



***Voters Guide for May 4, 2019 Election  
Gillespie County and City of Fredericksburg***

The Mission of the League of Women Voters: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

This publication provides voters in our community with unbiased, nonpartisan information on candidates for office and a proposition. The information about candidates comes from the candidates themselves in their own words. Each candidate was given 6 questions with the following information and instructions: *your responses will not be edited for spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors; do provide direct, relevant responses to the questions asked; do not refer to opponents as such a reference will result in the deletion of your entire response to the question; the word limits on the questionnaire are strictly adhered to.*

**HILL COUNTRY UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Candidates for Director at Large**

The Hill Country Underground Water Conservation District was created for the purpose of conserving, preserving, recharging, controlling subsidence, protecting and preventing to address local groundwater conditions within Gillespie County. The Board of Directors consists of 5 members. Each county precinct is represented by one member and there is one member at large position. Terms of office for directors is 4 years.

<b>John R. McCrae</b>	<b>Taylor Virdell</b>
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<b>What is your evaluation of the current permitting process in Gillespie County?</b> I feel the current permitting process is sufficient for single residence water wells. However, requests for multiple wells to serve multiple residences need extra study to determine the availability of water and that the use of that water will not impact surrounding wells.	<b>What is your evaluation of the current permitting process in Gillespie County?</b> The HCUWD permit process is the best of all the districts in the surrounding area and probably the whole state. It is thorough without being too complicated. In my 40 years of experience I've worked with several districts. The HCUWD is a model district for the state of Texas.

<p><b>How important is groundwater to Gillespie County now? in the future?</b></p> <p>Gillespie County groundwater is extremely important today and certainly will be in the future. Groundwater provides all the water for the county agricultural use, rural residences, as well as Fredericksburg and surrounding small towns. At this point, the county has no other economical source of water. As the county continues to grow, it is extremely important that our limited water is wisely managed and protected.</p>	<p><b>How important is groundwater to Gillespie County now? in the future?</b></p> <p>Water is our most important resource it is life! Without it our tremendous economic growth over the last few years would not have happened. We must be vigilant and make sure we don’t over use or pollute the gift God has given us.</p>
<p><b>How do you balance the rights of property owners and the needs of the public for groundwater?</b></p> <p>Property owners should be able to use groundwater for their homes, livestock and irrigation, but use it wisely. It is not the right of a property owner to waste groundwater or to damage the aquifer such that it effects an offsetting property owner. The Water District’s charge is to manage, protect, conserve and prevent waste, and if necessary in certain instances, regulate groundwater use.</p>	<p><b>How do you balance the rights of property owners and the needs of the public for groundwater?</b></p> <p>The farmers, ranchers and the people who live in the city all need water. The HCUWD has worked close with the city of Fredericksburg and the agricultural interest so all could have the water they need and protect what is underground.</p>
<p><b>Does Hill Country UWCD need more authority from the state government? If yes, what specifically?</b></p> <p>At this point, I do not have an opinion as to the need for additional authority. It will be my goal to understand the current authority granted to the Hill Country UWCD and see that is exercised wisely.</p>	<p><b>Does Hill Country UWCD need more authority from the state government? If yes, what specifically?</b></p> <p>It would be good for the state to give us more authority. Our geology is very complex and different than any other area. Blanket rules from the state sometimes don’t apply here. It is better if we can make our own rules that apply to our county.</p>
<p><b>How can we best protect and conserve our groundwater in</b></p>	<p><b>How can we best protect and conserve our groundwater in</b></p>

<p><b>Gillespie County?</b> As our county continues to grow, it will be very important to carefully monitor our available groundwater supplies and balance growth with wise water management. Some portions of the county have limited amounts of water, and it is critical that these areas be identified and protected. It is also important that we protect our citizen’s right to have adequate water for the future.</p>	<p><b>Gillespie County?</b> Our neighbors to the north in Llano can see their water supply every time they cross the Llano river bridge. We cannot, our water supply is all beneath the ground. Close monitoring of ground water use is very important so we can base our decisions and policies on accurate and correct data. Our rules and policies can be based upon this information.</p>
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All voters currently registered in Gillespie County are eligible to vote in this election.

**VOTING LOCATIONS AND DATES FOR HILL COUNTRY  
UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT &  
CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG**

**Early Voting:** Girl Scout Cabin, 202 W. Austin Street \* Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

Days and Hours of Operation

Monday: April 22, 2019        7:30 am-4:30 pm  
Tuesday: April 23, 2019        7:30 am-4:30 pm  
Wednesday: April 24, 2019    7:00 am-7:00 pm  
Thursday: April 25, 2019       7:30 am-4:30 pm  
Friday: April 26, 2019        7:30 am-4:30 pm  
Monday: April 29, 2019        7:00 am-7:00 pm  
Tuesday: April 30, 2019        7:30 am-4:30 pm

**Election Day:** Saturday May 4, 2019: Fredericksburg Middle School, 110 W. Travis Street \* Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

The polling location will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 pm.

Application for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 23, 2019.

(Information on Fredericksburg City Election on next page.)

**CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG-Parks Bond Proposition Election**

**Proposition A:** The issuance of not to exceed \$6,100,000 of City of Fredericksburg, Texas general obligation bonds for park, recreation, and open space improvements, and the levying of a tax in payment thereof.

**DESCRIPTION:** If approved by the voters, this proposition would provide bond funding for the creation of a new community sports park. The park would include baseball, softball, and soccer fields, as well as tennis courts. The City of Fredericksburg would be authorized \$6.1 million in city general obligation bonds for this specific community sports park and for the renovation of Oak Crest Park. The project location is South State Highway 16 between Oak Crest Park and the Gillespie County Airport. These 42 acres were purchased by the City for park use in the spring of 2017. The park is anticipated to be complete by the spring of 2022. Anticipated amenities include the following: 4 lighted baseball/softball fields, 5 soccer areas (2-4 fields per area), 4 tennis courts, renovation of 1 baseball field at Oak Crest Park, restrooms, food truck areas.

**PROS—**

The construction would provide increased recreational facilities for both children and adults. These facilities would also bring visitors from other communities in Texas which would generate revenue for the city. Studies show that there is a link between the built environment and the physical, social, and economic health of a community. A report issued by National Recreation and Park Association affirms that physical activity is critical to good health, and parks provide a venue in which physical activity can occur. Public parks provide equal access to all citizens regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or ability. Parks and recreation facilities can foster community pride, bring people together, create destination-oriented places, and connect people to each other.

**CONS—**

The bond will cause increased taxes for homeowners of approximately \$1.67 per \$100 property value, which would translate to approximately \$50.10 per year on a home valued at \$300,000. (There would be no tax impact to senior citizen’s homestead age 65 & older who have applied for exemptions and not made any major improvements to homestead.) Estimated annual maintenance and operation costs are \$450,000. City revenues could be used for other city needs rather than parks and recreation.