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PRIMARY ELECTION

- Texas has open primaries.
- ALL Texas voters can participate in one of these events.
- Voters who don't strongly identify with any political party can and should carefully consider the choices and participate in one of the primaries.
- A voter can only participate in one primary and in this Primary Election a voter will need to choose between the Democratic Party or the Republican Party.
- Even though there may be candidates in both parties that a voter would like to select they will have to make a choice at the time they vote.
- Once a voter has voted in one party, that voter cannot participate in another party's election or run-off election.
- League of Women Voters encourages all registered voters to participate in the Texas Primary Election and vote for the best candidates.
- In the November General Election, a voter can choose candidates from any party or vote for an "independent" candidate.

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

- Register by Monday, February 5, 2018
- Request mail ballot by Friday, February 23, 2018
- Early Vote Tuesday, February 20, 2018 - Friday, March 2, 2018
- Election Day Tuesday, March 6, 2018
- Run-off Election Day Tuesday, May 22, 2018



VOTER CHECKLIST

Know who/what's on the ballot

- ✓ Voter registration card lists your candidate districts and precincts
- ✓ Review a sample ballot, available on your county website
www.BanderaCounty.org <Election Administrator>
www.GillespieCounty.org <Election Information>
www.co.Kerr.tx.us <Elections>
- ✓ Study a “A Voters Guide” (available at your local public library)
- ✓ Attend a candidate forum/fair
- ✓ Go to www.Vote411.org

Know where to vote

- ✓ Early voting: Vote at any polling place in your county
- ✓ Election Day: Vote at your precinct polling place
- ✓ Get information on Voter Information Websites

Vote at your convenience

- ✓ To avoid the crowds: Vote during early voting/Vote between 10-11:30 am or 1:30-3:30 pm
- ✓ Vote by mail if you are 65+, disabled, or absent from the county on all voting days
- ✓ Curbside voting available for persons with a disability

Take with you a

- ✓ Voter ID
- ✓ Sample Ballot
- ✓ Someone to assist you if you need help voting

ID REQUIRED TO VOTE IN PERSON IN TEXAS

One of the following accepted:

Photo ID

Not expired more than 4 years ago

- Texas driver license
- Texas Election Identification Certificate
- Texas personal identification card
- Texas concealed handgun license
- U.S. military ID card with photo
- U.S. citizenship certificate with photo
- U.S. passport

If no photo ID at the polling place, sign a simple form and present one of the following other documents:

- Voter registration card (valid)
- Certified birth certificate (original)
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Or any other government document with voter's name and an address

Note

- Addresses on ID and voter registration need not match
- Election official/poll workers may not question you about voter ID issues

**National Voter Assistance Hotline
1-866-OUR VOTE or (1-866-687-8683)**

www.VOTE411.org

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

- League of Women Voters website for information on candidates and Voting Specific to your address
- Upon entering the site, you will be asked to provide your address
- Lists the responses to League questions from state, local, and district candidates
- Not all candidates respond to requests for participation made by League of Women Voters
- Answers to the questions are not edited by League of Women Voters

HOW TO JUDGE A CANDIDATE

STEP 1 - Decide what you are looking for in a candidate.

Candidates can be judged in two ways: the positions they take on issues and the leadership qualities and experience they would bring to the office. Your first step in picking a candidate is to decide the issues *you* care about and the qualities *you* want in a leader.

When you consider issues, think about community or national problems that you want people in government to address. Also consider what party the candidate belongs to and the typical stance the party takes on the issues. For example, you may be interested in national security, government funding for student loans or unemployment.

When you consider leadership qualities, think about the characteristics you want in an effective leader. Do you look for intelligence, honesty, an ability to communicate? What else?

After considering which issues and qualities are most important to *you* in this campaign, record them on the *Candidate Report Card*.

STEP 2 - Find out about the candidates.

Pick a campaign(s) to study. It can be any type of race: a national office (such as president, senator, or representative), a state race (such as governor), or a local race (such as city council member or school board member). It will probably be easier to follow a visible race that is hotly contested or that involves a major office.

First, find out which candidates are running in the race you are following by using the League's online election resource VOTE411.org (www.VOTE411.org). You can find the number for your local elections office and data on the candidates. A Voters' Guide, published by your local League of Women Voters, is another source of information. Find out all the eligible candidates that will appear on the ballot. Be sure to include minor party and/or independent candidates.

STEP 3 - Gather materials about the candidates.

Put together information about the candidates. Collect any records you can find on the candidates. Call campaign headquarters and watch the press. Sources of information you may choose to review include:

www.VOTE411.org

- campaign literature

- direct mail letters (mass mailings sent to selected voters asking for support and funds)

- press reports (newspaper clippings and television and radio reports)

- radio and television ads (call campaign headquarters and find out when ads are aired, or ask if you can view them at headquarters)

- candidates' speeches

- candidate debates

In a local race, interviews with the candidates can be helpful. For incumbents, a look at their voting records on issues that you have listed as important can tell you the candidates' positions on those issues.

STEP 4 - Evaluate candidates' stands on issues.

As you read the materials you collect, keep a journal. Do the materials give you an overall impression of the candidates? What specific conclusions can you draw about the candidates' stands on issues? Record what you have learned about their stands on your priority issues from each source. Fill in the *Candidate Report Card* as you gather new information about the candidates.

STEP 5 - Learn about the candidates' leadership abilities.

Deciding if a candidate will be a good leader is difficult. How can you know if someone will be honest, open or able to act under pressure if elected to office? Here are some ways to read between the lines as you evaluate the candidates' leadership qualities:

1. Look at the candidates' background and their experience. How prepared are they for the job?
2. Observe the candidates' campaigns. Do they give speeches to different groups - even those groups that may disagree with the candidates' views on issues? Do they accept invitations to debate? Do the campaigns emphasize media events, where the candidates can be seen but not heard? (For instance, a candidate is seen cutting ribbons to open new bridges rather than talking about transportation.)
3. Review the campaign materials. As you read the materials and watch the campaign develop, add to your journal information that provides insights into candidates' personalities and leadership qualities. For example, do campaign materials emphasis issues or image? Are they accurate? Add this information to the *Candidate Report Card*.

STEP 6 - Learn how other people view the candidate.

Now that you have accumulated information from campaigns and other sources, you will want to learn what other people think about the candidates. Their opinions can help clarify your own views, but do not discount your own informed judgments. You may be the most careful observer of all!

1. Seek the opinions of others in your community who keep track of political campaigns. Interview three people (not family members), such as a librarian, store owner, neighbor or politically active volunteer, to find out which candidate they support and why. Learn what has shaped their political opinions. Was it an event? An idea or program proposed by a candidate? A particular issue about which they feel strongly? A long-standing party loyalty?
2. Learn about endorsements. This is a way for interest groups and organizations to give a “stamp of approval” to a candidate. Endorsements provide clues to the issues a candidate supports. For instance, a candidate endorsed by the Sierra Club (an environmental organization) will be in favor of legislation that protects the environment. A candidate endorsed by the National Rifle Association would be opposed to gun control laws. Get a list of endorsements from each of the candidates’ headquarters. Find out what these groups stand for and find out why they are endorsing this candidate.
3. Look into campaign contributions. Where do the candidates get the funds to finance their campaigns? Do they use their own money or raise funds from a few wealthy donors, from many small contributors or from Political Action Committees? (PACs, as they are known, are groups formed to raise and distribute money to candidates.) Many types

STEP 7 - Sorting it all out.

Review the information in your *Candidate Report Card* and compare all the candidates. Ask yourself these final questions:

1. Which candidate's views on the issues do I agree with the most?
2. Who ran the fairest campaign?
3. Which candidate demonstrated the most knowledge on the issues?
4. Which candidate has the leadership qualities I am looking for?

CANDIDATES

Job Descriptions for Statewide Candidates will be listed in the League of Women Voters "A Voters Guide" distributed to public libraries, on the League websites, or on www.Vote411.org. These local Candidate Fairs are emphasizing the importance of local elections so they only have information on the local candidates.

Note: Label of REP=Republican, Label of DEM=Democratic, denoting which ballot the candidate's name will appear

State Representative - Each representative is elected to a two-year term serving the people of a specific congressional district. Among other duties, representatives introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for State Representative.

Bandera Co. (Dist. 53)	Kerr Co. (Dist. 53)	Gillespie Co. (Dist. 73)
Andrew S. Murr; REP, (uncontested)	Andrew S. Murr; REP, (uncontested)	Dave Campbell, REP
Joe P. Herrera; DEM	Joe P. Herrera; DEM	Kyle Biedermann, REP
Stephanie Lochte Ertel; DEM	Stephanie Lochte Ertel; DEM	Stephanie Phillips, DEM

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- Since you would be serving a predominantly rural area how would insure that the citizens in your district would be heard and receive services?
- What are your priorities for public education?
- What do you consider the biggest issues for your district?

District Judge - Responsible for overseeing and trying cases in District courts which have original jurisdiction in all felony criminal cases, divorce cases, land title disputes, election contests, civil matters in which at least \$200 is disputed or claimed in damages, as well as other matters. Additionally, the Judge may try and determine any cases in other counties within the State of Texas when assigned by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas or the Presiding Judge of Second Administrative Region.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for District Judge.

Bandera Co., 198 District	Kerr Co., 198 District	Gillespie Co. 216 District
Rex Emerson, REP (uncontested)	Rex Emerson, REP (uncontested)	no election needed

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- What experience do you have working in the judicial system?
- Do your qualifications transfer to the District Court system in Texas?

District Clerk - The duties include the following: serves as clerk and custodian of all records for the District Courts; indexes and secures all court records, collects filing fees, and handles funds held in litigation and money awarded to minors; coordinates the jury panel selection process; may process passport applications; manages court registry funds.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for District Clerk.

Bandera Co.	Kerr Co.	Gillespie Co.
Tammy Knueper, REP (uncontested)	Robbin Burlew, REP (uncontested)	Jan Davis, REP (uncontested)

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- What background and experience do you have that would help you serve the citizens of your District?
- What improvements and or changes would you want to make in regards to records maintenance and or procedures for this office?

County Clerk - The duties include the following: Serves as clerk and custodian of records for the Commissioners Court, Constitutional County Court and Statutory County Courts; acts as a recorder and custodian of important public records, including all bonds, deeds, birth and death certificates, assumed names and livestock brands, ensuring that records are maintained in a secure, archival manner; issues marriage licenses; and serves as chief elections officer in most counties.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for County Clerk.

Bandera Co.	Kerr Co.	Gillespie Co.
Tandie Mansfield REP (uncontested)	Rebecca “Becky” Bolin, REP (uncontested)	Mary Lynn Rusche, REP (uncontested)

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- What do you consider the priorities of this office?
- Why did you decide to run for this particular office?

County Treasurer - The duties include the following: receives and deposits all county revenues; acts as chief liaison between the county and depository banks; prepares the payroll; disburses funds upon the order of the Commissioners Court; records receipts and expenditures and reconciles bank statements; may be designated as the county's investment officer and required to submit regular reports on county finance to the members of the Commissioners Court; may also act as the county's human resources officer, employee benefits coordinator, risk manager and insurance coordinator; and may have some audit responsibilities in counties with no Auditor.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for County Treasurer.

Bandera Co.	Kerr Co.	Gillespie Co.
Beverly Schmidt, REP (uncontested)	Tracy Soldan, REP (uncontested)	Kelly C. Eckhardt, REP
		Lindsey Brown, REP

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- What do you consider the priorities of this office?
- Why did you decide to run for this particular office?

County Surveyor - Duties included surveying land for the county and recording and examining field notes of surveys made in the county. With the disappearance of open land the importance of the office decreased, and in many counties the office has remained vacant. An independent surveyor is often contracted to fulfill the functions of the office.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for County Surveyor.

Kerr	Gillespie
Lee C. Voelkel, REP (uncontested)	Carey Bonn, REP (uncontested)

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- What do you consider the priorities of this office?
- Why did you decide to run for this particular office?

County Judge - Serves as the presiding officer of the Commissioners Court, represents the county in many administrative functions, and serves as budget officer in counties with fewer than 225,000 residents. Most have broad judicial duties, such as presiding over misdemeanor criminal and small civil cases, probate matters, and appeals from the Justice of the Peace Court. Serves as head of emergency management.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for County Judge.

Bandera Co.	Kerr Co.	Gillespie Co.
Dennis Fitzgerald, REP	Doyle Weaver, REP	Mark Stroehler, REP (uncontested)
Richard A. Evans, REP	Rob Kelly, REP	

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- How do you differ from the other candidate?
- What do you consider the most critical task of the Commissioner's Court?

County Commissioner - As member of the Commissioners Court, exercises broad policy-making authority which conducts the general business of the county. The Court has the following tasks: adopts the county’s budget and tax rate; approves all budgeted purchases of the county; fills vacancies in elective and appointive offices; sets all salaries and benefits; has exclusive authority to authorize contracts; provides and maintains all county buildings and facilities. The position represents 1 of 4 precincts within the county and is also typically, responsible for building and maintaining county roads and bridges within the precinct.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for County Commissioner.

Bandera Co.	
County Commissioner Pct. 2	Robert (Bobby) Harris, REP (uncontested)
County Commissioner Pct. 4	Jordan (Jody) Rutherford, REP (uncontested)
Kerr Co.	
County Commissioner Pct. 2	Mindy N. Wendele, REP
	Tom Moser, REP
County Commissioner Pct. 4	Bob Reeves
	Don Harris
Gillespie Co.	
County Commissioner Pct. ~	Justin Marschall, REP

2	Keith Kramer, REP
	Larry Jung, REP
	Mike McDougall, REP
County Commissioner Pct. 4	Donald (Donnie) Schuch, REP
	Susan Dantzler, REP

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- How do you differ from the other candidates?
- What do you consider to be the priorities in your precinct and how will you work with the other members of the Court to provide for those priorities?

Constable

A Constable has the following responsibilities: serves as a licensed peace officer and performs various law enforcement functions, including issuing traffic citations; serves warrants and civil papers such as subpoenas and temporary restraining orders; and serves as bailiff for Justice of the Peace Court.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for Constable.

No Constable positions on ballot in Bandera County
No Constable positions on ballot in Kerr County

Gillespie Co.	
Constable Pct. 1	Chad E. Loth, REP
	Kenneth (Ken) Moore, REP
	Wayne Hudson, REP
Constable Pct. 2	Kenny Bode, REP (uncontested)

Constable Pct. 3	Hilario Villa, Sr., REP (uncontested)
Constable Pct. 4	Marshall Akin, REP (uncontested)

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- How do you differ from the other candidate?
- What do you consider the most critical task of the Constable's duties?

Justice of the Peace

The Justice position has the following responsibilities: hears traffic & other Class C misdemeanor cases punishable by fine only; hears civil cases with up to \$10,000 in controversy; hears landlord and tenant disputes; hears truancy cases; performs magistrate duties; and conducts inquests.

Texas Secretary of State lists these Candidates for Justice of the Peace.

Bandera Co.	
Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	James Goldsmith, REP
	Mike Towers, REP
	Scott Sharp, REP
Justice of the Peace Pct. 2	Bobbie Jo Basinger, REP (uncontested)
Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	Lisa Knight, REP
	Mike R. Murehead, REP
	Misty Morrow Frantzen, REP
	Randall (Randy) Boysen, REP
Justice of the Peace Pct. 4	Lynn D. Holt, REP (uncontested)

Kerr Co.	
Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	Mitzi French, REP (uncontested)

Justice of the Peace Pct. 2	J.R. Hoyne, REP (uncontested)
Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	Kathy Mitchell, REP (uncontested)
Justice of the Peace Pct. 4	William Ragsdale, REP (uncontested)

Gillespie Co.	
Justice of the Peace Pct. 1	J.D. Hickman, REP (uncontested)
Justice of the Peace Pct. 2	Catherine Kuhlmann, REP
	Russell “Skeet” Wilbanks, REP
Justice of the Peace Pct. 3	Heath Sasko, Sr., REP
	Larry Drozd, REP
	Linda Meier McCann, REP
	Maribell Neri, REP
Justice of the Peace Pct. 4	Carl E. Schoessow, REP
	Esther Loth, REP

Possible questions to use for Candidate Report Card:

- How do you differ from the other candidate?
- What do you consider the most critical task of the Justice’s duties?

CANDIDATE REPORT CARD

LEADERSHIP QUALITIES	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C	Candidate D
Example: honesty, flexibility, all-inclusive				

ISSUES (My priority issues)	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C	Candidate D
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Example: services for children and working families

NOTES

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS THANKS YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!