## INSIDE

STATEWIDE BALLOT ISSUES
Explanation and pro/con arguments for the 7 Texas Constitutional Amendments offered for statewide voter consideration.

## PAGES 4-7

LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES
Read the text City of Houston ballot issues

## PAGE 8

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Learn about the candidates. Our Guide features unedited biographical and policy responses from candidates for for Houston Community College and Houston Independent School District Boards of Trustees.

PAGES 9-16
(Note: Several additional political entities and school districts in Harris County are also holding school districts in Harris County are also holding
elections on November 7. These elections are NOT covered in this Voters Guide.)

## INDEX

STATE OF TEXAS
Constitutional Amendments..... 4
LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES
City of Houston Ballot Issues... 8

## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

District IV................................ 9
District V. 9

District IX 11

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT
District I................................. 12
District III................................ 13
District V................................ 14
District VI................................ 15
District VII............................... 15
District IX............................... 16
GENERAL INFORMATION
Voter Information.................... 2 Early Voting Locations/Schedule.... 3 Access Your Specific Ballot..... 16 Sample Ballot. .16

LWV Membership Application.................

TAKE THE BUS TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY-RIDE FREE!
METRO is providing free rides to the polls during Early Voting and on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7. Get bus route information by going to www.ridemetro.org or calling 713-635-4000

2017 • General Election • Polls Open 7 a.m.to 7 p.m

## Things Voters Should KNOW

## * HOUSTON COMIMUNITY COLLEGE AND HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS ARE NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS

Candidates do not run as representatives of any political party. In each of these races a candidate must receive $50 \%$ plus one vote to be certified as the winner. If no candidate reaches this threshold the top two candidates will face each other in a runoff election. If a runoff election is necessary, go to www.lwvhouston. org for up-to-date information.

## - PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE IN PERSON IN ALL TEXAS ELECTIONS

Texas' photo ID requirements are now in effect. Those voting in person, whether voting early or on Election Day, will be required to present one of 7 acceptable forms of photo ID issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) or the United States Government. A list of acceptable forms of identification can be found in "What Identification will be required at the Poll" on page 2 of this Voters Guide and on a page 22. Photo ID will not be required of voters who vote by mail.
Should you encounter any problems at the poll, remember that you may always ask to cast a Provisional Ballot. You may also contact the County Clerk's office at 713-755-6411, the Texas Secretary of State Election Division at 1-800-252-8683, or the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-253-3931 if you believe that your right to vote is being unlawfully denied or impeded.

## EARLY VOTING AND BALLOTS BY MAIL

The dates for early voting are Monday, October 23 through Friday, November 3. Early voting polling locations and early voting hours can be found in this Voters Guide. Any registered Harris County voter may cast an early ballot at any early voting location in Harris County.
Some voters qualify to vote by mail. The request for a Ballot by Mail must be received by the County Clerk's office no later than Friday, October 27. Except for mail ballots coming from overseas, all completed mail ballots must arrive at the County Clerk's office by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. For complete details and to see if you qualify, see "When can I vote" on page 2 of this Voters Guide. If you request a mail ballot and then decide to vote in person, you will be asked to relinquish your paper mail ballot when you arrive at the polling place. If your paper ballot is not available, you will still be able to vote in person, using the provisional ballot option

## - A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR VOTERS WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HARVEY:

 YOU STILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE!If you are living temporarily away from your permanent place of residence, you may still vote in the November 7 Election. Here are your options:

1. If you are living outside Harris County, you may request a Ballot by Mail. See the information above and on page 2 of this Voters Guide to learn if you qualify to vote by mail and how to request complete and return your ballot.
2. You may Early Vote at any one of the 46 Early Voting locations in Harris County, see page 3 of this Voters Guide for complete information about Early Voting
3. You may Vote In-Person on Election Day by returning to the Polling Location for your HOME PRECINCT. If you are unsure of your Precinct Number, go to www.harrisvotes.com, enter your name and permanent address to find your Precinct Number and Polling Place. On Election Day, you may only vote by returning to your home precinct.
NOTE: To vote In-Person either during Early Voting or on Election Day, you will be required to present one of the acceptable forms of identification (see page 22 for a complete list).
If you had an acceptable photo ID. but no longer have it, you may vote using one of the alternative forms of ID (see page 22). You will sign an affidavit and voter a regular ballot.

If you cannot present an acceptable form of photo ID or an alternative, you may ask to cast a provisional ballot. You will then have until Monday, November 13, 2017 to present appropriate photo identification at any office of the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector in order for your provisional ballot to be accepted and counted. See page 2 and page 22 of this Voters Guide for additional information on photo identification.

UNIVERSITY of


HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## LWV/TEXAS EDUCATION FUND PROVIDES INFORMATION ON 7 PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Our thanks to our state organization, the League of Women Voters of Texas, for providing the English and Spanish versions of information about the proposed constitutional amendments. All Texas voters are asked to vote to accept or reject each of these Constitutional Amendments. In this Voters Guide you will find the exact wording for each amendment, an explanation, and pro and con arguments.

## - SAVE TIME ON ELECTION DAY CHECK OUT YOUR PRECINCT POLLING PLACE LOCATION BEFORE YOU HEAD TO THE POLLS

On Election Day you MUST vote at the location that is designated for your precinct. Although during early voting you may vote at any one of the 46 early voting locations in Harris County, on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7, you MUST vote in your precinct. Your precinct number appears on your current Voter Registration Certificate (VRC), which is blue and white. You can also find your precinct number by contacting the Voter Registrar at 713-3688683 or by going to www.harrisvotes.com. To get a list, by precinct, of Election Day voting locations go to www.harrisvotes. com or call the Harris County Clerk's office at 713-755-6965. This information will also appear in the Houston Chronicle prior to Election Day.

## About the League of Women

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. The League of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters Education Fund do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. For more than 95 years, the League's mission has been to support active and informed citizen participation in government. The League believes that voting is a vital part of Making Democracy Work.
The League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund publishes the Voters Guide to help each voter cast an informed ballot. Inside you will find information about the voting process, the duties and responsibilities of the offices that are included in this election, the names of candidates and, in races where there are two or more candidates, the candidates' responses to questions posed by the League of Women Voters.

Voters and this Voters Guide
The responses provided by candidates are reproduced without editing or verification. Each candidate is personally and solely responsible for the content of his/her response. Candidates' names are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. (More about the process used to assemble this Voters Guide can be found on page 4.)
No portion of this Voters Guide may be reproduced for use in political campaigns or advertising. Other proposed uses are permitted only with advance written authorization of the League of Women Voters of Houston Education Fund.
Throughout the online Voter Guide, you will see active hyperlinks. Simply click for a direct link to the website or email address.

## Can I register to vote?

All citizens who want to vote must be registered in their county of residence. The deadline for registering to vote in this election was Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017.

## You can register to vote if you meet all these qualifications:

- You are a United States citizen
- You are a resident of the county to which you submit the application
- You are at least 17 years and 10 months old, but you must be 18 years old by Election Day in order to cast your ballot
- You are not a convicted felon, but you may be eligible to vote if you have completed your sentence, probation, or parole
- You have not been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be either totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.


## How do I register to vote?

Each Texas county has a Voter Registrar. In Harris County the Tax Assessor-Collector also serves as the Voter Registrar. You may register in person or by mail.
You may register in person at 1001 Preston Avenue - 2nd floor, in downtown Houston; any of 16 Tax Office substations throughout the County (locations can be viewed at www.hctax.net); any Texas Department of Public Safety Office (DPS); or other state agency offices. Voter registration drives are frequently hosted at various events where you can register with a deputized volunteer voter registrar.
If you prefer, you can mail your application to Ann Harris Bennett, Tax Assessor-Collector andVoter Registrar, P.O. Box 3527, Houston, 77253-9803. Applications are available at all Tax Office substations locations. They may be downloaded at votetexas.gov/register-to-vote, requested by emailing voters@hctx.net or requested by calling 713-368-VOTE (8683).
After you register, you should receive your Voter Registration Certificate (VRC) within 30 days. A new VRC will automatically be sent to your mailing address at the end of every odd-number year. Please notify the Voter Registrar of any address or name change.

## Where do I vote?

During the Early Voting Period; Monday, October 23, 2017 through Friday, November 3, 2017; you may vote at any of the designated Early Voting Locations. Go to page 4 for a list of these locations. They are posted online at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713-755-6965.
On Election Day, November 7, 2017, you must vote in the polling location designated for your precinct of residence. Polling locations for each precinct usually are listed in the newspaper the week of the election. This information is available online at www.harrisvotes.com or you can call 713.755.6965. Please note that your current polling place may be different from your polling place for previous elections.

## Where do I find my Precinct Number?

Your Precinct Number (Pct. No.) is in the middle of the left side of your Voter Registration Certificate (VRC). You may wish to check the precinct number on your VRC as the first step in confirming your correct polling location. Or, you can contact the Voter Registrar at 713-368-VOTE (8683) or voters@hctx.net.

## What identification will be required at the Poll?

Each voter will be required to show one of the following forms of photo identification at the polling location in order to cast a ballot.

- Texas driver license-unexpired or expired less than 4 years-issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate (EIC) issued by DPS. For more information on the EIC application process please visit www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm.
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS—unexpired or expired less than 4 years
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS—unexpired or expired less than 4 years
- United States military identification card containing the voter's photograph - unexpired or expired less than 4 years
- United States citizenship certificate containing the voter's photograph
- United States passport-unexpired or expired less than 4 years

Voters who do not present a valid form of photo identification will be permitted to cast a provisional ballot. These voters have until Monday, November 13, 2017 to present appropriate photo identification at any office of the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector (Branch Offices: Mon.-Fri., 8:00 am-4:30pm; Main Office/Downtown: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-5:00pm). Once this and all other requirements are met, the provisional ballot must be accepted.

## Exemption / Exceptions to the photo identification requirements:

Voters with a disability may apply with the county voter registrar for a permanent exemption. The application must contain written documentation from either the U.S. Social Security Administration evidencing he or she has been determined to have a disability, or from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs evidencing a disability rating of at least 50 percent. In addition, the applicant must state that he or she has no valid form of photo identification. Those who obtain a disability exemption will be allowed to vote by presenting a voter registration certificate reflecting the exemption. Please contact your voter registrar for more details.
Voters who have a consistent religious objection to being photographed and voters who do not have any valid form of photo identification as a result of certain natural disasters as declared by the President of the United States or the Texas Governor, may vote a provisional ballot, appear at the voter registrar's office within six (6) calendar days after Election Day, and sign an affidavit swearing to the religious objection or natural disaster, in order for this ballot to be counted.

## What else may I take to the Poll?

If it's handy, we recommend that you take your blue and white Voter Registration Certificate since it contains useful voter information.
You can take this Voters Guide or other written or printed material for your personal use. Voters are not allowed to display or share any campaign material in the polling place. Voters may not access notes stored on electronic devices. Electronic devices, including mobile phones and tablets, may not be used for any purpose while at the polls.

## Does your voting name match the name on your photo ID?

Texas law requires election officials to determine if a voter's name as shown on the identification credential matches the name as shown on the official list of registered voters. If the names are not exactly the same but are "substantially similar" the voter will be asked to initial a box affirming the match. The voting process will then continue as usual.

## What if I've registered but my name is not recorded by the Voter Registrar?

The Precinct Judge will contact the Voter Registrar by telephone immediately. If your registration cannot be verified, you are eligible to cast a provisional ballot. This form will include space to describe your particular circumstances and will be reviewed by the ballot board that meets after Election Day. You will receive a letter explaining whether your provisional ballot was accepted or rejected.
What if I need assistance or have physical limitations that must be accommodated?
Voters with special needs will be accommodated at all polling places. No medical explanation is necessary and no proof of illness or disability is required.
Voters may be assisted by any person of their choice as they cast their ballots. However, a voter may not be assisted by his employer or his employer's agent, or an agent of his union. The helper will be asked to sign an oath of assistance. A voter may also be assisted by a poll worker.
To serve voters with mobility deficits or other physical limitations, all polling places will have ramp access and at least one "DAU" (disabled access unit) eSlate voting machine that offers audio voting, puff-and-sip voting and a lower stance for those who use a wheelchair or prefer to sit.
Curbside voting is also available for those whose health and safety require that they remain in their vehicles. The curbside voter should send a companion into the polling place with the voter's identification and an eSlate machine will be brought directly to the vehicle.
How Iong may I take to vote?
Voters may take as much time as they wish at the eSlate machine. Once activated the ballot will not time out or expire. If you are having problems using the machine, you may ask a poll worker for assistance.

## When can I vote?

You may vote:

- In person on Election Day at your assigned precinct's polling place
- In person at designated times and locations during the Early Voting period, Monday, October 23, 2017 through Friday, November 3, 2017 - see schedule on page 4
- By mail if you are at least age 65 , disabled, confined in jail, or if absence from the county will prevent you from casting a ballot during the Early Voting Period and on Election Day. For this election your application for a ballot by mail must be received by fax or postal mail by Friday, October 27, 2017. Contact the County Clerk's Office, 713.755.6965 or visit www.harrisvotes. com to print an application for a ballot by mail.


## What about a student who is registered to vote at the family home, but will be on campus during Election Season?

- A student can return home to vote on Election Day or during the Early Voting period.
- A student whose school address is outside Harris County can vote by mail. Please see ballot by mail instructions, above.


## What do I do if I change my address and still live in Harris County?

Change your address online at votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/did-you-change-something or in writing by completing a voter registration application form or by correcting the information on your current Voter Registration Certificate and returning it to the Harris County Voter Registrar.
You will be able to vote in your new precinct 30 days after your notice has been received by the Voter Registrar. Meanwhile, you may vote a full ballot in accordance with your former precinct details.

## What do I do if I change my address and move to another county?

You must complete a new registration form when you move to a new county. This registration must have been submitted by October 10, 2017 for you to vote in accordance with your new residence in this Election. However, you may be eligible to vote a limited ballot in your new county (i.e. on measures in common between your former and new county) if you vote during the Early Voting period only.

## What does the term "suspense" mean on a voter's record?

The term "suspense" is used to designate those voters for whom the Harris County Voter Registrar does not have a current, confirmed address. "Suspense" voters may cast a ballot after completing a Statement of Residence form.

## For Military and Overseas Voters

Eligible Military Personnel, Spouses or Dependents of the Military, and Civilians Overseas now have the ability to complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) online. For more information and instructions visit www.harrisvotes.com/VotingInfo/MilOverseas.aspx.

## IMPORTANT!

these locations
ARE FOR
EARLY
VOTING
ONLY.
ON ELECTION DAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017 ,YOU MUST VOTE IN THE POLLING LOCATION DESIGNATED FOR YOUR PRECINCT OF RESIDENCE.

DURING THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD, OCTOBER 23 - NOV 3, 20I7,YOU MAY VOTE AT ANY OF THE DESIGNATED EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS.

## EARLY VOTING hours of operation

OCTOBER 23rd-27th
8 AM TO 4:30 PM
остоber 28th
7 AM TO 7 pM
ОСтOBER 29тн
I PM TO 6 PM
остоber 30th NOVEMBER 3RD
7 AM TO 7 PM

1. Main Office:
2. Moody Park:
3. Kashmere:
4. Downtown-East
5. Southeast Houston
6. Palm Center (*):
7. Astrodome Area:
8. Near Town:
9. Galleria:
10. The Heights:
11. Northeast Houston:
12. Galena Park:
13. Hobby Area:
14. Sunnyside:
15. South Houston:
16. SW. Houston:
17. Near West Side:
18. Spring Branch:
19. Victory Center:
20. Acres Homes:
21. North:

Harris County Administration Building 1001 Preston Street, 4th Floor, Houston, 77002 Moody Park Community Center 3725 Fulton Street, Houston, 77009 Kashmere Multi-Service Center 4802 Lockwood Drive, Houston, 77026 Ripley House Neighborhood Center 4410 Navigation Boulevard, Houston, 77011 . Southeast College 6960 Rustic Street, Parking Garage, Houston, 77087 Young Neighborhood Library 5107 Griggs Road, Houston, 77021 Fiesta Mart
8130 Kirby Drive, Houston, 77054
Metropolitan Multi-Service Center 1475 W. Gray Street, Houston, 77019 Harris County Public Health 2223 West Loop South Fwy, $1^{\text {st }}$ Floor, Houston, 77027 SPJST Lodge \#88
1435 Beall Street, Houston, 77008

9720 Spaulding Street, Building \#4, Houston, 77016 Alvin D. Baggett Community Center 1302 Keene Street, Galena Park, 77547 John Phelps Courthouse
101 S. Richey Street, Pasadena, 77506
Sunnyside Multi-Purpose Center
9314 Cullen Boulevard, Houston, 77051 Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center 3810 W. Fuqua Street, Houston, 77045 Bayland Park Community Center 6400 Bissonnet Street (near Hillcroft), Houston, 77074 Tracy Gee Community Center 3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston, 77042 (One block East of Sam Houston Tollway) Trini Mendenhall Community Center 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, 77055 Lone Star College - Victory Center 4141 Victory Drive, Houston, 77088 Acres Homes Multi-Service Center 6719 W. Montgomery Road, Houston, 77091 Hardy Senior Center 11901 West Hardy Road, Houston, 77076
22. Humble:
23. Kingwood (*):
24. Atascocita (*):
25. Crosby:
26. Wallisville Road:
27. Baytown:
28. Pasadena:
29. Clear Lake:
30. Scarsdale:
31. Alief:
32. Far West:
33. West Houston:
34. Katy:
35. Bear Creek:
36. North Katy:
37. Jersey Village:
38. South Cypress:
39. Cypress:
40. Northwest
41. Fallbrook:
42. Cypress Creek (*):
43. Tomball:
44. Far North:
45. North (*):
46. Mercer Park (*):

Octavia Fields Branch Librar
1503 South Houston Avenue, Humble, 77338
Kingwood Community Center, Room 102
4102 Rustic Woods Drive, Kingwood, 77345
Rosewood Funeral Home - Atascocita, Community Room 17404 W. Lake Houston Pkwy, Atascocita, 77346
Crosby Branch Library
135 Hare Road, Crosby, 77532
North Channel Branch Library
15741 Wallisville Road, Houston, 77049
Baytown Community Center
2407 Market Street, Baytown, 77520
Kyle Chapman Activity Center 7340 Spencer Highway, Pasadena, 77505
Freeman Branch Library
16616 Diana Lane, Houston, 77062
Scarsdale County Annex
10851 Scarsdale Boulevard, Houston, 77089
Alief ISD Administration Building
4250 Cook Road, Houston, 77072 (Entrance on High Star - South Entrance) Harris County MUD 81
805 Hidden Canyon Road, Katy, 77450
Nottingham Park
926 Country Place Drive, Houston, 77079
Katy Branch Library
5414 Franz Road, Katy, 77493
Unavailable due to flooding
Lone Star College - Cypress Center
19710 Clay Road, Katy, 77449
City of Jersey Village - City Hall
16327 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village, 77040
Richard \& Meg Weekley Community Center 8440 Greenhouse Road, Cypress, 77433
Juergen's Hall Community Center 26026 Hempstead Highway, Cypress, 77429 Prairie View A\&M University - Northwest 9449 Grant Road, Houston, 77070 Fallbrook Church
12512 Walters Road, Houston, 77014 Klein Multipurpose Center, Room 402 7500 FM 2920, Klein, 77379
Tomball Public Works Building 501B James Street, Tomball, 77375 Lone Star College - Creekside Center 8747 West New Harmony Trail, Tomball, 77375 Spring First Church - Teen Center 1851 Spring Cypress Road, Spring, 77388 Lone Star College North Harris - CDC Building 2700 W W Thorne Drive, Houston, 77073

# AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION SINCE 1876 

The 1876 Texas Constitution, the fifth since statehood, had 289 sections organized into 17 articles. The original version of this 1876 constitution is viewable online on The University of Texas School of Law Tarlton Law Library website at http://tarIton. law.utexas.edu/constitutions/texas 1876.

Over the years, 216 new sections have been added, while 66 of the original sections and 51 of the added sections have been removed, so that the Texas Constitution today has 388 sections. For most of that time, the constitution has been updated at least biennially through amendments proposed by the legislature and approved by the Texas electorate.
No legislative rules or other restrictions limit the number of amendment proposals, provided each receives the required two-thirds vote in both the senate and the house.

Since 1876, the legislature has proposed 673 constitutional amendments, and 670 have gone before Texas voters. Of the amendments submitted to the voters so far, 491 have been approved by the electorate and 179 have been defeated. Three amendments never made it to the ballot for reasons that are historically obscure.
(Texas Legislative Council, 2016)

# GENERAL ELECTION STATE OF TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ELECTION 

$\square$

## PROPOSITION I (HJR 2I)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization for less than the market value of the residence homestead and harmonizing certain related provisions of the Texas Constitution.

## EXPLANATION

The Texas Constitution, Art. 8, Sec. 1-b(1), allows the legislature to provide a partial homestead exemption for a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse equal to the percentage of the disability if the homestead was donated at no cost to the disabled veteran.

Proposition 1 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to entitle a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse to a partial homestead exemption even if the homestead was donated at some cost to the veteran. The enabling legislation, HB 150, allows partially disabled veterans to claim a property tax exemption if they paid 50 percent or less of the market value for the house donated to them by a charity.

## ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Currently a partially disabled veteran who paid part of the cost of a donated home receives no property tax exemption. Proposition 1 would give the same property tax exemption to a partially disabled veteran who paid something toward the value of a donated home that is currently received by partially disabled veterans whose homes were donated in full.


## ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

-Proposition 1 would continue a pattern of giving exemptions to specific groups of people. Reducing the taxes on specific groups usually means other groups must absorb more of the tax burden.
-The legislature should focus its efforts on reducing the tax burden on everyone.

## PROPOSITION 2 (SJR 60)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment to establish a lower amount for expenses that can be charged to a borrower and removing certain financing expense limitations for a home equity loan, establishing certain authorized lenders to make a home equity loan, changing certain options for the refinancing of home equity loans, changing the threshold for an advance of a home equity line of credit, and allowing home equity loans on agricultural homesteads.

## EXPLANATION

Proposition 2 would amend Article 16, Section 50(a)(6) of the Texas Constitution that governs home equity loans-money borrowed against the value of a homestead by its owner using the property as a guarantee to repay the loan. This amendment proposes changes to the following terms:
Fee cap. Lower the maximum limit on fees that can be charged to borrowers from $3 \%$ to $2 \%$ of the loan principal and exclude the cost of appraisals, property surveys, title insurance premiums, title insurance, and title examination reports from calculation of the maximum limit on fees.

Refinancing. Allow a home equity loan to be refinanced as a non-home equity loan secured with a lien against the property if certain conditions are met. This is currently prohibited.
Home equity lines of credit. Repeal a provision that prevents additional advances on a home equity line of credit if the unpaid principal exceeds $50 \%$ of the fair market value of the homestead

Agricultural homesteads. Allow a home equity loan for a homestead designated for agricultural use. This is currently prohibited.
Approved lenders. Expand the list of approved home equity lenders by adding subsidiaries of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, and credit unions; and replace mortgage brokers with mortgage bankers and mortgage companies.

## ARGUMENTS FOR:

-The proposed amendment will make home equity loans more accessible, lower costs for borrowers, and provide consumers more choice.

- Fee cap. Lenders will be able to make loans under \$100,000 more easily; the fee cap will not include fees by third parties, and consumers will still be protected against extreme fees from lenders.
- Refinancing. Allowing a home equity loan to be refinanced into a non-home equity loan within reasonable restrictions would increase consumer choice. The borrower could combine a home equity loan with another loan to have one payment or to get a lower interest rate.
- Home equity lines of credit. The change would allow the borrower to initially take out a smaller loan and pay less interest before borrowing more against the line of credit.
- Agricultural homesteads. Owners of large and small agricultura homesteads should have the same choice as other Texans to borrow against their property under the consumer protections of a home equity loan.


#### Abstract

ARGUMENTS AGAINST: - The proposed amendment will raise costs for borrowers and remove several important consumer protections that have worked for borrowers and lenders. - Fee cap. Adding the costs for appraisals, surveys, and title insurance and reports on top of a maximum fee limit of $2 \%$ of the loan principal would likely be higher than the current $3 \%$ cap on all fees. - Refinancing. Home equity loans have important protections related to judicial foreclosure and protection against loss of non-home assets. A new home equity loan with the consumer protections is a better option than a non-home equity loan without those protections. - Home equity lines of credit. Current limits require the borrower to budget carefully for projected expenses and their repayment - Agricultural homesteads. Home equity loans and lines of credit for agricultural properties are costlier than farm operating loans and lines of credit due to the added large costs for appraisals, surveys, and title insurance and reports.


## PROPOSITION 3 (SJR 34)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment limiting the service of certain officeholders appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate after the expiration of the person's term of office.

## EXPLANATION

Proposition 3 would modify the holdover provisions for all unsalaried officers appointed by the governor such as appointees to volunteer boards and commissions. Current law, known as the "holdover" provision, allows all unsalaried appointees to continue to perform the duties of their office until a successor is duly qualified. "Holdovers" ensure continuation of functions but have been used to serve as extensions of terms of office.

This proposition makes it clear that if a term expires when the legislature is not in regular session, the officer will continue to serve only until the last day of the next regular session of the legislature. These unsalaried officials would not continue to serve in office past the expiration even if no successor has been appointed. If a new official is not appointed by the end of the session, then the office would become vacant.


#### Abstract

ARGUMENTS FOR: - This amendment would limit the amount of time a governor's appointee can serve and would address concerns about some gubernatorial appointees being held over in their positions long after their terms have expired. Placing the limit at the end of a regular legislative session allows Senate confirmation hearings of appointees. - Placing a limit on how long an appointee could continue serving in office would ensure that these unsalaried volunteer positions are rotated among qualified Texans.


## ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- The Governor has many appointed positions to fill; the existing law allows flexibility for appointees to continue serving until qualified replacements are found.
- This amendment could result in many important appointed positions remaining vacant if a qualified replacement is not found within a certain time frame.


## PROPOSITION 4 (SJR 6)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to require a court to provide notice to the attorney general of a challenge to the constitutionality of a state statute and authorizing the legislature to prescribe a waiting period before the court may enter a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional.

## EXPLANATION

Proposition 4 would require a court to notify the state attorney general when a party to litigation files a petition, motion, or other pleading challenging the constitutionality of a state statute. Courts must wait 45 days, after providing the notice, before entering a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional.
In 2011, the state legislature passed a statute with a similar notice and waiting period, but in 2013, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled that the law was unconstitutional. Proposition 4 is designed to provide a constitutional basis for the notice and waiting period to restore the 2013 law.

## ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Proposition 4 ensures the state has an opportunity to defend the constitutionality of its laws.
- The proposed amendment would not alter the state's separation of powers doctrine nor restrict the ability of courts to strike down laws as unconstitutional.
- This amendment would only provide the attorney general with notice so the attorney general could offer assistance to defend a state law. It would not change the authority of the attorney general's office over criminal matters.


## ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- The constitution should not be amended in a way that could undermine the state's separation of powers doctrine. Each branch of the government should be able to exercise its powers without interference from another branch.
- The legislature should not establish procedures that delay a Texan's right to pursue and receive relief from unconstitutional laws.
- Under current law, in criminal cases the state prosecuting attorney, not the attorney general, represents the state. This law could create confusion regarding the attorney general's role in criminal cases.


## PROPOSITION 5 (HJR IOO)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment on professional sports team charitable foundations conducting charitable raffles.

## EXPLANATION

Proposition 5 would amend Article 3, Section $47(d-1)$ of the Texas Constitution, enabling certain professional sports team charitable foundations to conduct charitable raffles. Voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2016 to allow certain professional sports team charitable foundations that existed on January 1, 2016, to conduct charitable raffles at home games. It authorized the 10 Texas major league sports franchises that had charitable foundations on that date to conduct charitable raffles.
Proposition 5 and its enabling legislation, HB 3125, would expand the number of professional sports team charitable foundations that are eligible to hold charitable raffles at home sports games. This amendment proposes to:

- Remove the restriction that only charitable foundations existing on January 1, 2016 may conduct charitable raffles
-Define "professional sports teams" eligible to conduct charitable raffles to allow professional hockey, basketball, football, baseball, soccer, motorsports, and golf teams, including minor leagues as well as major leagues


## ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Proposition 5, in expanding the number of eligible sports teams, allows more teams to capitalize on the large and supportive crowds at sporting events, which increases the amount of charitable funds to support their charitable programs.
- It would add minor league sports teams representing more rural and suburban communities, bringing charitable revenue to new and different parts of the state and uniting sports teams and their communities to assist disadvantaged Texans.
- The proposed amendment only expands the number of sports teams that could participate in charitable raffles; it would make no other change and would not remove safeguards that were established to protect against improperly conducted raffles.


## ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- Current law, which applies only to the 10 Texas major league sports franchises, protects against the creation of entities solely to take advantage of charitable raffles.
- Proposition 5 could open the door to further expansion of charitable raffles conducted by the foundations of less well-established teams.
- The proposed amendment expands gambling in Texas by increasing the number of raffles that sports team
foundations can conduct, which could lead to other groups requesting authority to offer such raffles.


## PROPOSITION 6 (SJR I)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

## EXPLANATION

Proposition 6 would give property tax exemptions to surviving spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty if the spouse has not remarried. If the surviving spouse moves to a new homestead, the spouse is entitled to an equivalent homestead exemption for real property taxation.

## ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Families of fallen first responders, with their incomes reduced, should not have to bear the burden of losing their homes because of the price of property taxes.
- Surviving spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty should be treated the same as surviving spouses of veterans killed in the line of duty.
- The fiscal impact on a single taxing district would be minimal.


## ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- Regardless of how deserving the recipients, creating additional property tax exemptions may require local governments to place an additional tax burden on other taxpayers.
- School districts would receive less revenue from property taxes so the state may decide to cover this reduction by taking it from the General Revenue Fund, creating a cost to the state.


## PROPOSITION 7 (HJR37)

## OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE:

Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to legislative authority to permit credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings.

## EXPLANATION

The Texas Constitution, Art. 3, Sec. 47, prohibits lotteries and raffles with a few exceptions, such as bingo games and charitable raffles conducted by nonprofit or religious organizations. Proposition 7 would amend the constitution to allow the legislature to authorize credit unions or other financial institutions to conduct promotional activities that can award a prize to one or more of the institution's depositors selected by lot to encourage savings.
The enabling legislation for Proposition 7, HB 471, defines raffles legalized under this amendment as savings promotion raffles; the criteria for entering is a deposit of a specific amount into a savings account or savings program. Other terms of the savings account or program - fees, withdrawal limits, interest or dividends must be commensurate with those of savings accounts or programs that are not subject to a savings promotion raffle.

## ARGUMENTS FOR:

- Saving incentives are needed as more than one-third of Texas households lack a savings account and about half do not have a threemonth emergency fund. States that have removed legal barriers to such raffles have seen a significant increase in consumer savings.
- Savings promotion raffles are not gambling as they require no form of payment, only a deposit into a savings account, and benefit the consumer even if the consumer does not win a prize. Depositors can withdraw their money at any time and therefore do not lose money as in other raffles.


## ARGUMENTS AGAINST:

- Proposition 7 would permit one industry to do a raffle and would be the only non-charitable raffle allowed in the state. It is not equitable to allow only one industry to conduct raffles.
- This proposition could lead to other industries requesting permission to hold raffles and to more serious forms of gambling.

> INFORMATION \& UPDATES ABOUTTHE UPCOMING ELECTION

For updates regarding the upcoming Election, Election Laws and Voting Procedures, check with the Harris County Clerk at 713-755-6965 or the League of Women Voters-Houston Area website: www..lwvHouston.org or our Facebook page: facebook.com/wviouston.

CITY OF HOUSTON - BALLOT ISSUES NOVEMBER 7, 2017 ELECTION

BOND ELECTION OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

CITY OF HOUSTON, PROPOSITION A
The issuance of $\$ 1,010,000,000$ pension obligation bonds for the purpose of funding a portion of the unfunded liability of the City with respect to the Houston Police Officers' Pension System and the Houston Municipal Employees Pension System as contemplated by the pension reform plan contained in Senate Bill 2190 (adopted in the 85th (2017) Texas Legislature, Regular Session), and the levying of taxes sufficient for the payment thereof and interest thereon.

CITY OF HOUSTON, PROPOSITION B
The issuance of $\$ 159,000,000$ public safety improvement bonds for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation and equipment of public safety permanent improvements for the police and fire departments and the levying of taxes sufficient for the payment thereof and interest thereon.

CITY OF HOUSTON, PROPOSITION C
The issuance of $\$ 104,000,000$ park improvement bonds for the conservation, improvement, acquisition, construction and equipment of neighborhood parks, recreational facilities and bayous, including such green spaces along all bayous to create an integrated system of bayou walking, running and bicycle trails to enhance, preserve and protect the health of citizens, water quality, natural habitat and native wildlife and the levying of taxes sufficient for the payment thereof and interest thereon.

CITY OF HOUSTON, PROPOSITION D
The issuance of $\$ 109,000,000$ public facility improvement bonds for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, remediation and equipment of permanent improvements that support public health and wellness, sanitation and other essential governmental and general services of the City and the levying of taxes sufficient for the payment thereof and interest thereon.

CITY OF HOUSTON, PROPOSITION E
The issuance of $\$ 123,000,000$ library improvement bonds for the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation and equipment of the public library system and the levying of taxes sufficient for the payment thereof and interest thereon.
PROPOSITIONS A-E-EXPLANATION
The City of Houston is seeking voter approval to issue Municipal Bonds and, if necessary, to levy taxes sufficient to repay the principal and interest on the bonds that are issued. These bonds will be General Obligation Bonds.
Propositions A will authorize the City of Houston to issue pension obligation bonds to fund part of the unfunded liability for the pension systems of the Houston Police Officers and the Houston Municipal Employees, which is anticipated as a result of the Pension Reform legislation which was passed by the 2017 State Legislature. Implementation and funding of this legislation will depend on approval of these pension bonds by the voters. Additional background information about the Pension Reform Plan can be found at http://www.houstontx.gov/pensions/
This proposition will be voted on by all voters who reside in the City of Houston.
Propositions B-E will authorize the City of Houston to issue bonds for capital improvement projects including: public safety projects to upgrade police and fire stations and equipment; projects to improve, expand and enhance public parks and green spaces; projects to repair and upgrade community centers and city health clinics; and projects to repair, renovate and replace public library facilities.
These propositions will be voted on by all voters who reside in the City of Houston.
LOCAL OPTION ELECTION OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE

CITY OF HOUSTON, PROPOSITION F LOCAL OPTION ELECTION
(Relating to the area formerly known as the City of Houston Heights as it existed on February 19, 1918.) The legal sale of mixed beverages.

LOCAL OPTION ELECTION - PROPOSITION F EXPLANATION
This proposition seeks to expand the legal sale of mixed alcoholic beverages in the area formerly known as the City of Houston Heights.
This proposition will be voted on by those who reside in the affected precincts.

WHAT ARE MUNICIPAL BONDS?
Municipal bonds (or "munis" for short) are debt securities issued by states, cities, counties and other governmental entities to fund day-to-day obligations or to finance capital projects such as building schools, highways or sewer systems. By purchasing municipal bonds, the bond purchaser is in effect lending money to the bond issuer in exchange for a promise of regular interest payments, usually semi-annually, and the return of the original investment, or "principal." A municipal bond's maturity date (the date when the issuer of the bond repays the principal) may be years in the future. Short-term bonds mature in one to three years, while long-term bonds won't mature for than more a decade.

THE TWO MOST COMMON TYPES OF MUNICIPAL BONDS ARE THE FOLLOWING:
General obligation bonds are issued by states, cities or counties and not secured by any assets. Instead, general obligation are backed by the "full faith and credit" of the issuer, which has the power to tax residents to pay bondholders.
Revenue bonds are not backed by government's taxing power but by revenues from a specific project or source, such as highway tolls or lease fees. Some revenue bonds are "non-recourse", meaning that if the revenue stream dries up, the bondholders do not have a claim on the underlying revenue source.
Source: United States Securities and Exchange Commission

## HOW THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ASSEMBLES THE VOTERS GUIDE

The League of Women Voters contacts all opposed candidates and requests that they respond to our candidate questionnaire with biographical information and answers to questions about important issues.
Each candidate's response is reproduced exactly as submitted without editing or verification. Each candidate is personally and solely responsible for the content of his/her response.
Candidates are advised that their responses are character limited. Replies that exceed the character limit are broken off at the limitation point by slashes (I/I). Candidates who fail to respond to our invitation to participate in the Voters Guide are listed with the notation, "No response received."

Candidate profiles include a photo unless the candidate did not submit one.
The League of Women Voters does not request responses from unopposed candidates. For your information, names of unopposed candidates are listed in the Voters Guide, followed by the notation "Running Unopposed."
Candidates are advised that the League of Women Voters reserves the right not to print obscenities, slurs, or egregious personal attacks.
All races are listed in the order in which they will appear on the official ballot published by the Harris County Clerk.

## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE - BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:



What are the three most critical issues currently facing the Houston Community College System and its Board of Trustees? What will you do to address them?

## CAROLYN EVANS-SHABAZZ

1.Cohesiveness-I believe that we all come from different backgrounds and thus bring different experiences to the table. I exhibit a respect for all my colleagues and try to lead by example.
2.Purpose-As a policy board we are charged to implement and approve policy which impacts the operations of the college and the successful matriculation of the students as opposed to governing the day to day operations of the college which are the charge of our administrative team. I try to help to keep my colleagues on task in regards to our defined purpose.
3.Political Influence/Integrity. We must operate openly and transparently and avoid undue political/financial influence. I make my decisions based on the benefit to the students and not personal gain.
Education: Spelman College B.A. Political Science Texas Southern University, M.A. Psychology, Ed.D. Education / Experience: Retired Educator, Real Estate Broker / Community Involvement: NAACP Houston Branch Secretary/Education Committee Chair, Tierwester Civic Association (Treasurer), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc, National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (Treasurer), Houston Black American Democrats, Harris County Democrats / Campaign Email: drevansshabaž@yahoo.com / Website: Under Construction / Campaign Address: P.O. Box 8482 Houston, Texas 77288-8482 / Campaign Phone: 713-522-1523

## MANNY BARRERA

1) Failure to address the corruption that has become a part of the HCC culture. My work helped the FBI bring one of the trustees to justice, Inside-HCC.com
2) Falling enrollment and increase in tuition and fees. The present Board with maybe one exception is concentrating in building buildings that are not needed rather than in making HCC educationally better.
3) Incompetent administrators, a recent suicide by an employee because administration sent them a termination letter that was not merited based on the circumstances. Charging employees with crimes that did not occur.

What do you believe is the fundamental mission of community college and how will you work to ensure that the Houston Community College System is fulfilling that mission?

The fundamental mission of the community college is to provide a high quality, affordable education for academic advancement, workforce training, career development, and lifelong learning to prepare individuals in our diverse communities for life and work in a global and technological society (restatement of the mission statement) and to encourage participation through community outreach. I therefore must serve as an advocate for the college. I must also stay abreast of current workforce and academic trends as well as assess the needs of the community and engage in professional conferences that provide best practices in delivering a useful and innovative educational model to ensure that we truly are Houston's Community College.

How will you seek input and guidance from community stakeholders, faculty, administrators and staff to ensure that HCC is providing students with the skills and training needed by area employers?

I attend many meetings and public events and make myself available to my community stakeholders and others. I provide my personal cell and email address and thus encourage anyone with a concern to call, text, or email me. As Vice Chair of the board, I continuously engage with the Chancellor to exchange ideas and suggestions and receive feedback about how we can better provide students with the training needed. As chair of the Student Success Committee, I have a razor focus on workforce training and the necessary support needed to get our students to completion. In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, HCC is particularly important and therefore is acutely focused on providing skilled workers to rebuild Houston.

Education: B.S. Industrial Education, J.D. University of Houston / Experience: 20 years as an educator with HISD, and 20 years as Hearing Officer / Community Involvement: President of neighborhood civic club.

The fundamental mission is to educate, by properly preparing the student for careers in which jobs will be available or to proceed to a four-year college properly prepared to finish with a four-year degree.
One Trustee is one vote, and about five maybe six of the trustees are more interested in being called "Honorable" than in doing the right thing. But one starts a journey one step at a time.

I don't know what to make of the question as it seems to ask that a Trustee become involved in the day to day operations rather than policy. Some trustees have gotten in trouble for speaking to students and doing the right thing, for instance, in 2016 Dave Wilson got in trouble for trying to help nursing students who were being denied the right to take nursing exam.
That is the problem with HCC and the current crop of worthless trustees including the one that is presently the office holder for this position, they so want the money that the money givers give that they have become the servants for all practical purposes of the contractors and lawyers, rather than the community.

## DANIEL "DC" CALDWELL, I

HCC, like every organization, must address three counterbalancing factors in project management: Budget, schedule, and scope. In the budget, the board sets tuition and fees, a tax rate, and salary schedules. I have to vote against spending I see as wasteful to make sure we provide the most value in public higher education. In the schedule, the board approves academic calendars and the roll-out of programs. I encourage agile policies that delegate authority to conduct activities to the lowest levels necessary in order to allow efficient planning of courses for students, faculty, and staff. In the scope (of services), the board determines the expansion and consolidation of degree options. I would vary the offerings with demand.

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE - BOARD OF TRUSTEES
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:


What are the three most critical issues currently facing the Houston Community College System and its Board of Trustees? What will you do to address them?

VICTORIA BRYANT
The three most critical issues currently facing the Houston Community College System and its Board of Trustees are strong leadership, financial transparency and a competitive, quality education. We need strong leadership from our board to set an example for our students, restore trust with the public and reaffirm HCC's mission to provide quality education and equip our students for the growing workforce. We need to earn back trust from the community by showing transparency in our finances and manage our finances frugally to minimize waste and allocate funding to the right programs and to the future of our students. We need fresh and innovative leaders who can move HCC to a new way of educating and empowering our students.

What do you believe is the fundamental mission of community college and how will you work to ensure that the Houston Community College System is fulfilling that mission?

I believe the fundamental mission of community college is to equip our students to succeed and to support economic and workforce development.

How will you seek input and guidance from community stakeholders, faculty, administrators and staff to ensure that HCC is providing students with the skills and training needed by area employers?

I am an employer and have first-handed experience on the importance of a prepared and well-trained employee. Being able to work with HCC was a vital part of my business. I firmly believe we need to collaborate not only with faculty, administrators and staff but also with stakeholders and employers to ensure we are equipping our students with relevant skills in each industry. These collaborations are vital to our students' success to open doors of employment opportunity, internships and practical learning that one would not get in a classroom alone.

Education: Doctor of Pharmacy / Experience: Registered Pharmacist/Entrepreneur/Home Health / Community Involvement: Chairman - World Chamber of Commerce TX, Board of Director - Altus Foundation, HISD CTE District Advisory Council and HISD Nutrition PAC, Memorial Hermann SW Hospital Women's Advisory Council, UH Educ. and UHV Business School Dean's Advisory Council / Campaign Email: info@vote4victoria.com / Website: www.vote4victoria.com / Campaign Address: PO BOX 301189, Houston TX 77230 / Campaign Phone: 832-356-4222

ROBERT GLASER

Student retention, graduation rates, relationship with upstream partners. I will continue to advocate for more student service resources, such as additional guidance counselors, tutors, mentors and partnerships with affiliated social service organizations to reduce the barriers to student success. I will continue to push for more streamlined degree/certificate programs getting students through programs more efficiently and quickly. I will press to develop a partnership with HISD like the one we now have in place with Alief ISD, allowing HS students to get 'pre-enrolled' at HCC prior to graduating HS. While on the board we have had no tuition increases and have reduced tax rates and increased exemptions for senior and disabled homeowners.

The vision of HCC is to be the most relevant community college in the country, and be the opportunity institution for every student we serve- essential to our community's success. I will work to make sure that every student has an equal and equitable opportunity to pursue their passion, meaning that I will press that underserved communities and students are afforded opportunity at higher education and technical training that may not otherwise be accessible to them. I will continue to make sure that our product is both affordable and of the highest quality so that our students can be the most competitive in our community. I will also work to streamline operations, reduce administration/faculty ratios, and keep faculty salaries competitive.

As I have during my four-year tenure on the board, I will continue to meet with external and internal groups for continuous input so as to improve our institution and its relationships with both upstream and downstream partners. Internally, we have both student and faculty groups offering input that we, as a board, act upon through policy creation and implementation. Externally, I meet with both public and private schools that provide us with students- along with numerous employers, industry, and professional groups that give us guidance on the needs of graduates from HCC, allowing us to work with them in creating curriculum and also in providing scholarship opportunities for students, as well as developing internships for them.

Education: HISD schools- Poe, Lanier, Lamar HS. BA/BS Univ. of Texas- Austin, MBA Univ. of St. Thomas- Houston / Experience: 30-year local business founder and owner. Houston native- married 23 years, 3 children / Community Involvement: Current Trustee- Houston Community College / Campaign Email: robert_glaser@hotmail.com / Website: www.GlaserForHCCS.com / Campaign Address: Box 980025 Houston, TX 77098 / Campaign Phone: 713.540.3412
$\square$


FRIEND US. TREND WITH US. BE SOCIAL WITH US.

Find the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area on social media sites! You can find us on Facebook at FACEBOOK.COM/LWVHOUSTON or on Twitter at TWITTER.COM/LWV.

# QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES: 



What are the three most critical issues currently facing the Houston Community College System and its Board of Trustees? What will you do to address them?

## EUGENE "GENE" PACK

1. Rebuilding Integrity: I would push for "Ethics Reform" including a complete review of the procurement and contracting process.
2. Protection of Tax-Payers: I would move toward a 4 -year term rather than a 6 -year term to hold board members accountable to tax-payers.
3. Re-focusing on Workforce Development: I would push for an evaluation of programs and curricula that will better prepare students for jobs of the future.

Education: High School Graduate, Some College / Experience: Automobile Industry Professional Small Business Owner / Community Involvement: HOA President, County Precinct Chairman, Senate District Chairman, Crisis Center Chairman, Board Member of At-risk Children Organization / Campaign Email: info@genepackforhcc.com / Website: www.genepack.org / Campaign Address: P.O. Box 31050, Houston, TX $77231-1050$ / Campaign Phone: 832-940-2606

## DAVID JAROSZEWSKI

1. Student success: Some candidates are more concerned about equity for vendors and contractors than they are about students. I'm concerned about equity for students as they pursue their dreams. It takes the average HCC student 4.6 years to earn their 2-year degree. Only 15\% finish in three years. This is unacceptable. High impact practices for student success must be funded.
2. Service areas not in the taxing district: How should the college address, in a financially responsible manner, the needs of these areas?
3. Relationships with public education: How should the college serve school districts with dual credit classes? What is the proper role of early college high school? More study is needed on these last two.

What do you believe is the fundamental mission of community college and how will you work to ensure that the Houston Community College System is fulfilling that mission?

The fundamental mission of community colleges is to prepare students for career and success in life, to be an economic generator for the local economy, and protect the investment of tax-payers in higher education and to respond to ongoing community needs. The evidence is clear that some board decisions over the past several years shows that the HCC needs to refocus on its core mission.

How will you seek input and guidance from community stakeholders, faculty, administrators and staff to ensure that HCC is providing students with the skills and training needed by area employers?

First, I will have an "Open-Door" policy. Next, I will engage students, faculty, and tax-payers on a monthly basis in a tele-conference call.
Finally, I will use the existing resources available to board members to keep all stakeholders informed.

Education: B.A. in Teaching, and M.A., Sam Houston State University. J.D., South Texas College of Law / Experience: 40 years in community college education as instructor, department chair, and dean. Member of the School Law Section of the State Bar of Texas / Community Involvement: Past president of PTOs at the elementary and high school levels. Public Engagement Committee of HISD / Campaign Email: davidbjaroszewski@ gmail.com / Website: www.davidbjaroszewski.com / Campaign Address: P.O. Box 35887, Houston, TX 77235 / Campaign Phone: 713-728-2871

## PRETTA VANDIBLE STALLWORTH

Ethics: role of the governing board in contracting and HR - request increased training and development for the Board; review and revise policy.
Service to Stakeholders: identifying the needs of the district population demographic - currently executing a survey during campaign.
Faculty/Student Voice: acknowledging faculty and student needs - strengthening the collective stakeholder voice through faculty/student senate and increasing cultural competence training for the diverse demographic.

The primary mission of community college is to provide higher education to those who are not bound for 4-year colleges and universities right out of high school. That means students who are holding down the costs by staying close to home to begin their college studies, students learning high tech skills and trades for the workforce, and life-long learners. Most jobs require only a two-year course of study or short term certificates: nurses and other high tech medical professionals, plant operators, CADD designers, welders, paralegals, veterinarian technicians, hospitality workers, administrative assistants... This is what the community college does best, but we must do it better. It is the best higher education buy for the money.

I will be visible and accessible. Through my community and public school contacts, particularly PTO parents and civic club members, I will both solicit input and share the good news of HCC. I will also develop networks into the faith and business communities of the district. These folks, particularly the business and industry stakeholders, need to be encouraged to serve on the advisory committees of the HCC workforce programs. As a life-long community college teacher, I have networks in place to interact with faculty and administration.

Education: PhD-Christian Education, MBA, Master-Chemical Engineering, BS Chemical Engineering, BS Chemistry / Experience: Project Management Professional (6 yrs), Business Consultant (18 yrs), Adjunct College Professor ( 35 yrs), Owner of Computer \& Technology Support Services (13 yrs) / Community Involvement: President of Parents for Public Schools of Houston (3 years),Association of Rice University Black Alumni Board Member,2010 President of International Festival of Fort Bend County,Boy Scouts of America Badge Counselor (2 years),Trustee HCCS ( 5 years) / Campaign Email: Pretta@PrettaforHCCS9.com / Website: http://www. prettaforhccs9.com / Campaign Address: P.O. Box 711026 Houston TX 77271 / Campaign Phone: 713.298 .5670

In this Voters Guide, the candidates are listed in ballot order. These elections are nonpartisan and there are no party affiliations.

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:



What are the three most critical issues currently facing the Houston Independent School District? What will you do to address them?

## MONICA FLORES RICHART

(1) Post-Harvey, our schools need to remain a strong, steady force in the lives of our kids. We must focus on wrap around services and making relevant resources available to the special needs of all of our kids wherever they are.
(2) Even before Harvey, HISD passed a budget that took over $\$ 100$ million from savings. We need a complete audit, a clear list of priorities, zero based budgeting, and focus of our resources on instruction - currently only $57 \%$ of our budget.
(3) We need to stop using standardized tests to substitute for other important data points to define our success. We need teacher and parent feedback in principal evaluations, and a well rounded curriculum, broader than the test, to prepare our kids for life after high school.

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, what should HISD do to mitigate the current disruption for its students and programs and prepare for similar situations in the future?

We need to be in constant communication with all segments of our community, and remain responsive to the needs of every particular community. While some low income communities did not flood, they are still suffering from lack of work and inability to obtain paychecks, households full of relatives and other home disruptions. We have transportation challenges across the district that we need to be responsive to. At the very least, we need to have a better, consistent, dependable method of responding to parents during a crisis to make sure every call or e-mail is responded to. Our schools need to remain havens of peace and learning at this time, while having the agility to respond to the challenges of our community, and ability to help.

How can the district's funding resources be appropriately distributed among schools and programs to ensure that each HISD student is receiving a high quality education?

We need to make sure we provide equal educational opportunities for all of our students. It is not only the law, it is our moral obligation. We need to have a clear list of priorities, created with input from the community, for all programs that shift resources, and make sure that all of our programs are consistent with those priorities. An analysis of equity needs to be a part of every decision made at the board table, and a part of everything we do at the District. Spending decisions shouldn't be based on who has political power or who speaks the loudest. All of our kids are equally worthy of excellent educational opportunities, and our spending must reflect that.

Education: Princeton University A.B. 1996 Woodrow Wilson School (public policy), Columbia Law School J.D. 2000 / Experience: I am an attorney who has spent some time working professionally on political campaigns. I also have professional experience as a political consultant / Community Involvement: I have spent the past several years researching and advocating for policy changes in the Houston Independent School District. I am a member of the HISD Hispanic Advisory Committee, and co-founder of Texas Education Funding Coalition / Campaign Email: MonicaForHISD@gmail.com / Website: www.MonicaForHISD.com / Campaign Address: Monica For HISD, P.O. Box 701333, Houston, TX 77270 / Campaign Phone: 713-581-0874


## ELIZABETH SANTOS

The three most critical issues facing HISD are inequity, the threat of school closure and/or takeover of the district by the TEA, and misalocation of tax dollars. Solving these issues will require a commitment to prioritizing our neighborhood schools, opening them up as a hub in their communities so that students can receive the wraparound services they need to succeed in their studies. We must also develop measures of school performance that go beyond test scores. I advocate using measures of racial and socioeconomic diversity to incentivize school integration. Integrated schools get better results because they expose students to a wider range of experiences that will serve them in the college and career worlds.

HISD must maximize time in the instructional calendar used for learning, not test prep. Our obligation as educators is to build students' capacity for understanding content and critical thinking. Racing to meet testing benchmarks will only retraumatize students that are only beginning the long road of recovery from the disaster we all experienced. Sadly, we also must begin preparing for the next storm. We must be vocal, as the largest school district in Texas, and advocate for policies at the local, state, and federal levels that will mitigate the harms of future severe weather events. We can no longer think that a school district's purview ends at the school gates.

Equity should be a measure of the opportunities a school offers its students. It simply takes more resources to offer equitable opportunities to our English language learners, our students with special needs, and our students living in poverty. Integrating our schools is a first step to ensuring equity. I believe that when we fail one of our students, we fail them all. To succeed as a district, we must realize that the fates of the greatest among us are tied to the fates of the least among us. Finally, I have pledged not to accept donations from people who do or seek business with HISD, so I will be an unbiased steward of our tax dollars, beholden to no one but our communities.

Education: BA, English Literature from the University of Houston - Downtown / Experience: Houston ISD English Teacher, 10 years / Community Involvement: Teacher in community schools, Houston Federation of Teachers building steward, Texas Organizing Project's Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute fellow, advocate for the undocumented community / Campaign Email: santos4hisd@gmail.com / Website: www. santos4hisd.com / Campaign Address: PO Box 30243 | Houston, TX 77249 / Campaign Phone: 832.844.0139


## GRETCHEN HIMSL

1. We need better outcomes for our students. TEA is threatening to take over our district, we need to focus our resources on schools that need it. We need vibrant learning environments at every school which includes supports like counselors and active community engagement.
2. The budget needs to be equitable and sustainable. HISD needs to closely examine the budget to identify expenditures that don't improve student outcomes and redirect that funding to classrooms so our students graduate ready for college or career.
3. As we rebuild from Harvey we need to ensure that vulnerable populations are not forgotten and that our schools and systems are built stronger and better than before.

Education: B.A. Economics \& Management, Government, Beloit College M.P.Aff, LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT / Experience: Policy Analyst, Children At Risk, a statewide research and advocacy organization Reading Tutor, Children's Learning Institute, UT Health Science Center at Houston / Community Involvement: Travis EI PTA (President, '13-'15; Carnival Chair, '14; Program Chair ('12''13); Member of our children's Middle and High School PTOs; Houston Heights Woman's Club ('15-Present); Girl Scout Troop Leader ('10-Present); Member Woodland Hts Civic Assn / Campaign Email: gretchenforhisd@gmail.com / Website: www.gretchenforhisd. com / Campaign Address: Gretchen HimsI Campaign, P.O. Box 30406, Houston TX 77249 / Campaign Phone: 832-297-2282

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:



What are the three most critical issues currently facing the Houston Independent School District? What will you do to address them?

## CARLOS PERRETT

The three most critical issues currently facing HISD are school finance, testing \& accountability, and the concerning number of schools under "improvement required" status. To address these issues, I plan to provide better oversight of a $\$ 2$ billion budget and put pressure on Texas lawmakers to reduce the state's over reliance on property tax dollars to fund public education statewide. I will make an effort to encourage community and business leaders to help lobby for more school funding. With HISD facing a teacher evaluation lawsuit, I want to proactively search for a more equitable accountability system, one that does not rely on standardized test scores. I aim to reduce the number of IR schools by advocating for more school autonomy.

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, what should HISD do to mitigate the current disruption for its students and programs and prepare for similar situations in the future?

To mitigate current disruption for its students and programs, HISD must ensure that ALL students are being provided with equitable recovery solutions. Many students and employees lost their homes and belongings to Hurricane Harvey, and recovery, for them, is the most important issue. HISD can use federal Title I funds to pay for supplies, materials, uniforms, vaccinations and medical services for our community. HISD must ensure a smooth transition for students who are being displaced to other campuses. Most importantly, the district needs to improve its outreach efforts, helping bridge communication between the district and organizations providing relief. Our facilities to be re-evaluated to ensure safety \& flood prevention in the future.

How can the district's funding resources be appropriately distributed among schools and programs to ensure that each HISD student is receiving a high quality education?

The amount of funding each campus receives from the district is based on the average daily attendance of its student population, a basic per-student allocation, a capital allocation, a small school subsidy, and weighted student units. This kind of fund distribution system harms our most disadvantaged students. For instance, a school with a low ADA will receive a lower budget allocation, even though the same school is likely to be under IR status. In order to ensure that funding resources are distributed equally, the district needs to reconsider its attendance based allocations. It must also continue to allow school principals and administrators to decide a school's spending priorities.

Education: Bachelor of Arts, Political Studies and Spanish, Pitzer College (Expected May 2018) / Experience: Associate Teacher at Burbank Middle School, Senior Operations Assistant at the Pitzer College Office of Admission, and Assistant Program Coordinator at the Institute for Central American Development Studies / Community Involvement: In 2010 I co-founded a high-school based organization, formerly known as the Chavez High School JSA, that has continuously provided students and their parents from the East End a platform for political involvement / Campaign Email: perrettdistrict@gmail.com / Website: www.facebook.com/ PerrettDistrict3 / Campaign Phone: 979-721-1977


SERGIO LIRA
Providing a safe and supported haven for all students and faculty affected by Harvey. Secondly, increasing student achievement at underserved and underperforming 44 schools in HISD. Thirdly, the district needs to provide equitable resources to all schools. I will address them by advocating for teacher higher pay in hard to staff content areas, provide more resources and highly trained personnel, such as effective teachers, librarians, and social workers to help these schools.

HISD did a fantastic job in quickly responding to all students and families affected by Harvey. HISD set up a foundation and collected items for the families. Internally, HISD extended the instructional time for those schools that were directly affected and all students will be provided breakfast, lunch, and dinner. HISD can prepare for a similar situation by allocating funding for disaster relief, conduct an audit of schools prone to flooding, and have extra personnel trained on social and emotional trauma on campuses to respond quickly to help the students, faculty, and families.

General funding is provided by a PUA (Per Unit Allotment) for each student based on ADA (Average Daily Attendance). If a school has 100 students and another school has 3,000 students, they school with the larger number of student gets more funding. If a low income school has a lot of absences, the funding decreases more. A better option is for HISD to eliminate ineffective programs and shift these savings to low performing schools and provide extra stipends to effective teachers and effective strong leadership to ensure all students are receiving a high quality education enriched with engaging, rigorous lessons.

Education: Doctorate in Education / Experience: Eight years as a classroom teacher and eighteen years as an elementary and secondary school administrator in HISD / Community Involvement: Thirty years involved with christian youth group to develop leadership and spiritual formation in the Galveston-Houston Catholic Diocese. Thirteen years as sponsor of LULAC youth council at Chavez High School and Bellaire High School / Campaign Email: slira@gmail.com / Campaign Address: 7001 Sloan Houston, TX 77087 / Campaign Phone: 832-541-6130


## RODOLFO (RUDY) REYES

1. Recapture of property taxes - My plan would be to negotiate. Think outside the box and propose a different amicable approach in bring this subject matter to resolution.
2. TEA take-over - Communicating and negotiating effectively with state personnel, HISD can prevent an embarrassing situation.
3. Damaged School buildings by hurricane - HISD needs to be ready to negotiate proposed amount with FEMA and arrive at a fair and equitable amount to cover all damages.

In this matter, even although it's an inconvenience to many children, teachers and families, the transferring of children and teachers to other schools was a good decision by HISD. For future events though, it is highly recommended HISD redefine its policies and procedures in handling these kinds of events, especially when it comes to displacement of children and teachers.

I propose redefining the state of each school's present situation in terms of additional funding, program needs, personnel, and building physical status. Then, establish criteria associated to a dollar value to arrive to the estimate amount each school will receive.

Education: B.A. In Latin American Studies \& Spanish from St. Mary's University. Graduate work at American University / Experience: Thirty-five years as a contract negotiator, fifteen of those thirty-five as an Int'I negotiator. Experienced in Budgeting, finance, management \& negotiation. Presently a teacher/teacher substitute, teaching; and formerly council member / Community Involvement: A child advocate representing children who have been sexually/physically abused. A Board member of Gulf Coast Community Services and Board Director of Gulfgate Redevelopment Authority - Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, No. 8 / Campaign Email: Contractstrategies@gmail.com / Website: www.rodolforeyes.net / Campaign Address: Rodolfo(Rudy) Reyes, P.O. Box 262024, Houston, Texas 77207 / Campaign Phone: 832-866-2113


JESSE A. RODRIGUEZ

1. Having our students be college, career and work ready when they graduate.
2. Support, strengthen, and empower the underserved and underperforming HISD communities to increase student achievement.
3. Holding our Superintendent and Board accountable. Controlling expenditures and the HISD budget. Improve communication among the board member and all stakeholders then build a consensus with the board to implement plans and goals.

We need extended hours and days into the summer. In the future we should have a more scaled emergency preparedness plan.

We must assess every school's performance and achievement levels then correctly distribute the needed training, leadership and resources to take our schools to the next level. Our goal should be to motivate and demand to have the best schools in the nation.

Education: University of Houston - Major: Health and Physical Education / Minor: Business and Spanish/Experience: United Airlines: Customer Care Manager - Present Boxer Property: Marketing Director KQQK 106.5-On Air Personality Various Music Labels, Marketing Director \& Manager City of Houston Parks \& Recreation Department Assistant Superintendent / Community Involvement: Advocate - Knights of Columbus Council 3077 Chair - Talento Bilingue de Houston Board Officer of Rusk Athletic Club Appointed by the Mayor of Houston - Houston Media Source Board Hispanic Women in Leadership Board Member Volunteer for HISD Schools / Campaign Email: info@jesseforhisd.com / Website: www.jesseforhisd.com / Campaign Address: 7546 Magnolia St Houston, TX 77023 / Campaign Phone: 832.289.8311

# QUESTIONSTO CANDIDATES: 



What are the three most critical issues currently facing the Houston Independent School District? What will you do to address them?
he wake of Hurricane Harvey, what should HISD do to mitigate the current disruption for its students and programs and prepare for similar situations in the future?

How can the district's funding resources be appropriately distributed among schools and programs to ensure that each HISD student is receiving a high quality education?

## SUSAN SHAFER

1) Failing neighborhood schools. We need to closely monitor these schools and implement best teaching practices. We must restore programs that were eliminated with budget cuts, from libraries to art, to wood shop and programs that give students a reason to love school again and be engaged in their own learning.
2) Disproportionate funding. All schools are not financed equally. The magnet system provides unique programs, but we need to make the same opportunities available for students in their home schools, including music, science and gifted-talented programs.
3) Special Education. We must fund and hire diagnosticians, but also make sure we have teachers to provide services to all students who need them.

We must return to a routine as soon as possible. Students crave normalcy and schools can provide it. For schools which have been relocated, the district must assure a smooth flow of transportation. Flexibility and empathy will be key, as Harvey was not a "one size fits all" storm. In the future, all available spaces must be identified and prepared as shelters and replacement schools. Schools will be a valuable resource to match families with community partners who can meet them at their needs. Community schools can remove red tape for families needing to be quickly connected with resources. When we have reduced the stress for their parents, we will automatically reduce stress for our students.

We must first identify the needs and wants of underserved schools. It is not the job of the board or superintendent to determine what programs and services best serve all families. We have systematically removed enrichment and job skills programs that families repeatedly request. Once community needs are identified, we will have to dissect the budget. Magnet schools which serve all populations should not be defunded, but there may be an opportunity to share staff and resources to create satellite programs in neighborhood schools. No family who WANTS music or science or auto shop should be denied the opportunity. We will need to analyze our \$2 billion budget to streamline administrative costs and redirect money into our schools.

Education: B.A. Indiana University 1983, English and Religious Studies Texas Teacher and Media Resources Cert. / Experience: Served 27 years in Houston ISD as a classroom teacher and librarian / Community Involvement: Houston Area Retired Teachers Texas Retired Teachers Association / Campaign Email: ShaferForHisd2017@gmail.com / Website: www.ShaferForHisd.com / Campaign Address: P.0. Box 31674, Houston, TX. 77231 / Campaign Phone: 409-795-0945


## SUE DEIGAARD

1) Budget-Current budget passed by HISD borrowed over $\$ 100$ million from our fund balance to pay for necessary teacher pay increases. We need to find efficiencies and innovative cost-saving solutions to balance our budget without compromising the education of our students. This should include an external performance audit of district expenditures.
2) Takeover threatened by TEA- We must solve the "IR" rating at a number of campuses. At the same time, HISD must ensure our successful schools continue to thrive. 3) Teacher Quality - We need to prioritize HISD's budget and policies to attract, support and retain high quality teachers by providing a culture of respect for our teachers in addition to competitive and salaries and benefits.

Education: Rice University B.A. in English B.Mus. in Flute Performance / Experience: Former Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs \& University Events at Rice University. Currently a community leader \& education advocate promoting effective policies and funding at both the local and state levels / Community Involvement: Houston Center for Literacy Board HISD District Advisory Committee Arts Access Initiative HISD District V Parent Leader Meetings Woodside Civic Club Braeswood Super Neighborhood Council / Campaign Email: Sue@sueforhisd.com / Website: www.sueforhisd.com / Campaign Address: PO Box 20722 Houston, TX 77225 / Campaign Phone: 713-322-90009
KARA DEROCHA


Financial/Budget - The budget must be audited from an outside source. We must start the budget process earlier and drill down to the school level on the budget so that we can find creative ways to pay for teacher raises, increase PUA, and finance the community school model. Improvement Required (IR) Schools -We must pull our schools out of IR status by implementing the community schools model and providing wrap around services to these students along with highly effective teachers and administrators.
High Stakes Testing Culture - We need to remove or reduce STAAR test influence from principal evaluations and maintain the board's current policy of evaluating teachers without including STAAR test results.

Providing stability is the most important thing we can do to mitigate current disruption. We also must assure that the students stay on track with their learning, continue to grow, and that at the end of this school year they are fully prepared for success the following school year. HISD must simultaneously keep a close eye on how much displacement impacts learning. Affected students should be provided with additional social and emotional learning and support as needed.

I support formula funding that appropriates resources based on student needs. This would include a base amount per student (PUA) with additional "weights" for additional needs of students including special education, gifted and talented, ELL, at-risk, etc. Our budget should be evaluated to ensure the maximum number are dollars are invested in students.

The community school model will help level the playing field for our students from families with lower socioeconomic status. In addition, we need to ensure that magnet funding is spent on the magnet programming it was intended for. The district needs to investigate how decentralization has led to redundancy in administrative positions and in the central office.

Harvey was an ext
never be repeated
never be repeated. from first-hand experience. HISD has done a remarkable job in the wake of the Hurricane Harvey.
All HISD students missed the first two weeks of school, and many missed four weeks of school. The largest disruption now is that HISD is under tremendous pressure because TEA refuses to move the STAAR test dates to compensate for lost instructional time.
Community schools can help connect communities with resources should a tragedy the size of Harvey hits our city again. Community schools will have relationships with medical and mental health professionals, social workers, counselors, food banks, and others.

Education: B.S., Environmental Engineering / Experience: Spent $10+$ years as an environmental consultant specializing in permitting and compliance, $5+$ years as a small business owner; responsible for deciphering rules and regulations, negotiating with state officials, and managing large budgets / Community Involvement: Current Fellow with Leadership ISD; testified against school vouchers in July, 2017; spoke at public comment hearing in opposition to an air permit for a local concrete plant, 2015; Created \& chaired Working Moms Group at Lovett Elem., 2011-2013 / Campaign Email: kara@kara4hisd.com / Website: www.kara4hisd.com / Campaign Address: 9414 Albury Dr., Houston, TX 77096 / Campaign Phone: 832-510-7964


## SEAN CHEBEN

1. Focusing the district's spending on learning in the classroom: Close the \$107M budget deficit and provide teachers a competitive salary by conducting a line-by-line budget review, eliminating programs and departments that don't tangibly improve student achievement and redirecting that money to campuses and teachers.
2. Preparing our kids for the careers of the future: Focus the district's curriculum on literacy, STEM fluency, and critical/creative thinking while providing a vocational pathway for students who chose not to go to college immediately after high school.
3. Fostering Houston's spirit of volunteerism: Provide simplified and expedited mechanisms for teachers to connect with volunteers (community, parent, other teachers).
Education: B.S. Chemical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) / Experience: I have worked at Chevron U.S.A. Inc. since August 2007 in a variety of engineering and project management roles in both Houston and Midland, TX / Community Involvement: I am a volunteer fifth-grade math tutor at Poe Elementary. I serve as an election judge and a Republican precinct chair / Campaign Email:sean.cheben@gmail.com / Website: www.seancheben.com / Campaign Address: P.O. Box 41964 Houston, Texas 77241 / Campaign Phone: 832-975-0165

Houston ISD must ensure that exemplary campuses aren't jeopardized in the effort to adequately resource all students. Accordingly, the district should conduct a line-by-line budget review to eliminate centralized programs and departments that don't tangibly improve student achievement and redirect that funding to campuses and teachers. Through this effort, HISD should strive to dramatically increase the per-unit allocation (funding that follows the student) to a level that can provide a high-quality education for each student. The district should also ensure strong leadership, accountability, and academic rigor at each campus to ensure that increased funding through the per-unit allocation translates into improved student outcomes.

The district should conduct wide-ranging lessons learned workshop to identify what went well during Harvey and what could have gone better, with the goal of developing a "natural disaster playbook" to follow during future natural disasters. This workshop should include a wide range of participants, including teachers, campus leaders, district administration, parents, community leaders, and business leaders to ensure that all voices are heard and all best practices are documented. To mitigate current disruptions for students, the district should continue to provide a broad support network and funding for campus leaders to address specific needs at each campus, as each of HISD's communities is unique and challenges will vary.

## QUESTIONSTO CANDIDATES:



What are the three most critical issues currently facing the Houston Independent School District? What will you do to address them?

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, what should HISD do to mitigate the current disruption for its students and programs and prepare for similar situations in the future?

How can the district's funding resources be appropriately distributed among schools and programs to ensure that each HISD student is receiving a high quality education?

DANIEL ALBERT
No response received.

## ROBERT LUNDIN

HISD MUST GUARANTEE MEANINGFUL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY STUDENT. Whether in a special education, ESL, bilingual, or G/T classroom, Dr. Lundin feels strongly that every student deserves to be appropriately supported, challenged, and set up tor academic success. HISD MUST INSIST ON FISCAL RESPONSIIILITY. HISD's board passed a budget this summer that includes a deficit of more than $\$ 100,000,000$. Dr. Lundin believes this kind of overspending puts all of our students and schools in jeopardy. HISD MUST TRANSFORM ACADEMIC OUTCOMESIN OURSTRUGGLINGSCHOOLS. Dr. Lundinhas successfully guided multiple schools out of "Improvement Required" status, and knows what it takes to lead students, teachers, and families to make lasting progress.

Many of our students have experienced significant trauma, and our schools must serve as a source of stability and support for them and their families. HISD families should feel confident that their schools will preserve continuity in their children's education, including maintaining student relationships with trusted teachers and support staff.
After multiple schools experienced significant flooding, it became clear that HISD struggled to locate back-up facilities that could serve as relief sites for students. HISD must identify a set of locations they can utilize in the event that any campus becomes unusable.

In order to ensure that funding resources can be distributed appropriately, the HISD board must guarantee that those funds are not overspent in the first place. The recent passage of a budget containing a $\$ 100$ million deficit demonstrated that fiscal responsibility must be a priority.
Resources should then be allocated based on the specific academic needs of each individual student, with a priority placed on students with special educational needs, second language learners, and children identified as at-risk.

Education: B.A. w/ Honors- Rice Univ. M.Ed.- Univ. of St. Thomas Doctorate in Ed. Leadership - Vanderbilt Univ. / Experience: Dr. Robert Lundin has dedicated his life to Houston's students. Beginning as a bilingual teacher in HISD, Dr. Lundin went on to found and lead a college preparatory school, serve as a professor of education, and oversee 39 schools across HISD / Community Involvement: Dr. Lundin has been a proud Houstonian for more than twenty years. He serves as a mentor for local college students, and volunteers on behalf of initiatives serving the needs of children and families / Campaign Email: robert@robertlundin.org / Website: www. robertlundin.org / Campaign Address: P.O. Box 79894, Houston, TX 77279 / Campaign Phone: 844-447-3725


## HOLLY FLYNN VILASECA

The damage and disruption to our students, faculty and staff caused by Harvey are huge immediate challenges for HISD. Equity of educational opportunity for every student and resolving HISD's structural financial challenges are longer term challenges. As a board, we must work together to address short- and long-term issues. Compassion, flexibility \& transparency are needed to deliver a successful school year post-Harvey. We must present a united front to Austin and Washington DC to mitigate the massive damages sustained from Harvey and to resolve larger school finance issues. Finally, we must use a data-driven approach to evaluate what is working and what is not to ensure an equal chance at a high quality education for all HISD students.

Thousands of HISD students and their families, as well as many of our faculty and staff, have suffered profound damage and disruption due to Harvey. Many of our schools and facilities were severely damaged as well. To the extent possible, each school day should restore a sense of normalcy and stability for our students. I am proud of HISD's work to get all students back in school within a few weeks of the storm under difficult circumstances. We have ensured that all students' nutritional needs will be met for the duration of the school year, \& will work with partners to ensure "wraparound" services such as health and mental health are met as well. As we repair damaged facilities, it must be with an eye towards potential future disasters.

HISD is currently conducting a thorough, in-depth evaluation of how funding is distributed across the district, and we should utilize that evaluation moving forward. We must ensure all district students have equitable access to excellent educational opportunities and programs. All of our schools -- community, magnet and program-themed -- must be excellent options, with the goal of making them all choice schools in keeping with HISD being a choice district. We must ensure fine arts and ancillary programs are offered and funded at all schools in HISD. Exposure to these programs helps students with critical thinking skills and gives them an opportunity to shine and thrive.

Education: Bachelor's Degrees (two) -University of Michigan; Master's Degree - Columbia University / Experience: HISD District VI Trustee (present); Chief Relationship Ofcr - thinkLaw (present); Senior Researcher - K12 Inc. (20132016); Client Mgr. - Battelle for Kids (2011-2013); Program Dir - Teach for America (2010-2011); Dual language teacher (2004-2010) / Community Involvement: President, Country Village Place Women's Club (present); Rotary eClub of Houston (present); Houston Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Board (2012-2017); Columbia XMA Alumni Board (present); Churchill Townhomes HOA Board (2013-2015) / Campaign Email: info@hollyforhisd.com / Website: www. hollyforhisd.com / Campaign Address: P.O. Box 440544, Houston, TX 77244 / Campaign Phone: 713-482-1373

## JOHN LUMAN

1. Increasing student achievement. How? By making sure we have strong principal leadership in every school; empowering the principal like a CEO to make budgeting decisions that best meet the needs of the families in that school; moving more money to the school level where the children are and out of the central office; partnering with high performing charter schools.
2. Recruiting, retaining, and rewarding our quality teachers and principals. Setting high standards for teacher and principal performance and linking that performance to monetary rewards for all schools.
3. Balancing our budget. We need to get our finances under control. The board approved a budget deficit of $\$ 107$ million, instead of making hard choices.

While no one should armchair quarterback during a crisis, HISD must be held accountable for some of the inexplicable decisions they made after Hurricane Harvey. Many schools are now overcrowded, not because of the influx of displaced Harvey students, but from poor decisions to let in all students on waitlists. There are now not enough desks and good teachers in some these schools. Yet, some good schools are under capacity. In this time of crisis, many good schools did not even accept displaced students. As a result, there has been a disproportionate burden placed on neighborhood schools. HISD must be more equitable with students, parents, principals and teachers during another disaster.

HISD must get more money to the school level where the children are and out of the central office. No matter how good the idea seems in the central office, our schools are not all alike. First, we need to get our finances under control. The board approved a budget deficit of $\$ 107$ million, instead of making hard choices. Once we have a handle on the budget, we will need should work the PUA, which is the per student allocation. Some of the highest performing schools in the district have some of the lowest PUAs, so the answer is not taking from successful schools or districts to simply give to another. It is imperative to have a performance audit to see what works and what does not, then we can allocate resources appropriately.

Education: B.S., The George Washington University M.S., The University of Texas J.D., Syracuse University / Experience: I have been a lawyer in Houston for over 22 years. I spent 19 years in big firms in Houston, then left for a public affairs firm in Austin, and now I am back practicing law at the boutique firm of Daniels \& Tredennick LLP / Community Involvement: Tanglewood Middle School PTO Briargrove Elementary School-former PTO Executive Committee member \& Former Dad's Club President Trotter YMCA Youth Football and Baseball Coach, Houston The Nature Conservancy Advisory Board, Houston / Campaign Email: john@johnluman.com / Website: www.johnluman.com / Campaign Address: 1940 Fountain View, \#419, Houston, Texas 77057 / Campaign Phone: 832-618-9567

## ANNE KATHERINE SUNG

1. HB 1842. I support Superintendent Carranza's Achieve 180 program, which is providing instructional and wraparound supports to schools to ensure that Improvement Required schools do improve and the state does not take over the district. 2. Fiscal reforms. I support a costcontainment program to balance the district's budget and finance our district's priorities. 3. Governance. As a member of the district's policy committee, I have been actively involved in helping the district to strengthen standards and oversight to support student learning.

HISD has responded to Harvey by keeping displaced schools together in new buildings as close as possible to their former site. It is supporting students by providing mental health services to students and training for teachers. We are preparing for similar situations by improving school facilities to prevent future flooding and by strengthening wrap-around services for students and educators in our district.

Students in all schools deserve a high quality education. The district should support each school with the funding it needs to staff its school and programs, including magnet programs, providing additional supports where students have additional needs or are struggling, as is done through the district's Achieve 180 program.

Education: BA, MA Physics, Harvard University; Master in Public Policy, Harvard University / Experience: VP \& Chief Strategy Officer, Project GRAD Houston; Director of Strategic Planning \& Public Policy, Harris County Sheriff's Office; Science Department Chair \& Teacher of the Year, Lee HS; Teach for America Alum / Community Involvement: I joined the HISD School Board in January 2017. As chair of the Special Ed Ad Hoc Committee, I have worked to improve services through improved professional development and partnerships with parents. American Leadership Forum, Senior Fellow / Campaign Email: info@anne4hisd.com / Website: www. anne4hisd.com / Campaign Address: PO Box 27625, Houston, TX 77277 / Campaign Phone: 832-598-6878

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:



What are the three most critical issues currently facing the Houston Independent School District? What will you do to address them?

## KARLA BROWN

1) Failing Schools -Every principal needs a plan that states the challenges of their campus (above the School

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, what should HISD do to mitigate the current disruption for its students and programs and prepare for similar situations in the future?

The district has already taken measures to address the loss of hours by adding time to the school day for students based upon the number of days that were missed. I would have liked a greater fight to push testing requirements back or out altogether for the school year. This statement is based upon the fact that while many students were unscathed by the hurricane, many were devastated and still living in alternative housing. Another thing that I would recommend is an Emergency Management Plan that designates all campuses as emergency shelters in the future.

How can the district's funding resources be appropriately distributed among schools and programs to ensure that each HISD student is receiving a high quality education?

I believe the only way to ensure equity for the students of HISD is to use a formula that helps to provide ALL students with an education that can bring ALL students to a level standard. That is, I believe that there should be a baseline for all students as it relates to funding their education. Then there should be a formula that determines how much the school receives for each student above the baseline due to the deficits of each child. I believe that for each label/condition/life-event that is attached to a child, there should be an amount or percentage that coincides with the label/condition/ life-event. Improv. Plan). I will also recommend that community organizations go into the schools to present to Principals and SDMC Committees to provide information as to how they can assist 2) Need for Fiscal Audit and Personnel Duty Audit- A financial/Personnel audit to give a clear picture of where the monies are going and how they are being spent. 3) Core Personnel on Campuses - Students are cheated of valuable exposure/services due to the choices. ALL schools should have a full-time nurse, librarian, fine arts teacher, technologist, counselor, and physical education teacher.

Education: BS- Elementary Education; MED- Early Childhood Education; EdD-Curriculum and Instruction / Experience: Over 20 Years of experience in Education (Houston ISD, Colton Joint Unified School District, Fontana Unified School District, YesPrep, Texas Southern University, and California Baptist University / Community Involvement: LOVe Fellowship Church Skyview Forest Homeowner's Association The Providence on Southmore, Inc. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. / Campaign Email: info@karla4hisd.com / Website: www.karla4hisd.com / Campaign Address: 2726 Skyview Ridge Ct, Houston, TX 77047 / Campaign Phone: 713.492 .7006


WANDA ADAMS

Currently, I would argue the threat of the state trying to put us in receivership, the recapture situation, and supporting Special Education are the three most critical issues facing HISD. My top priority is working with the Superintendent and addressing issues affecting HB 1842 by engaging the community and assisting IR schools to meet standards and closing the achievement gap around literacy. My focus in moving forward is hiring effective teachers in every classroom, balancing the budget, completing all Lone Star governance training and working with all Trustees so that we are all on one accord in addressing the critical needs affecting public education.

As we recover from Hurricane Harvey, it's important to reflect on our own resiliency. Houston embraces challenges. In times of crisis, Houston unites and grows stronger together. Harvey impacted our homes, businesses, churches and schools far more than previous storms. Our children need us during this critical time and we must continue our collective commitment to their success.
We were only delayed three weeks with rolling school start dates. 213,000 of our students are enrolled in our classrooms. Our students are excited to return back to normalcy. We need to do whatever we can to make all HISD students, especially the ones who are displaced, feel as comfortable as possible.

As board president we have asked for equity in all programs in HISD. If Lamar can have IB programs, then Worthing HS should have that same opportunity. Under my leadership, magnet programs that were once removed have now been restored. I allocated $\$ 9.2$ million for the fine arts wing at Westbury High School Magnet \& Vanguard Programs, as well as vanguard programs at Windsor Village, and dual language programs at Law Elementary. The key here is about funding public education so that every school in HISD can be given the same opportunity as other schools within the district. We should continue providing strong and effective programs for every school regardless economic status, race, or gender.

Education: Kashmere High School; Texas Southern University (Bachelor of Science \& Master’s in Public Admin.) / Experience: Former Houston City Council Member District D; Current HISD School Board Trustee District IX (Board President) / Community Involvement: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Member; Trustee for the Museum of Fine Arts Houston; Harris County Appraisal Board of Directors; Leadership Houston Class 30 / Campaign Email: wandaadamshisd@gmail.com / Website: http://wandaadamsforhisd.com / Campaign Address: 315 W. Alabama, Suite 103, Houston, TX 77006 / Campaign Phone: 832-426-4776

GERRY W. MONROE
No response received.

1. Go to www.harrisvotes.com.
2. Select English, Spanish, Vietnamese or Chinese.
3. Click on "Find your Election Day Poll" and "View Voter Specific Ballot."
4. Enter your name, your address or your Voter Registration Certificate Number.
5. Click on "Search." Your precinct number, name, address, polling location and the words "Sample Ballot" will appear. Make sure your personal information is correct, then click on "Sample Ballot" to view your ballot just as it will look when you go to vote.




## SAMPLE BALLOT

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City of Bellare，PROPOSICION
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 $\square$ Carolyn Evans－Shabazz $\square$ Manny Barrera





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 $\square$ Yolanda Ford
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## SAMPLE BALLOT



| Houston ISD，Trustee，District VII Souston ISD Síndico，Distrito VII Houston ISD，Ủy Viên Quản Trị，Học Khu VII Houston ISD，理事，第七區 |
| :---: |
| $\square$ John Luman |
| $\square$ Anne Katherine Sung |
| Touston ISD，Trustee，District IX <br> Houston ISD，Síndico，Distrito IX <br> Houston ISD，Ṡy Viên Quản Trị，Học Khu IX Houston ISD，Uy Houston ISD，理事，第九區 |
| $\square$ Karla Brown |
| $\square$ Wanda Adams |
| $\square$ Gerry W．Monroe |
| Katy Independent School District，Bond El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Katy，Eleccion |













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## SAMPLE BALLOT



## SAMPLE BALLOT



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
HOUSTON AREA

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The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization founded in 1920, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information call the League of Women Voters - Houston Area at 713.784.2923, visit our website www.lwvhouston. org, follow us on Twitter twitter.com/lwwhouston, or friend us on facebook.com/lwvhouston. Or, complete the application form to the right to join us and receive our newsletter, Voters Guide, Directory of Elected Officials and much more!


## Voter Identification: What To Take To The Polls

## TEXAS REQUIRES VOTERS TO SHOW PHOTO ID

The seven forms of approved photo ID's are: (must not be expired more than 4 years)

1. Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS);
2. Texas personal identification card issued by DPS;
3. Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS;
4. Texas handgun license issued by DPS;
5. United States military identification card containing the person's photograph;
6. United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph;
7. United States passport.

OPTIONS: Voters who are on the official list of registered voters and who do not have any form of approved photo ID may complete and sign a "reasonable impediment declaration" and vote a regular ballot if they present a:

- Valid voter registration certificate (card)
- Certified birth certificate (original)
- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Any other government document with the individual's name and address (original required if it contains a photograph).
- ID address does not have to match the voter registration address.


Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS); current or have expired no more than 4 years


Texas personal identification card issued by DPS; current or have expired no more than 4 years

U. S. military identification card containing the person's photograph; current or have expired no more than 4 years


United States passport; current or have expired no more than 4 years

Voters who currently do not have an approved form of photo ID may apply for an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) at no charge with the Department of Public Safety. For more information:
CALL (5I2) 424-2600
OR VISIT
http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/DriverLicense/electionID.htm

Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS; current or have expired no more than 4 years United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph

## NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE? NEED TO REGISTER OR CHANGE YOUR NAME OR PERMANENT ADDRESS?

If you are currently not registered to vote or if your name or permanent address has changed since you registered, See How do I register to vote? on page 2 of this Voters Guide. The last day to register to vote or make changes in your information in time to vote in the March Primary Election is Monday, February 5, 2018.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF ID
If you cannot present an acceptable form of photo ID or an alternative, you may ask to cast a provisional ballot. You will then have until Monday, November 13, 2017 to present appropriate photo identification at any office of the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector in order for your provisional ballot to be accepted and counted. See page 2 of this Voters Guide for additional information on photo identification.

