

# Voter Guide for Blanco County

## Primary Election on Tuesday - March 5, 2024



### League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan civic organization and does not support or oppose any candidate or candidates or political party or parties. This Voter Guide provides voters an opportunity to read about candidates who have filed for an office. The League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas makes contact with each candidate in a contested election using a variety of methods to contact and invite each candidate to participate in a county voter guide. The candidate makes the decision about responding to the voter guide invitation, as participation is voluntary. All responses to questions come directly from the candidates and are not edited by League of Women Voters.

### Get Ready to Vote in a Primary Election in Texas!

#### Read both the Texas State Voter Guide and the Blanco County Voter Guide

The Texas State Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Texas with information on candidates for President and US Senate, as well as state offices like Railroad Commissioner, Texas State Courts and State Board of Education. All these elections are for offices which serve every citizen in the state of Texas. This voter guide is printed in color and has a larger paper format.

The County Voter Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of the Hill Country Texas with information on candidates for state districts like US Congress House of Representatives, Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives, and Court of Appeals, as well as candidates for county offices. This voter guide is printed on colored paper and has letter sized paper format.

Both voter guides are available in printed form at public libraries and other locations. Voters may read and print both voter guides at the website: [lwvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lwvhillcountrytexas.org).

[VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) is a League website which provides the election information on the candidates: a voter enters the address on their Voter Registration card to access the information.

Deadline Dates for Primary Elections on Tuesday - March 5, 2024			
Register to Vote/Change Address	Monday	February 5	Last day to register to vote
Voting by Mail	Monday	January 1	First day to apply for Mail in Ballot
	Friday	February 23	Last day to apply for Mail in Ballot
	Tuesday	March 5	Last day to return Mail in Ballot
Early Voting	Monday	February 20	First day to vote in-person
	Friday	March 1	Last day to vote in-person
Election Day	Tuesday	March 5	In-person at voting location

## Election and Voting Information for Blanco County

Sample ballots and other Information from the Blanco County Election Department posted online:

<https://www.co.blanco.tx.us/page/blanco.Elections>

Take a photo ID with you to the voting location. Curb-side voting available for Early Voting and on Election Day. Remember: no cell phones, no texting, no photos, no campaign material, no loitering.

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

### EARLY VOTING in Blanco County - two locations with different schedules

Blanco	County Courthouse - South Annex		402 Blanco Avenue		No Weekend Voting	
Monday February 19	Tuesday February 20	Wednesday February 21	Thursday February 22	Friday February 23	Saturday February 24	
Presidents Day	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	Not Open	
Sunday February 25	Monday February 26	Tuesday February 27	Wednesday February 28	Thursday February 29	Friday March 1	
Not Open	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	

<b>Johnson City</b>	County Courthouse - Hoppe Room		101 East Cypress Street		Weekend Voting
<b>Monday February 19</b>	<b>Tuesday February 20</b>	<b>Wednesday February 21</b>	<b>Thursday February 22</b>	<b>Friday February 23</b>	<b>Saturday February 24</b>
Presidents Day	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	8:00am to 5:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm
<b>Sunday February 25</b>	<b>Monday February 26</b>	<b>Tuesday February 27</b>	<b>Wednesday February 28</b>	<b>Thursday February 29</b>	<b>Friday March 1</b>
10am to 4pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm

### ELECTION DAY in Blanco County: Tuesday - March 5      Locations open 7:00am to 7:00pm

Voter may go to any Vote Center on Election Day.

	Location	Address	
Blanco	Blanco County Courthouse - South Annex	402 Blanco Avenue	
	First Baptist Church - Fellowship Hall	102 4th Street	
Johnson City	Blanco County Courthouse - Hoppe Room	101 East Cypress Street	
	Good Shepherd Catholic Church	285 Loop 281	
Round Mountain	Round Mountain Fire Department	8480 US Highway 281	

## Blanco County 2024 Primary Elections - State Districts

### United States Congress - House of Representative District 21

The United States House of Representatives has 435 seats and is the lower chamber of the US Congress. US House of Representatives Texas District 21 serves 10 counties: Bandera, Bexar (part), Blanco, Comal, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Real, and Travis (part). The term of office is two years.

Duties: represents a specific geographic area of a state; creates, debates, and votes on bills that become law for the United States; creates and votes on a two-year budget; and oversees the administration of public policy by serving on committees.

<b>Democratic Primary</b>	<b>Kristin Hook</b>	<b>Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary Election.</b>
<b>Republican Primary</b>	<b>Chip Roy</b>	<b>Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary Election.</b>

## Texas Legislature - Senate District 25

The Texas Senate has 31 seats and is the upper chamber of the Texas Legislature. Texas Senate District 25 serves 6 counties: Bexar (part), Blanco, Comal, Guadalupe (part), Hays (part), Kendall, and Travis (part). The term of office is four years.

Duties: represents a specific geographic area of the state; creates, debates, and votes on bills that become law for the State of Texas; sets levels for state spending by passing a two-year budget; votes to raise and lower taxes for the state; and votes to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes of bills.

<b>Democratic Primary</b>	<b>Merrie Fox</b>	<b>Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary Election.</b>
<b>Republican Primary</b>	<b>Donna Campbell</b>	<b>Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary Election.</b>

## Texas Legislature - House of Representative District 19

The Texas House of Representatives has 150 seats and is the lower chamber of the Texas Legislature. Texas House District 19 serves 5 counties: Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, Kendall, and Travis (part). The term of office is two years.

Duties: represents a specific geographic area of the state; passes bills on public policy that become the law for the State of Texas; sets levels for state spending by passing a two-year budget; votes to raise and lower taxes for the state; and votes to uphold or override gubernatorial vetoes of bills.

### Democratic Primary

<b>Dwain Handley</b>	<b>Zach Vance</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.handley4texas.com">www.handley4texas.com</a>	No response received.

### What in your background qualifies you to serve the as a state representative in Texas?

**Handley:** I come to this race with a background in grassroots field organizing. I've chaired Democratic precincts in six of the last eleven years, and was trained by Battleground Texas as a Neighborhood Team Leader, organizing a full grassroots field for the Wendy Davis campaign. I have BBA and MS degrees in Finance from Texas A&M. My professional career was in banking and later, wireless telecommunications, and finally, as a self-employed fitness trainer. Though raised Republican, I came to disagree with the party's direction. I've been a Democrat now for a quarter-century.

**Vance:** No response received.

### What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of the Texas Legislature?

**Handley:** My number one issue is DEMOCRACY. While there are so many pressing imperatives today – climate change, voter suppression, underfunded public education, children slaughtered by guns of war, a legislature practicing medicine without a license – NOT ONE of these demanding issues may be rectified without democracy. And democracy is in peril. Our politics are broken, and we must heal them. Only then can it once again function as we need it. Fortunately, I believe this is entirely possible. It begins by electing Democratic majorities that will stand firm for the principles of republican democracy.

**Vance:** No response received.

### What are your three top priorities for the next session of the Legislature?

**Handley:** If Democrats come to control both houses of the Legislature, the best way to enact reforms while bypassing the governor's veto will be by amending the Texas Constitution. I want to submit a constitutional amendment that prohibits partisan gerrymandering of districted elections – Legislature, Congress, SBOE – any jurisdictions where elections are conducted on party lines. I want to draft another amendment restoring full voting rights as they stood prior to the U.S. "Shelby County" decision. And I envision a third amendment affirming the authority of counties and home-rule cities to exercise primary control over local affairs.

**Vance:** No response received.

### What are your priorities for education in the next session of the Legislature?

**Handley:** The greatest imperative with public education is to fund it fully. Right now, Austin literally usurps tax revenues collected by school districts and directs them toward thoroughly unrelated uses. High property taxes are increasingly burdensome, and yet our schools are underfunded. How does this paradox exist? Because the Republican majority imposes a dishonest tax, making school districts "do the dirty work" of raising them while Austin gets to scheme over how the loot gets spent. There are other pressing matters, to be sure. Banning books, privatizing it all for billionaire enrichment. But that discussion exceeds 100 words.

**Vance:** No response received.

### **What are the greatest concerns of the voters in your district?**

**Handley:** Voters in HD19 are concerned about many of the same things as other Texans. They're concerned about water scarcity – a consequence of climate change. I've talked about education and preserving democracy. They're worried sick, dropping off their daughters and sons, that it may be their last goodbye. They suspect our best years may be behind us and our future is a diminished one. But this need not come to pass. Just one institution stands between us and the bright future we all know we can build, and that's the Republican Party. Return Democrats to power, and we'll restore that future.

**Vance:** No response received.

### **Republican Primary**

<b>Kyle Biedermann</b>	<b>Manny Campos</b>	<b>Ellen Troxclair</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.KyleforTexas.com">www.KyleforTexas.com</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.manny2024.com">www.manny2024.com</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.TroxclairforTexas.com">www.TroxclairforTexas.com</a>

### **What in your background qualifies you to serve the as a state representative in Texas?**

**Biedermann:** I was a state representative from 2017-2023 in HD 73. I am not a career politician so I decided not to run in the last election cycle and instead go home to my family and business. I have 7 daughters and 15 grandchildren. I have owned and operated Biedermann's Ace Hardware in Fredericksburg for 39 yrs as well as opened Harper Feed & Hardware last year.

**Campos:** Manny Campos' multifaceted background as a small business owner, a business director at a large corporation, and a board member of a non-profit small business incubator uniquely equips him for State Representative in District 19. His entrepreneurial experience offers a firsthand understanding of local business challenges, advocating for policies promoting economic growth. Serving on a non-profit's board demonstrates his commitment to community development. Manny Campos' diverse roles reflect a comprehensive grasp of business needs, enabling him to navigate legislative intricacies effectively, advocate for small businesses, and foster initiatives fostering economic resilience in District 19.

**Troxclair:** I am a mom, a business owner, and a proven conservative with a record of passing the largest property tax cut in US history, fighting to secure our border by adding \$6.5B for the border wall and barriers, banning COVID vaccine mandates, protecting children from sexual predators and big tech, fully funding our policy, and saving women's sports. I have built a reputation as a hard-working, principled, and effective leader for our district who keeps my promises.

### **What are the most pressing issues facing the next session of the Texas Legislature?**

**Biedermann:** Border security and election integrity.

**Campos:** The next Texas Legislature faces a gamut of pressing issues. Vouchers and school finance demand attention to ensure equitable access to quality education. Immigration and border security remain pivotal due to their impact on demographics and state resources. Higher education requires support for affordability and accessibility. School safety concerns mandate proactive measures. Property taxes need reform to ease burdens. The electric grid's resilience and water supply infrastructure are critical for a sustainable future. Addressing these multifaceted challenges will shape Texas' socio-economic landscape, demanding comprehensive, strategic legislative action for the state's well-being.

**Troxclair:** Securing our southern border remains the most pressing issue for our state. In addition to investing in border security and enforcing the Remain in Mexico policy that I helped pass last session, we must continue to do everything in our state's power to protect our citizens from the trafficking of humans and drugs across our border. Additionally, I am working to eliminate school property taxes and Robin Hood by fully funding schools through our state revenue.

### **What are your three top priorities for the next session of the Legislature?**

**Biedermann:** Water availability and growth in the Hill Country were my top priorities while I was a Representative and will continue to be one of my top priorities when elected. Border security and election integrity are also top priorities.

**Campos:** The 2024 Texas political issues we see as the most important are, vouchers and school finance, immigration and border security, and water infrastructure stand as pivotal issues. Vouchers and school finance drive at the heart of educational equity, shaping future generations. Immigration and border security remain hot topics, impacting Texas' demographics, economy, and national identity. Water infrastructure, vital for sustenance, is a constant challenge particularly in small communities. Addressing these concerns not only reflects Texans' immediate needs but also determines the state's trajectory, defining its educational, social, and economic landscape for years to come.

**Troxclair:** In addition to further cutting property taxes, we must secure the border and cut off the incentives that encourage illegal immigration in order to keep our communities and schools safe. We must preserve the Hill Country's natural resources and beauty by managing growth and protecting our water resources. We must give parents the ability to choose the best education for their children and put an end to lobbyists being paid with taxpayer dollars.

#### **What are your priorities for education in the next session of the Legislature?**

**Biedermann:** My priorities for the next legislative session focus on advocating for increased parental choice in education, particularly for low-income families. Additionally, I aim to allocate more resources to enhance classrooms and support teachers in public schools. Addressing the issue of excessive bureaucracy in the school system, which diminishes local control and teacher salaries, remains a key concern. Despite facing setbacks in passing a bill for teacher input through an anonymous survey, and efforts to make the Robin Hood system fairer to contributing ISDs, I will persist in pushing for positive changes in the public education system.

**Campos:** In the upcoming Texas Legislative session, educational priorities focus on expanding school choice options, fostering accountability through rigorous standards, and empowering local districts. Enhancing teaching quality, particularly through merit-based incentives are crucial. Prioritizing STEM education aligns with preparing students for evolving careers. Fiscal responsibility in budgeting and funding allocations while addressing special education needs and promoting alternative education programs round out key focuses. Creating a dynamic, accountable, and locally controlled educational environment that maximizes opportunities for all students across Texas is important.

**Troxclair:** Every child deserves access to an excellent education. We must ensure our education funding ends up in the classroom to benefit teachers and students, and not lost in red tape. I will continue fighting to ensure inappropriate content and CRT/DEI content stay OUT of our schools and universities, and that teachers are supported. We must ensure our children are taught HOW to think instead of WHAT to think, and that reading, writing, math, science, and history are prioritized in the classroom.

#### **What are the greatest concerns of the voters in your district?**

**Biedermann:** Water, density, growth and property taxes.

**Campos:** In Texas House District 19, water infrastructure holds immense significance due to its arid climate, necessitating reliable water sources for agriculture, industry, and community sustenance. Addressing water infrastructure ensures a stable supply vital for growth and resilience against droughts. Simultaneously, school vouchers impact educational access, particularly crucial in diverse communities. They determine the quality of education accessible to students, shaping their futures and the district's socio-economic vitality. Prioritizing both issues in District 19 is imperative for securing essential resources and fostering educational opportunities, driving sustainable development and prosperity.

**Troxclair:** For the last three years, the current Administration has done everything they can to open our borders, cripple our access to reliable energy, and destroy traditional family values. They have spent over \$6 TRILLION dollars catapulting our national debt to \$34 TRILLION and increasing the cost of gas, groceries, and commodities through inflation. Families just want safe communities, quality schools, an affordable cost of living, and to have their personal liberties protected. I have fought, and always will fight, for these things.

### **Texas 3rd Court of Appeals**

The 3rd Court of Appeals is one of 14 state courts and has jurisdiction in a 24-county region of the state. This court has a Chief Justice and five other justices, who are elected at large for a term of six years.

Duties: receive appeals in civil and criminal cases from district and county courts; has intermediate appellate jurisdiction of both civil and criminal cases appealed from lower courts; in civil cases where judgment rendered exceeds \$250, exclusive of costs, and other civil proceedings as provided by law; and in criminal cases except in post-conviction writs of habeas corpus and where the death penalty has been imposed.

### **Justice, Place 2**

#### **Democratic Primary**

<b>Maggie Ellis</b>	<b>Melissa Lorber</b>	<b>Edward Smith</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.maggieforjustice.com">www.maggieforjustice.com</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.melissaforjustice.com">www.melissaforjustice.com</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.smithforjustice.com">www.smithforjustice.com</a>

**Qualifications: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

**Ellis:** I have handled thousands of cases and hearings in court as a judge, a civil, criminal, and appellate prosecutor, and as an attorney representing individuals in five of the counties this court serves.

**Lorber:** For 22 years, I have represented clients in hundreds of appeals, presented many oral arguments in the Texas Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals, and earned Board Certification in Civil Appellate Law.

**Smith:** As the incumbent I have over 5 years experience doing this job. In 2018, I successfully flipped the seat from Republican to Democrat. I approach each case with impartiality, integrity, and fairness.

**Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?**

**Ellis:** Experience working on cases from all sides is a good indicator of a candidate's likeliness to be fair and impartial. I have handled thousands of cases from all sides, including: presiding over cases as a judge; defending individuals at risk of losing their liberty, their children, and their homes; and advocating for justice as a prosecutor in cases such as murder, robbery, and sexual assault.

**Lorber:** To ensure there is not even an appearance of bias in my legal decision making, I have accepted smaller donations from a wide variety of attorneys and law firms throughout different facets of the legal community, as well as from Central Texans who have diverse experiences and viewpoints. I have also participated in extensive appellate legal and ethics training during the past two decades.

**Smith:** Ensuring the impartiality of judges in the face of campaign donations is a critical concern for maintaining the integrity of the judicial system. When voters prioritize candidates with a commitment to upholding the rule of law over those with significant financial backing, they contribute to the creation of a judiciary that is both competent and free from undue influence.

**Separation of Powers: What is your view of the role of courts relative to the other branches of government?**

**Ellis:** The courts role of interpreting laws created by the legislature and signed into law by the governor is critical. If elected, I will be the first openly queer woman on a Texas appellate court. Two examples of the court's role that are meaningful to me are *Lawrence v. Texas*, where the court struck down the state's sodomy laws, and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which gave gay people the right to marry.

**Lorber:** Texas courts have the responsibility to (1) ensure that the Governor, Legislature, and government agencies comply with state and federal constitutions, statutes, and case precedent and (2) safeguard the constitutional rights and liberties of all Texans. Appellate courts are the last line of defense to stopping government overreach and protecting important human rights.

**Smith:** The role of courts relative to the other branches of government is to act as a check and balance, ensuring that legislative and executive actions adhere to constitutional principles and protecting individual rights. The judiciary's independence is paramount. This separation of powers is fundamental to the stability and fairness of democratic governance.

**Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?**

**Ellis:** I will bring my lived understanding of growing up transient and homeless to this bench. With about 15% of Texans living below the poverty level, access to justice is crucial. I have been awarded for my work helping our most vulnerable have access to and be successful in the court system through drafting legislation, establishing pro bono clinics, and advocating for the use of remote hearings.

**Lorber:** Texas appellate courts, including the Third Court of Appeals, have pro bono programs that match volunteer attorneys with clients who cannot afford a lawyer during their appeal. These programs should be strengthened and encouraged to provide access to justice, as well as to provide training and mentorship to younger attorneys and help diversify the appellate profession.

**Smith:** Improving access to justice requires a holistic approach encompassing legal aid, education, technology, cultural competency, and legal reforms. By addressing these aspects comprehensively, we can strive towards a more inclusive and equitable justice system that serves the needs of every individual, regardless of their background or socio-economic status.



**Court System: What effect will the new business court and statewide court of appeals have on the administration of justice in Texas?**

**Ellis:** These courts will remove voter input within local jurisdictions and will remove the ability to have cases heard by local and regional justices. The judges of the business courts will be appointed by the governor rather than elected, and the justices of the 15th Court of appeals will ultimately be elected statewide rather than district-wide like the current appellate courts.

**Lorber:** Important legal questions impacting Central Texans should be decided by appellate justices elected by Central Texans. The new business court and statewide court of appeals will remove important business and administrative cases from the Third Court of Appeals, to instead be decided by judges appointed by the Governor and then justices elected statewide.

**Smith:** It is yet to be seen what the effect new business courts and a statewide court of appeals will have on the administration of justice in Texas. Anytime there are changes to the judiciary it takes time for the dust to settle and this will be no different. One thing that is for sure is that in the short term there will be uncertainty for litigants.

<b>Republican Primary</b>	<b>John Messinger</b>	<b>Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary Election.</b>
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**Justice, Place 3**

<b>Democratic Primary</b>	<b>Chari Kelly</b>	<b>Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary Election.</b>
<b>Republican Primary</b>	<b>No one filed for this office</b>	

**Justice, Place 5**

**Democratic Primary**

<b>Thomas J. Baker</b>	<b>Karin Crump</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.justicetombaker.com">www.justicetombaker.com</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.judgekarincrump.com">www.judgekarincrump.com</a>

**Qualifications: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?**

**Baker:** I've been a Board-certified Family Law attorney since 2010. I have 5 years' appellate experience. The past 2 years, I'm ranked 5th of 80 Texas intermediate appellate justices in opinion production.

**Crump:** As a district judge for nine years, I have presided over a diverse trial docket with a commitment to access to justice and efficiency. I am the President of the Texas Association of District Judges.

**Ethics: Since judicial candidates solicit donations and raise money to be elected, how can voters be assured that campaign donations will not impact how judges interpret the law and/or review lower court decisions?**

**Baker:** I do not appreciate the present system wherein justices are often beholden to donors, some of whom practice before them. Truly, the character of the individual justices is the only assurance voters can have. I will always live up to the trust voters place in me. I humbly submit to the voters that my record in office is the best evidence as to my integrity, impartiality, and unbiased jurisprudence.

**Crump:** Voters can rely on my reputation as a fair and impartial judge. I'm consistently rated as hard-working and impartial by ABA's Judicial Performance Polls. During my nine years on the bench, campaign donations have had no impact on my decisions. I'm running to ensure access to justice for vulnerable communities and donations will not impact my ability to review lower court decisions impartially.

**Separation of Powers: What is your view of the role of courts relative to the other branches of government?**

**Baker:** The role of courts is to follow and interpret the law based on bills passed by the legislature and signed into law by the executive. As an appellate court, we review trial records and apply the law. Although I am a Democrat, I cannot render a judicial opinion based on my political views; rather, our opinions will continue to be founded on sound application of precedent and identification of error.

**Crump:** The courts are our last line of defense for our basic human rights. It is essential that the judicial branch function independently from the executive and legislative branches of government. Judges must be able to review legislation and administer justice without interference from the other branches, just as the drafters of the constitution intended.

**Equity: What can be done to improve access to justice for all, including persons or groups who may be underserved?**

**Baker:** To improve access to justice, we need to maximize funding to legal aid offices throughout the state, promote Texas law school clinics, and pro-bono representation among the Bar. We must ensure the adequate provision of professional help that the indigent need and deserve, especially in areas of civil and family law to which Gideon rights to representation do not currently extend.

**Crump:** Courts must ensure that all people, including those with financial and language barriers, have access to justice. I was recognized by the State Bar for applying that principal and making our courts more accessible. I also believe we can improve equity by diversifying the legal profession, which is why I mentor and foster a pipeline for first generation students to enter the legal profession.

**Court System: What effect will the new business court and statewide court of appeals have on the administration of justice in Texas?**

**Baker:** Some Republican legislators are trying to dismantle checks and balances to concentrate power in one party. The 15th Court strips administrative law review from the Third Court; Republicans don't want their policies to be reviewed by our court, but another all-Republican one. Business courts take business law cases away from local courts and assign them to non-local judges appointed by the governor.

**Crump:** It will likely have a negative impact on the administration of justice and the independence of the judiciary. Texans will no longer be able to vote for the judges who determine whether legislation is constitutional. Instead, the Governor will handpick business court judges without voter input or legislative confirmation, leading to the administrative branch having undue influence over our courts.

<b>Republican Primary</b>	<b>No one filed for this office</b>
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**Justice, Place 6**

<b>Democratic Primary</b>	<b>Gisela D. Triana</b>	<b>Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary Election.</b>
<b>Republican Primary</b>	<b>No one filed for this office</b>	

***Blanco County 2024 Primary Elections - County***

**Democratic Primary** - No one filed to run for a county office.

**Republican Primary** - All candidates listed below are on the ballot and are *unopposed*.

District Judge, 33rd Judicial District: Allan Garrett

Blanco County Attorney: Deborah Earley

Blanco County Sheriff: Don Jackson

Blanco County Tax Assessor/Collector: Kristen Sultemeier Spies

Blanco County Commissioner Precinct 1: Tommy Weir

Blanco County Commissioner Precinct 3: Chris Liesmann

Blanco County Constable Precinct 1: Patrick Fisher

**The Blanco County elections listed below are on the ballot with more than one candidate.**



## **District Attorney, 33rd & 424th Judicial Districts (Blanco, Burnet, Llano, & San Saba counties)**

A state district attorney in the state of Texas is elected for a term of four years.

Duties: represents the state in prosecuting felony criminal cases; works with law enforcement officers in the investigation of criminal cases; presents cases to the grand jury; represents victims of violence in protective orders; and represents the state in removing children from abusive households.

### **Republican Primary**

<b>Marie Primm</b>	<b>Perry Thomas</b>
Website: <a href="https://marieprimm.com">www.https://marieprimm.com</a>	Facebook: Perry Thomas for District Attorney

### **What in your background qualifies you to serve as the District Attorney, 33<sup>rd</sup> & 424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts?**

**Primm:** I have almost 30 years experience serving as a prosecutor, successfully trying some of the most difficult cases in Texas. I was an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) in Harris County for 22 years, serving as Chief of major divisions of the office, efficiently managing large teams of attorneys, investigators, and administrative staff, followed by five years in private practice, while continuing to serve occasionally as a special prosecutor. Since 2022, I have served as an Assistant Attorney General for Texas as a member of the Capital Murder Team, assisting counties with complex capital murder litigation.

**Thomas:** With 34 years of legal experience almost exclusively in criminal law, I am uniquely qualified to serve as District Attorney. During my career I have served as a prosecuting attorney for almost 29 years, with the remainder in private criminal practice. While prosecuting I have tried before a jury almost every type of criminal case including capital murder cases resulting in the death penalty. I have served as the First Assistant in the office of which I hope to serve as District Attorney while having actually practiced law in the courts of this district for 9 years.

### **What are the most pressing issues facing the District Attorney for the 33<sup>rd</sup> & 424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts?**

**Primm:** The most pressing issue facing our District Attorney's office is the increase in crime, particularly crime growing out of the increase in methamphetamine and narcotics trafficking. I will be a staunch supporter of effective law enforcement in countering these crimes and ensure that criminals are swiftly held accountable. I will work to give our prosecutors the resources they need to do their jobs well. We must preserve our sense of community, that feeling of security and safety that comes from knowing that criminals will be punished and that justice will be administered fairly and without favor.

**Thomas:** Having lived and worked in this district, I recognize that we are experiencing a large increase in population growth. This increase is leading to the most pressing issue, an increase in crime, especially violent crime, which includes crimes committed against children. Violent crimes and crimes committed against children will need the experience of a District Attorney who has specialized knowledge in prosecuting such offenders. The district continues to experience a drug problem that will be addressed. People with addictions that want treatment may be allowed that opportunity while drug dealers will be prosecuted.

### **What changes would help the two offices for the 33<sup>rd</sup> & 424<sup>th</sup> Judicial Districts improve services?**

**Primm:** I will bring my experience to the two offices and will implement policies and procedures that ensure the swift, efficient, and fair administration of justice. My priority as District Attorney will be to work with law enforcement to keep Burnet, Blanco, San Saba and Llano Counties free of the problems that confront some of the large urban areas of our state. Holding to account those who choose to commit crimes or threaten our citizens is key to keeping our area the best place to live and work in the great State of Texas.

**Thomas:** To improve services to the citizens of this district the experience and quality of assistant district attorneys serving the district will be increased. Experienced prosecutors bring a quality of performance necessary to bring justice for victims of crime. This will be done by providing an atmosphere of service to the district through attorneys who have a passion and concern for representing victims of crime. Increasing the speed with which cases are prosecuted will bring quicker justice for crime victims while serving as a deterrent against future criminal activity from offenders.

## Blanco County Constable Precinct 4

A county constable in the state of Texas is elected for a term of four years.

Duties: serves as a licensed peace officer; performs various law enforcement functions, including the ability to issue traffic citations; serves warrants and civil papers, such as subpoenas and temporary restraining orders; and serves as bailiff for the Justice of the Peace Court.

### Republican Primary

<b>Joshua B. Bucy</b>	<b>Ruben G. Marquez</b>
Website: <a href="http://www.BlancoConstable.com">www.BlancoConstable.com</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:rgmaqu@gmail.com">rgmaqu@gmail.com</a>

### What in your background qualifies you to serve as the Blanco County Constable for Precinct 4?

**Bucy:** As the current Constable, I have made this a full time office with multiple deputies including former elected Constables on staff. I've had the pleasure to serve my precinct and Blanco County as Chief Deputy for another Constable and before that, many years on patrol with the Sheriff's Office. My entire law enforcement career has been served in Blanco County. Most importantly, I believe that the relationships with my community most qualifies me. My office is here to serve the best interests of my community.

**Marquez:** I am a 20-year resident of Blanco County. I have 21 years of law enforcement experience earning a Master Peace Officer License. My experience includes Emergency Management, Civil Process, Warrants, Traffic and Court Security to name a few. I worked as a Travis County Constable Deputy from 1998-2009. Blanco County Police Officer from 2009-2021 and a Marion Police Officer from 2021 to the present. I have 34 years of investigation experience protecting the assets of a major retailer and over 20 years of community service.

### What are the most pressing issues facing the Blanco County Constable for Precinct 4?

**Bucy:** Population and business growth and increased travel/tourism increases demand on the justice court system that the Constable is a part of. The mental health crisis is one of my focuses; we aim to partner with EMS, mental health authorities and other law enforcement agencies to best aid our community. On patrol, my office is experiencing an increase in calls for service and traffic incidents that we are growing to meet. Partnering with the Sheriff's Office, Blanco Police and all other agencies to respond to and prepare for events ranging from daily calls to natural disasters and active shooter situations.

**Marquez:** The safety and protection of the community. Officer presence in the community and our schools. Emergency response plan for the community. Seeking additional resources to assist citizens in need. Building a solid partnership with other local law enforcement agencies.

### What are the citizens of Blanco County telling you about law enforcement problems?

**Bucy:** There is a growing concern regarding crimes, narcotics etc that come in from surrounding larger cities and counties. I love Blanco County, especially Precinct 4. I want to find a balance between the outside issues facing Blanco and what we know and love about our community.

**Marquez:** Citizens would like more positive interaction with our local law enforcement. Law enforcement to participate in community events. Establish community policing to discuss issues, crime prevention and improvement.

## League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas

For over forty years this League has served Kerr County and now serves six counties in the Texas Hill Country: Bandera, Blanco, Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, and Llano. Members of this League live in all six counties. Both men and women over the age of 16 are members of the League and there are various levels of annual dues as a part of the membership. Visit the website to join: [lwvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lwvhillcountrytexas.org)

If reading this Voter Guide has helped you to be informed and vote, please consider a donation, in any amount, to help the Hill Country Texas League continue to offer this service to voters. Donations are accepted via the website: [lwvhillcountrytexas.org](http://lwvhillcountrytexas.org) or mail to the post office box on the front page.