recent Murders in the County. We have investigated 5 Murders in 2023 and have arrested 4 suspects and have 1 fugitive. The Drug we see most is Meth and is usually linked to the other crimes in the County like burglary and theft. We also receive complaints about Speed & reckless drivers. DPS normally work traffic enforcement however our officers work these cases when detected. When we become fully staffed we will be able to spend more time on all these issues.

Dietrich: The citizens tell me they are tired of calling the Sheriff's Office and no one comes to help them. Tired of being scared because the criminals and drugs have taken over their neighborhoods. Scared because of the unsolved murders and missing persons and the lack of information from the Sheriff. They tell me they are fed up with Deputies that show up and then won't do their job because the victim doesn't have video of the crime being committed. The citizens tell me they are tired of not trusting the Sheriff's Office.

Teitge: Aside from the drug problem, citizens are concerned with lengthy Deputy response times and the lack of a visual presence in their community. Officer retention is also a significant issue. Deputies are often trained for patrol; once experienced they quickly depart for better pay/benefits. Finally, citizens are concerned about equipment age, functionality, and modernization stating that they often see Deputies without the proper equipment to effectively conduct their law enforcement duties. These issues can be solved by evaluating Department budgets to identify possible funding opportunities, and maximizing the use of State and Federal Grants for pay increases/equipment upgrades.

Bandera County Tax Assessor/Collector

A county tax assessor/collector in the state of Texas is elected for a term of four years.

Duties: calculates property tax rates for the county; collects property taxes for the county; issues motor vehicle and trailer registration and licenses; processes motor vehicle and trailer title transfers; and processes boat and motor titles and registrations.

Republican Primary

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| Rebekah "Reba" Dolphus | Andrea K. Jankoski |
| Candidate name on ballot but not seeking re-election. | Email: andreaajankoski@yahoo.com |

What in your background qualifies you to serve as Bandera County Tax Assessor/Collector?

Dolphus: Candidate name is on the ballot, but has decided not to seek re-election.

Jankoski: As Bandera County's 1st Assistant Auditor, I have gained valuable experience and knowledge pertaining to the office of Tax Assessor/Collector. I have worked closely with the County Auditor on the budget and gained a familiarity with the tax rate calculation as it relates to the annual budget. Prior to my position with the county, I served on the Bandera Economic Development Corporation Board and currently serve as the president. This provides me with the opportunity to work with several other community leaders. My experience with office and employee management provides a clear direction for the staff's success.

What are the most pressing issues facing the Bandera County Tax Assessor/Collector?

Dolphus: Candidate name is on the ballot, but has decided not to see re-election.

Jankoski: The Tax Office is not only the most frequently visited office in the county, but it collects/manages millions of dollars. Therefore, I would say the most pressing issues facing Bandera County Tax Assessor/Collector are providing efficient and convenient service hours as well as a need for individualized attention regarding our residents' tax issues. My hope is that our office can resolve these issues thoughtfully while operating within the law. Additionally, as the elections supervisor it will be my duty to ensure elections are conducted appropriately to the nationally expected standards restoring faith and confidence with our county voters.

What changes or improvements would help the Bandera County Tax Office improve services?

Dolphus: Candidate name is on the ballot, but has decided not to seek re-election.

Jankoski: There are two components that would involve change: service to the public and efficiency in operations. Feedback I've received from taxpayers includes extending office hours on Fridays. I have identified several ways to improve operations which would include cross-training employees as well as cooperation with the County Treasurer regarding managing funds in tax accounts. Working in the BCTO can be stressful so it is important for employees to conduct themselves with professionalism, expertise, and compassion. Developing a staff who is of service to the public and practicing transparency/accountability regarding taxpayer dollars will improve staff morale and public confidence.

Bandera County Commissioner Precinct 1

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 with 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.

Republican Primary

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Michael Devine | Troy Konvicka |
| Email: mdevine0310@gmail.com | Email: troy.konvicka@gmail.com |

What in your background qualifies you to serve as the Bandera County Commissioner for Precinct 1?

Devine: I am a native Texan who was sole proprietor of a successful management and amusement ride installation company. We built roller coasters throughout the world. I managed budgets and negotiated contracts that saved companies countless dollars. Equally, conservative family values, preserving history and heritage and my ongoing commitment to community service qualify me to serve as Commissioner in Precinct 1. Beginning April 2022, I currently operate and manage the Pipe Creek Compactor and Recycling Station for Bandera County. I renovated and completely realigned daily operating procedures which averted monetary losses for the county and sustained rates for county residents.

Konvicka: I have 22 years of military experience working with large groups and departments to accomplish a mission from small to large in scale. Where I worked with both U.S. and Foreign groups to accomplish Goals and build a better future. I can work with people and develop and execute plans, boards, and committees to address issues. I was an Operation Director for a large facility working with local and state government to maintain compliance and regulations. I am from here with family here, so I have a vested interest in making Bandera a place you want to raise a family.

What are the most pressing issues facing the Bandera County Commissioners Court?

Devine: Accommodating growth and development while preserving historic community integrity- in particular, the old jail and courthouse, along with roads and bridges throughout the county and precinct.

Konvicka: Transparencies from Government and locals on how and where assist is utilized, Communication between the Commissioner and residence on decision and progress. Be available to discuss and inform the County of progress and intent is. Develop the infrastructure to keep the County history and heritage while supporting the residents with local facilities to utilize. Road repair and construction is widespread in the precinct. I would utilize my experience with working with other agencies and build relationship with Road and Bridge to facilitate progress.

What are the citizens of Bandera County telling you about county problems?

Devine: Most citizens are interested in where our community is headed. They are concerned about county infrastructure, budget, law enforcement, platting for properties, funding for services, emergency response times, rapid growth and development, traffic and roads, efficient communications from elected officials.

Konvicka: The lack of employees or assets to properly support the county residents from Sherriff department to Road and Bridge, with a lot to do with low pay and lack of support or updated equipment. Communication and follow through with decision made and why and how it will benefit the County to be safer and bring revenue to maintain and grow.

Bandera County Constable Precinct 2

A county constable in the state of Texas is elected for a term of four years.

Duties: serves as a licensed peace officer; performs various law enforcement functions, including the ability to issue traffic citations; serves warrants and civil papers, such as subpoenas and temporary restraining orders; and serves as bailiff for the Justice of the Peace Court.

Republican Primary

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| James "Bubba" Popham | Greg Spengler |
| No response received. | Facebook: Greg Spengler for Constable |

What in your background qualifies you to serve as the Bandera County Constable for Precinct 2?

Popham: No response received.

Spengler: I have had the honor of serving as Bandera County Constable for Precinct 2 for the past 3 years. During this time, I have served 232 court papers, made 196 traffic stops, and recovered 4 stolen vehicles. Prior to serving as Bandera County Constable, I served as a Deputy Constable in Medina County for 6 years. As a licensed Texas Peace Officer, I am committed to staying current with best practices and emerging issues with a total of 1297 Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) training hours including 80 hours of civil process training.

What are the most pressing issues facing the Bandera County Constable for Precinct 2?

Popham: no response received.

Spengler: A pressing issue is trash accumulation on private property. The county code has no teeth for enforcing trash clean-up and the only option available to law enforcement is to cite and arrest the owner. As the issue is often due to the owners' lack of financial means to dispose of trash, I believe sending them to jail is not a reasonable solution as the trash remains and their financial situation is worsened. The Precinct 2 County Commissioner and I are working on finding ways to clean-up properties without costing the county much and keeping people out of jail.

What are the citizens of Bandera County telling you about law enforcement problems?

Popham: No response received.

Spengler: Citizens tell me that they are concerned about a lack of law enforcement. At times the Sheriff's office is so short-handed that only two deputies are covering the county making for long response times for our precinct. In my role as Bandera County Constable, I assist the Sheriff's office any time I'm called upon to improve law enforcement presence and safety. As the President and Captain of the Medina Lake Volunteer Fire Department and a member for 13 years, I know the value of teamwork and supporting all our men and women in uniform is a value that I uphold.

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 five 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 by mail to the post office box listed on the front page of this voter guide or via the website:

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