

Gillespie County - Voter Information

Local Elections on Saturday – May 4, 2024

Get Ready to Vote in a Local Election in Texas!

Online Voter Guide for Gillespie 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 Gillespie County are available at library and other locations.

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 Gillespie County Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas with information on candidates for elections for the Mayor of Fredericksburg and the Fredericksburg City Council, as well as the 10 amendments to the Fredericksburg 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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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 May 4, 2024

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

The City of Fredericksburg conducts the election for the Mayor and the City Charter propositions.

The sample ballot and other election information from the City of Fredericksburg is posted online:

<https://www.fbgtx.org/1207/May-4-2024-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: Fredericksburg Girl Scout Cabin 202 West Austin Street

Sunday April 21	Monday April 22	Tuesday April 23	Wednesday April 24	Thursday April 25	Friday April 26	Saturday April 27
	7:30am to 4:30pm	7:30am to 4:30pm	7:30am to 4:30pm	7:30am to 4:30pm	7:30am to 4:30pm	8:30am to 11:30am
Sunday April 28	Monday April 29	Tuesday April 30	Wednesday May 1	Thursday May 2	Friday May 3	Saturday May 4
	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm				Election Day

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

Fredericksburg Middle School Library 110 West Travis Street

City of Fredericksburg - Mayor

Fredericksburg is a home-rule city with a charter and a city council/manager form of government. The five-member legislative and governing body known as the City Council is composed of a mayor and four council members who are elected from the city at large for a two year term.

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. The term of office is two years.

Jeryl Hoover	Timothy Ellis Riley
Email: jerylhoover@mac.com	Email: rileyformayor@gmail.com

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

Hoover: I have served as Mayor of Fredericksburg four terms (8 years) over the past 18 years and have seen the changes and challenges up close from a local government perspective. In addition, my professional background in executive leadership of several nonprofit organizations has provided the training and experience required to fill the role.

Riley: I am a dynamic leader that represents the working people of our Community. Our wealthy citizens have major representation and the time has come for everyone else to have a voice. I have proven to be the only individual willing to run against and speak about the need for better representation for the whole, not the few.

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

Hoover: Managing the rate of growth and development to be compatible with current conditions, e.g., water resources, traffic, public safety, crime, and quality of life. Managing the level of tourism to be a net benefit. Need for aggressive efforts to create opportunities for young professional families to move here and contribute to enhancing community appeal.

Riley: The most pressing issue is how to relate to a younger generation that wants something more and different than the small group of voters that have determined Fredericksburg's future for decades. There must come a time when more women, more workers, more families of the future are represented in the decisions of our community.

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

Hoover: The same issues I listed in Question #2.

Riley: The City Council does not have an authentic knowledge of our citizens and their needs. Their knowledge comes from a very small group of people that continue to lead us down the same path of mediocrity.

Fredericksburg City Council – 2 places

Fredericksburg is a home-rule city with a charter and a city council/manager form of government. The five-member legislative and governing body known as the City Council is composed of a mayor and four council members who are elected from the city at large. The election is for two at large positions on the Fredericksburg City Council for a two year term.

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. The term of office is two years.

Candidates are unopposed and names are on the ballot.

Emily Kirchner	Tony Klein
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Amendments (23) to the Charter for the City of Fredericksburg

In the summer of 2023, the City Council appointed a Charter Review Committee of 11 residents, including 3 City Staff as Ex-Officio Members. The charge of this Committee was to review the City Charter. After a series of meetings, the committee created a Final Report to be presented to the City Council in January for their consideration.

The City Charter is like the constitution of the City; it establishes the city's general powers, duties, and administrative structure of the City. The City Council cannot change the Charter only by a majority vote of qualified voters living within the city limits. The City Charter was last amended in 2016. The current City Charter can be reviewed here: https://library.municode.com/tx/fredericksburg/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTICH

Voters will mark FOR or mark AGAINST on the ballot (23 propositions).

Proposition A - Boundaries

Shall Section 1.02. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

"The boundaries of the City of Fredericksburg may be enlarged or extended by the annexation of additional territory by any methods described in the State of Texas Local Government Code and boundaries in the official city map of the City of Fredericksburg, as now or hereafter amended."

Proposition B – Contraction of Boundaries

Shall Section 1.04. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

"Territory within the corporate limits of the City of Fredericksburg may be disannexed by any methods described in the Texas Local Government Code, as now or hereafter amended."

Proposition C – Eminent Domain

Shall Section 2.02. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

"The city shall have the full power and right to exercise the power of eminent domain where necessary or desirable to carry out any of the powers conferred upon it by this charter or by the constitution and laws of the State of Texas. The power of eminent domain hereby conferred shall include the right of the city to take the fee in land so condemned and such power and authority shall include the right to condemn public property for such purposes. The city shall have and possess the power of condemnation for any municipal or public purposes even though not specifically enumerated in this charter."

Proposition D – Number, Selection and Term

Shall Sec.3.01. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

"The mayor and councilmembers shall be known as the 'City Council of the City of Fredericksburg.' The mayor and councilmembers shall be elected from the city at large. The term for the mayor and councilmembers shall be two years. Each member of the city council shall serve until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The mayor or councilmembers may be elected to an unlimited number of terms, but to no more than four consecutive terms, in the same office. The terms of the councilmembers shall be staggered so that two (2) members will be elected to a regular term each year. All elections shall be held in the manner provided in Article VI of this Charter. Regular terms of office shall commence in accordance with the Election Code."

Proposition E - Qualifications

Shall Section 3.02. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended adding a subsection to read

"b) If any Councilmember shall be absent from three consecutive regular meetings without valid excuse, the city council may declare a vacancy to exist and fill said vacancy as set forth in Section 3.07 of the charter."

Proposition F - Compensation

Shall Section 3.04. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended

"Compensation shall be set by municipal ordinance. Commencing June 1, 2024, the city council shall receive the following compensation: mayor, \$1,000.00 per month and each councilmember, \$700.00 per month. In addition, each shall be paid for any actual and necessary expenses incurred while in the discharge of the duties of the office, upon presentation of an itemized statement of such expense to the city council and approved by the city council. Any adjustments to salary compensation shall be by municipal ordinance. Any increase in salary compensation by ordinance shall not become effective until the date of commencement of terms of office of the councilmembers or mayor elected at the next scheduled regular election."

Proposition G - Emergency Power of Mayor

Shall Section 3.06. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

"In time of danger or emergency, the mayor may, with the consent of the city council, take command of the police department, fire department, and emergency management and govern the city by proclamation and maintain order and enforce all laws."

Proposition H – City Secretary

Shall the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to include sections 4.04. City Secretary and read

"The city manager shall employ a city secretary who shall report to the city manager. The city manager shall establish his or her compensation and duties. the city secretary shall: (1) Unless excused by the city manager for good cause, attend all meetings of the city council and keep accurate minutes of its proceedings; (2) Preserve and keep in order all books, papers, documents, records and files of the city; (3) Authenticate by signing and recording all ordinances and resolutions; (4) Serve as Chief Election Officer for the city and be responsible for the conduct of elections in accordance with this charter and applicable State of Texas Laws; and (5) Perform such other duties as the charter, ordinances, or the city manager may provide. When authorized by the city manager and city council, the city secretary may appoint assistants, subject to the approval of the city manager, who may assist in performing any of these functions."

Proposition I – Candidates Elected

Shall Section 6.05. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

"(a) The candidate in the regular city election who receives the greatest number of votes cast for the office of mayor shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie vote between the candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast for the office of mayor, the city council and the city secretary shall follow the laws and procedures provided in the State of Texas Election Code. (b) The candidates in the regular City election who receive the greatest and second greatest number of votes cast for the office of councilmember shall be declared elected. In the event there is a tie vote between candidates so that two candidates for council member do not receive the greatest and second greatest number of votes, the city secretary shall follow the laws and procedures provided in the State of Texas Election Code. Remove item (c)"

Proposition J - Petitions for Recall

Shall Section 7.02. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

"Before the question of recall of such elected official shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the city, a petition demanding such question to be so submitted shall first be filed with the person performing the duties of the city secretary, which petition shall be signed by qualified voters of the city equal in number to at least ten percent (10%) of the total number of registered voters as of the preceding January 1. Each such recall petition and each signature thereon shall comply fully with the requirements of the Texas Election Code, as now or hereafter amended."

Proposition K - Form of Recall Petition

Shall Section 7.03. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

"Notary Public, State of Texas"

Proposition L – Presentation of Petition to City Council

Shall Section 7.05. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“Within sixty (60) days after the date of filing of the recall petition, the person performing the duties of the city secretary shall verify that the petition is in correct form and is signed by the required number of registered voters. The city secretary will present the petition, along with his or her findings, to the city council. The city council will determine the validity of the petition, and act thereon accordingly.”

Proposition M – Public Hearing to be Held

Shall Section 7.06. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“The elected official whose removal is sought may, within five (5) days after such recall petition has been presented to the city council, request that a public hearing be held to permit him or her to present facts pertinent to the charges specified in the recall petition. In this event, the city council shall order such public hearing to be held, not less than five (5) days nor more than fifteen (15) days after receiving such request for a public hearing.”

Proposition N – Election to be Called

Shall Section 7.07. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“If an elected official whose removal is sought does not resign, then it shall become the duty of the city council to order an election and to fix a date for holding such recall election, the date of which election shall be the next uniform election date following the date of the public hearing provided that the timing permits compliance with applicable State of Texas election laws, otherwise, the date of the election shall be the following uniform election date.”

Proposition O – Result of Recall Election

Shall Section 7.09. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“If a majority of votes cast at a recall election be ‘Yes’ for the recall of the person named in the ballot, he or she shall be deemed removed from office, and the vacancy filled as provided in Section 3.07 of this charter.”

Proposition P – Initiative

Shall Section 8.02. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“Registered voters of the City of Fredericksburg may initiate legislation by submitting a petition addressed to the city council which requests the submission of a proposed ordinance or resolution to a vote of the registered voters of the city. Said petition must be signed by registered voters of the city equal in number to ten percent (10%) of the number of registered voters as of the preceding Jan. 1, and each copy of the petition shall have attached to it a copy of the proposed ordinance or resolution. The petition shall be signed within the same time as recall petitions are signed, in the same manner as recall petitions are signed, and shall be verified by oath and filed with the city secretary in the manner and form as recall petitions are presented as provided in this charter. The petition may consist of one or more copies as permitted for recall petitions. Within sixty (60) days after the date of filing of the recall petition, the person performing the duties of the city secretary shall verify that the petition is in correct form and is signed by the required number of registered voters. The city secretary will present the petition, along with his or her findings, to the city council. The city council will determine the validity of the petition, and act thereon accordingly. If the city council determines that the petition is valid, it shall become the duty of the city council at the next regular city council meeting for which public notice can be posted in accordance with the law, (72 hours in advance) to pass and adopt such ordinance or resolution without alteration as to meaning or effect, or to call a special election to be held on the next uniform election date for which full compliance with applicable State of Texas Election Laws is possible.”

Proposition Q – Referendum

Shall Section 8.03. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“Registered voters of the City of Fredericksburg may initiate legislation by submitting a petition addressed to the city council which requests the submission of a proposed ordinance or resolution to a vote of the registered voters of the city. Said petition must be signed by registered voters of the city equal in number to ten percent (10%) of the number of registered voters as of the preceding Jan. 1, and each copy of the petition shall have attached to it a copy of the proposed ordinance or resolution. The petition shall be signed within the same time as recall petitions are signed, in the same manner as recall petitions are signed, and shall be verified by oath and filed with the city secretary in the manner and form as recall petitions are presented as provided in this charter. The petition may consist of one or more copies as permitted for recall petitions. Within sixty (60) days after the date of filing of the recall petition, the person performing the duties of the city secretary shall verify that the petition is in correct form and is signed by the required number of registered voters. The city secretary will present the petition, along with his or her findings, to the city council. The city council will determine the validity of the petition, and act thereon accordingly. If the city council determines that the petition is valid, it shall become the duty of the city council at the next regular city council meeting for which public notice can be posted in accordance with the law, to pass and adopt such ordinance or resolution without alteration as to meaning or effect, or to call a special election to be held on the next uniform election date for which full compliance with applicable State of Texas Election laws is possible.”

Proposition R – Form of Ballots

Shall Section 8.05. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“The ballots used when voting upon such proposed and referred ordinances, resolutions, or measures, shall set forth their nature sufficiently to identify them and shall set forth upon separate lines the words: FOR, AGAINST; or languages provided in the State of Texas Election Code”

Proposition S – Public Hearing on Budget

Shall Section 10.05. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“The city council shall fix the time and place for a public hearing on the budget and shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation of the City of Fredericksburg a notice of the hearing in compliance with Chapter 102 of the Texas Local Government Code, as now or hereafter amended. All interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard for or against any item or the amount of any item therein contained.”

Proposition T – Enterprise Fund Usage

Shall Section 10.18. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“The City of Fredericksburg shall not use proceeds or reserves from an Enterprise Fund (including but not limited to the Electric, Water and Sewer, Solid Waste and Drainage Funds) except for expenditures within the purpose of the fund, unless approved by the voters in elections that specify the amount and the money from which Enterprise Funds will be withdrawn.”

Proposition U – Consent of Property Owners

Shall Section 11.06. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“Section 11.06 proposed to be removed and recommended updating Ordinances including Right-Of-Way and Franchise Agreements.”

Proposition V – Conflict of Interest

Shall Section 12.02. of the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“Any City Officer, appointee, or employee who has a conflict of interest as defined by Chapter 176, Texas Local Government Code, as now or hereafter amended or by the City Ethics Ordinance then in effect shall disclose that interest as required by law and refrain from voting upon or otherwise deliberating upon or participating in his or her capacity as a city officer, appointee, or employee in such matter that is the subject of conflict of interest. any city officer, appointee, or employee who conceals such a substantial financial interest or violates the requirements of this section shall be guilty of malfeasance in office or position and shall forfeit his or her office or position.”

Proposition W – Grammatical Construction

Shall the Fredericksburg City Charter be amended to read

“(a) Whenever in this Charter the singular is used, the plural shall be included; whenever the masculine gender is used and the feminine shall be included.”

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.