

Kerr County - Voter Information

Local Elections on Saturday – May 4, 2024

Get Ready to Vote in a Local Election in Texas!

Online Voter Guide for Kerr County local elections: <http://www.lwvhillcountrytexas.org/>
 Voters may read and print a guide for use when they go to vote.

Printed Voter Guides for Kerr County are available at Butt Holdsworth Memorial Library and Dietert Center.
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.

The Kerr County Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas with information on candidates for elections for the City of Kerrville – Mayor and City Council Place 3 and Place 4, as well as the 10 proposed amendments to the Kerrville City Charter.

Check your Voter Registration information using the state website: VoteTexas.gov. Voter information can be updated at this website. The website cannot be used to register to vote in Texas.

Deadline Dates for Primary Elections on Tuesday – May 4, 2024			
Register to Vote/Change Address	Thursday	April 4	Last day to register to vote
Voting by Mail	Monday	January 1	First day to apply for Mail in Ballot
	Tuesday	April 23	Last day to apply for Mail in Ballot
	Saturday	May 4	Last day to return Mail in Ballot
Early Voting	Monday	April 22	First day to vote in-person
	Tuesday	April 30	Last day to vote in-person
Election Day	Saturday	May 4	In-person at voting location



League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas
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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 League of Women Voters.

Election and Voting Information for Kerr County

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

City of Kerrville Election for May 4, 2024 is conducted by the Kerr County Clerk – Elections.

Sample ballot and other Information for the election is posted online:

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

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 material, no loitering

EARLY VOTING:

Kerrville Cailloux City Center 901 Main Street

Sunday April 21	Monday April 22	Tuesday April 23	Wednesday April 24	Thursday April 25	Friday April 26	Saturday April 27
	8am-6pm	8am-6pm	8am-6pm	8am-5pm	8am-6pm	
Sunday April 28	Monday April 29	Tuesday April 30	Wednesday May 1	Thursday May 2	Friday May 3	Saturday May 4
	8am-6pm	8am-6pm				Election Day

ELECTION DAY: Saturday – May 4 from 7:00am to 7:00pm

Kerrville Cailloux City Center 901 Main Street

City of Kerrville – Mayor

Kerrville is a home-rule city with a charter and a city council/manager form of government. The City Council has four members who are elected by a place number, but serve at-large for the City of Kerrville and not a specific geographical area of the city. The term of office is two years.

Duties: presides over the meetings of the city council; recognized as the head of city government for all ceremonial purposes; acts as the chief executive officer of the city; ensures that the laws and ordinances of the city are properly carried out; monitors the conduct of each subordinate municipal officer; informs the city council and recommends any measure that relates to improving the finances, police, health, security, cleanliness, comfort, ornament, or good government of the city; charged with emergency powers to preserve the peace and good order of the city.

Roman Garcia	Joe Herring
Website: https://roman4kerrville.com	Facebook: joe herring

What in your background qualifies you to serve as Mayor of the City of Kerrville?

Garcia: I have had the honor of serving the citizens of Kerrville on the City Council since May 2021 and being re-elected in 2023, which have afforded me invaluable experience in municipal governance. As a fourth-generation Kerrvillian and public servant, I also have a unique perspective and an understanding of our community's needs, history, and potential. I have been involved in budgeting, legislation development, strategic planning, and collaborating with various stakeholders to advance the best interest of our community. Additionally, I am actively involved in a number of local and national nonprofit and civic organizations.

Herring: Being an effective mayor relies on learning from important life experiences – such as raising a family, running a business, paying property taxes, and serving on non-profit boards and commissions. I've done all of these things for decades. In my particular case, I also have the experience of serving as Kerrville's mayor from 1992-1994.

What are the most pressing issues facing the Mayor of Kerrville?

Garcia: The most pressing issues the Council should address include managing our community growth, removing burdensome regulations on developers and citizens, and protecting our God-given and constitutional liberties. To that end, I will continue to focus on enhancing our roads, water resources, and facilitating affordable housing. The Council has continuously suppressed citizens' voices by limiting them from participating in the election process, expressing religious/political views on public sidewalks, and attending/speaking at City Council meetings. As Mayor, I plan to champion initiatives to restore and protect the citizens' voices and promote policies that represent the will of the people.

Herring: The next mayor, along with the rest of the city council, will face three major issues: managing sustainable growth of Kerrville while protecting our natural resources; completion of major projects, like the Kerrville Public Safety Facility; and presiding over increasingly contentious public meetings, ensuring all citizens have a chance to be heard. My public policies will be guided by what's best for all of Kerrville's citizens, including direction from Kerrville's 2050 Plan.

What are the citizens of Kerrville telling you about their city council concerns?

Garcia: The citizens of Kerrville have voiced strong preferences for prioritizing essential services to current residents and businesses over non-essential projects aimed at attracting tourists. They seek a Mayor and Council that furthers the long-term wellbeing and sustainability of our community. As Mayor, my budgeting approach will emphasize allocating resources towards vital infrastructure improvements in our roads, water, utilities, and public services. I am committed to supporting a community environment where families and businesses have an opportunity to thrive and ensuring Kerrville remains a vibrant and welcoming community for all who are blessed to call it home.

Herring: Almost every citizen who visits with me about city government is very concerned about maintaining civility and kindness during our public meetings. Mayor Judy Eychner has done an outstanding job at this, despite the small (but vocal) band of citizens who continually berate city government and the individuals who serve our community. I'm happy to listen to all sides of an argument, and everyone is entitled to their own opinion – but they are not entitled to their own 'facts.' We live in a time when being divisive seems to attract more attention than actually getting things done and serving our community. I hope to be an example of the latter.

City of Kerrville: City Council – Place 3 and Place 4

Kerrville is a home-rule city with a charter and a city council/manager form of government. The City Council has four members who are elected by a place number, but serve at-large for the City of Kerrville and not a specific geographical area of the city. The term of office is two years.

Duties: appoint the city manager; oversee the city manager and the direction of the city; approve the city budget and the tax rate; set salaries and benefits of city employees; pass ordinances and resolutions; appoint members to advisory boards.

Place 3

Brent Bates	Kent McKinney
Website: kerrville4sustainability.com	Email: ksm210@icloud.com

What in your background qualifies you to serve as a member of the Kerrville City Council?

Bates: My service on boards, such as the Hill Country Youth Ranch (20yrs), Little League, AYSO Soccer and others, along with my hands on solutions for our community's problems, such as completing the "Downtown Pavilion", when the non-profit ran out of money and City refused to complete. I also exhibited a vision of our future for the 33 years that led me to be the first CFP, Buyer's Agent, and fee-only money manager in town. I built the first 1,000 feet of the River Trail 5 years before the City constructed theirs. I can help guide our future to be sustainable.

McKinney: 45 years of community banking has provided me with extensive knowledge of how communities and businesses work. One of the primary missions of a community banker is to help their community grow, prosper and have a high quality of life. Included in that is involvement in all kinds of community organizations, totaling more than three dozen over my career. In Kerrville that includes Hill Country Arts Foundation, Dietert Center (Chair), Kerrville Public School Foundation (VP), Kerrville Area Chamber of Commerce (Chair), Guadalupe River Center Inc. (VP) and the Kerrville Economic Improvement Corporation (VP).

What are the most pressing issues facing the Kerrville City Council?

Bates: During my 2022 Campaign I answered this question with INFLATION and WATER, which are still paramount issues facing our future in both potential new developments, maintaining our existing lifestyle, and being able to afford to continue to live here (for some). I sum all those issues into what I refer to as our "SUSTAINABILITY INDEX". Our recent tax increases of some 20% coupled with the increasing of our overall debt, along with our relatively high city employee to citizen ratio makes us vulnerable to severe financial stress if the country continues its path of wanton spending an fiscal insanity.

McKinney: The city is in sound financial condition to address issues with proper planning. A current issue is growth. The 2050 Plan identifies ways to find water that will be necessary for growth. What we lack is housing. We have key local employers with jobs unfilled for lack of housing, including healthcare. We certainly want to support the healthcare community as it is a key factor in quality of life. Recent council actions have taken major positive steps to increase the supply of housing, especially workforce housing. Work remains to be done.

What are the citizens of Kerrville telling you about their city council concerns?

Bates: With what I have done the past 33 years, I have an extremely diverse group of people that I interact with. Kerrville has always been a barbell economy of wealthy retirement seniors on one end and generational working citizens on the other and me somewhere between the two. I have never had a time before with such a universal opinion that the City has lost its way and is ignoring the citizens. This is from those that sit at the top of the heap, to those working 3 jobs at the bottom. We need to renew community within our small-town.

McKinney: The most concern I have encountered is that the city council continue to follow the 2050 Plan so that our community retains its vitality and continues a path of properly managed growth. Over decades Kerrville leadership, including City Council, has built the community into a highly desirable location. Because of that good leadership Kerrville, like much of Texas, is growing and poised to grow more. The 2050 Plan, developed by hundreds of citizens, is a great roadmap to follow to keep Kerrville vibrant and have a high quality of life for its citizens.

Place 4

Barbara Dewell Ferguson	Brenda Hughes
Website: BarbaraforKerrville.com	Email: friendsobrendahughes@gmail.com

What in your background qualifies you to serve as a member of the Kerrville City Council?

Ferguson: Qualifications: My 15 years as a partner in a residential homesite development and as a water and wastewater system owner/operator give me a unique perspective and practical knowledge of the issues of growth and its demands on our water supply and infrastructure. But perhaps more important qualities for a city council member are integrity, independent decision making based on facts, and respect for the citizens of our community. I believe my involvement with the City Council, County Commissioners and Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District over the years show I possess those qualities.

Hughes: My community service and 31 years as a successful business owner continue to be the driving force behind my desire to serve. Now that I've served two terms on City Council, I'd like to finish what I've started and have a clear perspective of the direction our city needs to move in order to meet the goals outlined in the 2050 Comprehensive Plan. Kerrville is growing and we need to be prepared for the demands that come with that growth. Our citizens have given us their expectations and I'm committed to ensuring those expectations are met.

What are the most pressing issues facing the Kerrville City Council?

Ferguson: Pressing issues: Responsible growth given our limited water resources, taxes/spending/debt, reining in government overreach, honoring our community values of family, faith, and freedom.

Hughes: Health and safety, Infrastructure and Capital Improvement investments are the most pressing issues, as well as water conservation and workforce housing. Dedication to those projects is the most important management role for a council member along with ensuring a balanced budget and managing debt. Critical staff retention is another focus that plays a key role in maintaining a healthy community. The cost associated with staff turnover has a financial impact on the budget and City Council needs to provide the incentives and the tools necessary to ensure a competitive workforce.

What are the citizens in Kerrville telling you about the problems of the city?

Ferguson: Citizens concerns: lowering taxes, securing our water supply and its safety, improving our approach to growth, eliminating government give aways to businesses and corporations, preserving the character of our city.

Hughes: Our constituents are seeking a city council that exemplifies honesty and integrity in its leadership. Our community is characterized by its multi-faceted nature and diverse perspectives. There is a strong desire for an equitable government that is reflective of the entire community and prioritizes local concerns. Non-partisan representation is sought, ensuring that every voice is given consideration and decisions are made in the best interest of the community as a whole.

The League of Women Voters of the Hill Country does not take a position on amendments to a city charter, but prints the propositions in a voter guide as they will appear on the ballot.

Amendments (10) to the City Charter for the City of Kerrville

The current City Charter for the City of Kerrville is dated January 14, 2020 and is available on the city website. For more details on each proposition to amend the city charter as part of the city election on May 4, see the website for the City of Kerrville and scroll down to 2024 Charter Amendment Propositions: kerrvilletx.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/1967.

The ten propositions are printed below as they appear on the ballot for the city election.

Voters will mark FOR or mark AGAINST on the ballot (10 propositions).

Proposition A

Amendments to the City Charter providing clarity as to meaning and intent and eliminating inconsistencies.

Proposition B

Amendments to the City Charter revising and deleting provisions which are redundant of or inconsistent with State law.

Proposition C

Amendments to the City Charter creating a requirement for persons injured because of the City's action or inaction to give the City notice of their claim within 90 days of the incident.

Proposition D

Amendments to the City Charter increasing the term of office from two office from two to three years for each councilmember and the mayor.

Proposition E

Amendments to the City Charter providing under what circumstances a councilmember vacates his or her office.

Proposition F

Amendments to the City Charter increasing the amounts paid to councilmembers and the mayor and changing payment to be monthly rather than per meeting.

Proposition G

Amendments to the City Charter creating gender neutrality.

Proposition H

Amendments to the City Charter requiring the appointment and termination of the City Manager to be by a four-fifths (4/5's) vote of the entire City Council.

Proposition I

Amendments to the City Charter requiring the appointment and termination of the City Attorney to be by a four-fifths (4/5's) voter of the entire City Council.

Proposition J

Amendment to the City Charter increasing the time for the City Manager to submit a proposed budget to Council.

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: lvvhillcountrytexas.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 via the website: lvvhillcountrytexas.org or mail to the post office box on the front page.