

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DENTON VOTERS GUIDE<sup>®</sup>

## GENERAL ELECTION

**November 7, 2006**

**IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL ELECTION**, there will be a Local Option election on the City of Denton ballot and proposed amendments to the City Charter.

This **VOTERS GUIDE<sup>®</sup>** is published by the League of Women Voters of Denton, with partial funding from the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund. *An electronic version of this guide is available from the website of the League of Women Voters of Denton at [www.lwvdenton.org](http://www.lwvdenton.org).* The purpose of the guide is to help eligible voters make an informed decision about candidates in contested races. Candidates are listed by District or Place, then in alphabetical order by the last name. Candidates who do not have an opponent on the ballot are listed in the guide for your information. Questions were developed by the Board of the League of Women Voters of Denton. Candidates were asked to reply within specific word limits. (Answers exceeding the word limit are abbreviated at that limit.) The League has not edited any responses for grammar, spelling, or punctuation.

**EARLY VOTING** will be available at the Joseph A. Carroll Building and Denton City Hall, from October 23 to November 3, 2006. Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted on the following dates:

October 23 – 27: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

October 28: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

October 29: 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.

October 30 – November 3: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**POLLING PLACES** on Election Day will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Locations will vary according to your precinct.

The **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DENTON** is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through informed participation of all citizens in their government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League does publish and distribute factual information to help prepare citizens to cast an informed vote. The League does take action on selected governmental issues that it has studied.

## U.S. CONGRESS DISTRICT 26

### Questions for U.S. Representative Candidates:

1. **What should be done, if anything, at the federal level to reduce our use of and dependence on fossil fuels? (100 words)**
2. **Is the U.S. Congress appropriately fulfilling its constitutional role to check the power of the executive branch? Explain. (100 words)**
3. **Are you concerned about the increasing amounts of secrecy – and decreased access to public information – at all levels of government? If so, what solutions do you support? (100 words)**

### Tim Barnwell, Democrat

(NO REPLY RECEIVED)

### Michael Burgess, Republican

1. In this past session, the Congress passed its first national energy plan since the late 1970's. The Energy Act of 2005 provided a balanced plan of exploration, conservation and research and development of alternative energy sources.

Today there are many more consumer choices that allow the American people to make wise energy choices. A hybrid car was unheard of 5 years ago, but now they are a part of today's market. I even bought one three years ago, largely because of air quality issues.

Alternatives such as solar, wind power, nuclear power, methane recovery, bio-diesel and ethanol are tangible futures ...

2. Congress is a co-equal branch of federal government and as such has a constitutional role in both checks and balances. In today's dangerous world is it necessary or desirable to have strong executive branch? I submit the answer to that question is yes, and that means Congress has an obligation to also manifest strength in these areas.

I sit on the subcommittee on oversight of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and many time our role becomes one of encouraging, and in fact, instructing the various federal agencies (which are under the control of the executive branch), and are ...

3. In matters of national or homeland security, security is sometimes a necessary part of the process. The prevention of 6 or 12 airline explosions this past August certainly underscores the value of intelligence in preventing violence. The bombings of Bali, Madrid and London stand along side our own September 11 as the consequences of not being serious about intelligence and information gathering, which as a necessity involve secrecy.

I make it my obligation to review classified documents (National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq, reports of weapons of mass destruction still in Iraq) in order to exercise informed oversight. All the while ...

## STATE SENATE DISTRICT 12

### Questions for State Senate Candidates:

1. **State your position on expediting the permitting process for coal-fired power plants in Texas and whether new facilities should be required to use the most advanced emission-reducing technology, such as coal gasification. (100 words)**
2. **Because the Trans-Texas Corridor has been contracted to a private partner there is widespread concern that neither the Legislature nor municipalities will have any input into decisions concerning its construction. What is your position on the TTC? (100 words)**
3. **How do you propose to finance public education? Be specific. What percent of funds should come from the state? (100 words)**

### Dwight B. Fullingim, Democrat

1. Texas has a lot of low-cost coal and certainly this should be used to meet the energy needs of the state. The problem is, most of this coal is low-grade and very dirty to burn and it must be cleaned up to be environmentally tolerable. I would not base any vote solely on science furnished either by the utility industry or on studies paid for by environmental groups, but would seek to obtain as much disinterested scientific data and recommendations as possible. This will not be easy since most "scientists" are subservient to those who pay for their research. We ...
2. In general, the TTC is a good idea and will bring many economic benefits to Texas. Private contractors must perform all actions called for in their contracts, and consultation requirements should be an indispensable part of contract obligations. The voters of Texas have installed a legislative majority and executive that generally favors uncritical oversight of big-ticket expenditures. Should the voters desire a more watchful stewardship, they will need to change their voting behavior. To oppose the TTC because it has the potential to run roughshod over the Legislature and municipalities is to throw the baby out with the bathwater.

3. I favor a state income tax as the state's primary means of meeting revenue needs for state services. This is an unpopular tax and may not entice voters who are convinced their state can pursue excellence on the cheap. It is the method favored by the majority of economists who deal with these issues and would allow the state to avoid continued fiscal contortions as they seek to fund the state's business. In general, the state has a state system of education and the funds should come from state sources with continued local control of many school matters.

### **Jane Nelson, Republican**

1. The growth in Texas continues to outpace the rest of the nation, which is why it is vitally important that we ensure that our homes, businesses, hospitals and emergency service providers are assured reliable power now into the future. That power supply, however, should not come at the expense of our environment. Clean air is just as vital to our economic growth as access to electricity. We need to explore alternative sources of energy as we move forward on this issue.
2. The idea behind the Trans Texas Corridor was to re-route truck traffic off of our most heavily traveled roads in the Metroplex. When it was presented to the Legislature, it was just that – a concept. We were assured that not one penny of taxpayer money would be diverted away from our currently identified transportation needs. And we were not informed of the pending public-private partnership with a foreign company. My sense is that the Legislature will revisit this issue. My preference would be to partner with a Texas company and to have an open discussion about tolling and the impact ...
3. There should be a dollar amount associated with the cost of providing a good education for every child in Texas. The state should split that cost with local school districts, and then allow them to enrich locally with no restrictions or recapture by the state. The fairest funding mechanism would be a sales tax in my opinion. That was not the consensus opinion during the special session, but the final plan represented the best possible outcome for our schools, businesses and taxpayers, and I say that as a former teacher who also owns a business.

## **STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 64**

### **Questions for State Senate Candidates:**

1. **State your position on expediting the permitting process for coal-fired power plants in Texas and whether new facilities should be required to use the most advanced emission-reducing technology, such as coal gasification. (100 words)**
2. **Because the Trans-Texas Corridor has been contracted to a private partner there is widespread concern that neither the Legislature nor municipalities will have any input into decisions concerning its construction. What is your position on the TTC? (100 words)**
3. **How do you propose to finance public education? Be specific. What percent of funds should come from the state? (100 words)**

### **Myra Crownover, Republican**

(NO REPLY RECEIVED)

### **John McLeod, Democrat**

1. I strongly oppose expediting the permit process for additional coal fired power plants. Should additional plants be approved they should require the use of emission reducing technologies.
2. I strongly oppose the Trans-Texas corridor.
3. In order provide the badly needed investment to return the education system in Texas to world class status we will need to utilize all our existing revenue sources.

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2**

### **Questions for County Commissioner Candidates:**

1. **List your qualifications for this office. (50 words)**
2. **What non-mandated services do you consider worthy of support by the County Commissioners? (100 words)**

### **Amy Manuel, Democrat**

1. As a computer analyst, I was project manager over the installation a records management system on 3 continents. As a candidate with a computer background, I participated in the testing of our elections equipment to be certain that testing was thorough and our equipment secure.
2. The current budget cuts our public libraries by 20% for the second year in a row. Public Libraries: Promote literacy, lowering crime and raising employment; Provide reliable sources of information for research; Provide internet access for job searches for

those on limited incomes. Other wrong-headed cuts include cuts to Adult Day Care Services and Family Health Care, Inc. These cuts are in exchange for more tax abatements to billion dollar corporations already located in this area or have already started building here. Tax abatements should only be used to bring in new business.

### **Ron Marchant, Republican**

1. I have been Justice of the Peace, Precinct 6, Denton County for 14 years. I have been consistent, efficient, and honorable. As a socially and fiscally conservative Republican, I have held the office of Carrollton City Councilman and JP, all the while advancing the platform of the Republican Party.
2. The current budget for non-mandated services is \$8,050,441. I support this amount. The specific services worthy of consideration that I support are; DA prosecution grants that fight family violence and child abuse (\$695,935); Juvenile Accountability (\$61,140); Fire/Ambulance services (\$1,841,560); Library Services (\$549,865); Denco 911 (\$20,000); MHMR (Mental Health Mental Retardation) (\$576,180); WIC (Women Infants and Children) (\$7,500); Child Safety programs (\$500,000); Public health (\$318,149); Public Health Preparedness Fund (\$671,425). As you can see these are just small parts of the county's budget for non-mandated services. I have set no agenda as to specific recommendations for next years budget.

## **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 1**

### **Questions for the Justice of the Peace Candidates:**

1. List your qualifications for this office (50 words)
2. What changes would you propose for this office? (75 words)

### **Joe Holland, Republican**

1. My qualifications include the following: Landlord (27 years), Real Estate Investor (27 years), Retail Business Owner (35 years), Kiwanis Leader (27 years), Church Leader (22 years), Youth Leader (20 years), Teen Court Judge (2 years), Public School Volunteer (12 years), Community Leader (30 Years), Republican (34 Years).
2. This is the People's Court. I will run the court with respect for the people and always strive to be fair and honest. I have observed the staff at the Justice of the Peace Court to be courteous and professional. I look forward to joining this competent team.

### **Franklin "Mac" Poe, Democrat**

1. I have been a Denton County resident for over 30 years, and an active voter in several jurisdictions. I have over 130 college hours (accounting major) with an overall 3.3 GPA. I have the maturity, judgment, and experience to make a good Justice.
2. Since most of the functions of the Justice of the Peace court are statutory, most changes will be in the court's attitude. I will make sure the court is operated efficiently in an ethical, non-partisan manner. I will proactively work to prevent "failure to attend school" cases from becoming dropouts or "GED" cases. I will ensure that a complete, clear explanation of procedure is provided to clients of the court.

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League of Women Voters of Denton  
P.O. Box 424945 TWU Station  
Denton, Texas 76204

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