

Voter Guide for Kerr County

Primary Election on Tuesday - March 5, 2024



League of Women Voters - Hill Country Texas

P. O. Box 290303 Kerrville, Texas 78029-0303

Email: president@lwvhillcountrytexas.org

Website: lwvhillcountrytexas.org

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 Kerr 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 the 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 on newsprint paper.

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 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.

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 Kerr County

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

<https://kerrcountytexas.gov/voting-in-kerr-county/kerr-county-elections>

Take a photo ID with you to the voting location.

Curb-side voting is available for Early Voting and on Election Day.

Remember: no cell phones, no texting, no photos, no campaign material, no loitering

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

EARLY VOTING in Kerr County - two locations

Ingram West Kerr County Annex 510 College Street

Kerrville Hill Country Youth Event Center 3785 Highway 27 East

Monday February 19	Tuesday February 20	Wednesday February 21	Thursday February 22	Friday February 23	Saturday February 24
Presidents Day	8:00am to 6 :00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	8:00am to 6:00pm	7:00am to 7:00pm

Sunday February 25	Monday February 26	Tuesday February 27	Wednesday February 28	Thursday February 29	Friday March 1
12 noon-6:00pm	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: Tuesday - March 5 Locations open 7:00am to 7:00pm

Voter must go to the precinct location on the yellow voter registration card.

Pct	Location & Address	Pct	Location & Address
101	Southern Oaks Baptist Church 122 Valley View in Kerrville	303	Calvary Temple Church 3000 Loop 534 in Kerrville
107	Thunder Hills Biker Church 111 Camino Real in Kerrville	308	Covenant Life Fellowship - Hill Country 6650 Highway 27 in Comfort
109	Northwest Hills Community Center 200 Northwest Hills Drive in Kerrville	312	Zion Lutheran Church 624 Barnett Street in Kerrville
113	St. Paul's Methodist Church 135 Methodist Encampment in Kerrville	314	Cailloux Theater 910 Main Street in Kerrville
118 NEW	Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) 125 Lehmann Drive #100 in Kerrville	404	Mountain Home Fire Department 5475 Junction Highway in Mountain Home
119	Riverside Church of Christ 625 Harper Road in Kerrville	405	Hunt School Multi-Purpose Room 115 Hunt School Road in Hunt
202 NEW	Center Point Fire Department 548 Kelley Street in Center Point	406	West Kerr County Annex 510 College Street in Ingram
211	Union Church Building 101 Travis Street in Kerrville	410	Divide Chapel 121Divide School Road in Mountain Home
215	Hosanna Lutheran Church 134 Camp Meeting Road in Kerrville	416	Kerrville KOA Community Center 2400 Goat Creek Road in Kerrville
220	Faith Christian Church 1205 Sidney Baker South in Kerrville	417	Western Hills Baptist Church 2010 Goat Creek Road in Kerrville

Kerr 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.

Democratic Primary	Kristin Hook	Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary Election.
Republican Primary	Chip Roy	Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary Election.

Texas Legislature - House of Representatives District 53

The Texas House of Representatives has 150 seats and is the lower chamber of the Texas Legislature. Texas House District 53 serves 16 counties: Bandera, Crane, Crockett, Edwards, Kerr, Kimble, Llano, Mason, McCulloch, Medina, Menard, Pecos, Real, Schleicher, Sutton, and Upton. The term of office is two years.

Duties: 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	Joe P. Herrera	Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary Election.
---------------------------	-----------------------	--

Republican Primary

Hatch Smith	Website: www.hatchsmithfortexas.com	Wes Virdell	Website: www.VirdellforTexas.com
--------------------	---	--------------------	---

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

Smith: I am a multigenerational rancher in Texas with an extensive background in finance, manufacturing, healthcare and agriculture. I served on the Lower Colorado River Authority and Governor's Council for Broadband. These board positions gave me a unique perspective on our states and specifically House District 53's standing with water, power transmission and generation and broadband needs.

Virdell: I currently serve as the Texas State Director for Gun Owners of America. I have been attending the Texas Capitol since 2011 and helped to pass Open Carry, Constitutional Carry, and other pro-2A bills. I also worked this last session to kill 152 anti-2A bills. While serving in the US Air Force, I worked on Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and served as a Military Training Leader.

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

Smith: No response received.

Virdell: Several legislators who campaign as Republican have worked behind the scenes to kill Republican legislation and they place Democrats in top committee positions. We must change how the House functions to ensure Republican bills aren't killed.

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

Smith: Water – We need to really focus on conservation and common sense management of our States most precious resource. Issue range from private damns trapping public waters, phosphorus levels in waste water disposal, surface and ground water management and regulatory oversight. If Texas is going to continue to say we are pro-growth, we need to better manage our water. Infrastructure – our rural counties are in need of assistant with roads, water utilities, power, and law enforcement. Many are already overburdened with the boarder crisis and expanding population growth. We also need to work on making our electric grid MORE RELIABLE! Healthcare –

Virdell: Water, border security, and federal overreach are my three priorities for the next session.

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

Smith: Hatch believes in empowering parents to make the educational choices that are best for their children – period. A one-size-fits-all approach to educating the next generation has proven to be a failure time and again. In the Texas House, Hatch will fight to ensure the rural schools that make up the backbone of our district are fully funded, and that the decisions about how to use those funds reside at the local level – not with politicians or unelected state bureaucrats. Hatch also believes that Educational Savings Accounts have a place in the equation, particularly for those children with special education requirements

Virdell: I have strong concerns for what children are being taught in public schools. After public schools mandated masks on children and inappropriate books have been found in school libraries, many conservatives have lost faith in our school system. Many parents want to see their kids have the opportunity to move to a better school where woke agendas are not being pushed on to them. I support allocated tax dollars following the student and I believe competition among schools is healthy.

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

Smith: Border security and water! Our federal government has failed to protect our borders and until we can elect a Republican to the White House, we need to continue with Operation Lone Star and give our DPS and other state agencies the resources they need to continue to slow the illegal immigration and document the criminals coming across.

Virdell: After our current State Rep wasted millions in taxpayer money to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton while presenting no real evidence, no sworn testimony, and a rushed process, residents of this district want to know they have a State Rep that will actually represent this district instead of catering to special interest groups.

Texas 4th Court of Appeals

The 4th Court of Appeals is one of 14 state courts and has jurisdiction in a 32-county region of the state. This court has a Chief Justice and six other justices, who are elected at large for a term of six years.

Duties: receives 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

Velia J. Meza	Beth Watkins
No contact information received.	Website: www.KeepBeth.com

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

Meza: I currently serve as a Criminal District Court Judge in San Antonio, Texas. I have 22 years of combined jury trial and appellate experience in both criminal and civil matters.

Watkins: I have been on this bench 5 years, am one of the most productive justices in the State, and am rarely overturned. I'm Board Certified in civil appellate law. I work really hard and I love my job!

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?

Meza: The public can rest assured that campaign contributions are used for the specific purposes allowed by the Texas Ethics Commission. Judges routinely file campaign finance reports to assure full compliance and transparency.

Watkins: This is a hard question, but I have an easy answer—I do not accept campaign contributions from lawyers or parties appearing before me. Period.
Judges must avoid even the appearance of impropriety, and taking campaign contributions from someone who has a case pending in your court just doesn't pass the smell test.

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

Meza: My view is that the Judiciary is an independent branch of government. We are called upon to interpret the law. We are also called upon to collaborate with the other branches for the proper functioning of our government. As part of an independent Judiciary, I faithfully and impartially discharge my duties without regard for a litigant's background, influence, or status.

Watkins: The US Constitution is a sacred document and I revere it. I have taught constitutional law at St. Mary's University School of Law for years and have studied the Constitution extensively. The Framers created three separate, distinct—and equal—branches. Our role is to interpret the laws passed by the legislature and to resolve conflicts that arise in their execution. It's a brilliant system.

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

Meza: We need to encourage access to justice as early as law school and encourage the State Bar members to remain engaged in representing those who cannot afford representation. When I was in private practice I frequently helped single moms to establish or collect court ordered child support payments for their children.

Watkins: To live our values of "justice for all," we must close the justice gap. We need more funding for legal aid organizations, so they can represent low-income Texans in critical cases involving landlord-tenant disputes, child support, and insurance conflicts. Groups like the Texas and San Antonio Bar Foundations do this work every day. I am a proud long-time sustaining member of both organizations.

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

Meza: Since the courts were recently created by our Legislature and have not started operating, it is unclear how the courts will improve or not improve the administration of justice in Texas.

Watkins: I understand lawsuits have already been filed to challenge these courts. Those challenges could come through my court. The Texas Canons of Judicial Conduct provide, "A judge shall abstain from public comment about a pending or impending proceeding which may come before the judge's court...." As a result, I must respectfully decline to answer this question.

Republican Primary	No one filed for this office
---------------------------	-------------------------------------

Justice, Place 3

Democratic Primary	Cynthia Marie Chapa	Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary.
---------------------------	----------------------------	---

Republican Primary

Todd McCray	Website: www.mccrayforjudge.com	Michael J. Ritter	Website: www.vote4ritter.com
--------------------	---	--------------------------	---

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

McCray: 34 years experience representing both the State of Texas as prosecutor and low-income individuals in trial and appeal court. Tried 100 plus jury trials. Board Certified by the TBLS since 1997.

Ritter: I'm a current elected official with 10+ years of judicial experience. I've written 450+ opinions and worked on 1,000+ appeals. I'm double board certified in both civil appeals and criminal appeals.

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?

McCray: Our judicial system should be independent, fair and impartial. Candidates should refrain from financial dealings that reflect adversely on impartiality. Although the Code of Judicial Conduct does not prohibit candidates from soliciting funds for appropriate expenses, in order to uphold judicial integrity, candidates should adhere to the Judicial Conduct Code and personally observe those standards.

Ritter: Voters should select candidates with judicial experience and a proven record of applying the law fairly, despite having received donations. Candidates without prior judicial experience are more likely to be influenced by the donors who got them into office. Judges' ability to rule fairly, uninfluenced by donations, only comes from confidence in their experience and qualifications to be a judge.

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

McCray: Our judicial branch of government should be independent and impartial relative to the other branches. Judicial independence is derived from the U.S. Constitution which means that courts should be protected from undue influence from the other branches. Judges should be free to decide cases fairly and impartially, relying only on the facts and law. The judiciary should uphold the rule of law.

Ritter: My judicial philosophy is very conservative. To protect the rule of law, judges must not be activists who legislate from the bench. When judges impose their own personal views of what the law should be (not what it is), it's wholly unfair to those who followed the law, destroys confidence that judges are unbiased, and ends up in reversals from higher courts, just wasting everyone's time and money.

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

McCray: I have 34 years of experience representing the rights of low income and underserved individuals before trial and appellate courts throughout Texas. Board Certification was established by the Texas Supreme Court to "promote the availability, accessibility and quality of services of attorneys to the public." Advocacy for access to justice improves equity for all Texans.

Ritter: One access-to-justice barrier is the unnecessary costs of inefficient courts. Inefficient courts run by inexperienced judges only increase the expense of hiring a lawyer to go through wasteful proceedings. Judges also take too long to rule. Many don't show up to work because they know voters often don't find out. With experienced judges, you get better courts and more affordable justice for all.

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

McCray: As a board-certified attorney I am able to say that Texans will benefit from courts and judges that have the experience and expertise to fairly and efficiently resolve cases. Trial and appeal courts with more experienced judges operate more effectively, alleviate caseloads in trial and appeal courts, and burdens on the higher courts.

Ritter: The new courts will reduce inefficiencies by ensuring more qualified judges, but at a cost. Our appellate courts are so backlogged that we now must pay more tax dollars on more courts. All courts must implement better efficiency methods. While working for the judiciary, that's what I've done. If all judges would do the same, we wouldn't need to pay more taxes for bigger government and more courts.

Justice, Place 4

Democratic Primary	Luz Elena Chapa	Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary.
Republican Primary	Lori Massey Brissette	Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary.

Justice, Place 5

Democratic Primary	Liza A. Rodriguez	Candidate unopposed in the Democratic Primary.
Republican Primary	Adrian Spears	Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary.

Justice, Place 7

Democratic Primary	No one filed for this office	
Republican Primary	Lori I. Valenzuela	Candidate unopposed in the Republican Primary.

Kerr 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, 216th: Albert "Pat" D. Pattillo III

District Attorney, 198th: Stephen Harpold

District Attorney, 216th: Lucy Wilke

Kerr County Attorney: Heather Stebbins

Kerr County Clerk (unexpired term of two years): Ian Collum

Kerr County Sheriff: Larry L Leitha, Jr.

Kerr County Tax Assessor/Collector: Bob Reeves

Kerr County Constable Precinct 1: Tommy Rodriguez

Kerr County Constable Precinct 2: Kyle Schneider

Kerr County Constable Precinct 3: Paul A. Gonzales

Kerr County Constable Precinct 4: Brad Rider

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

Kerr County Commissioner Precinct 1

A county commissioner in the state of Texas is elected to the County Commissioners Court to conduct the general business of the county. The Court consists of the county judge who is elected at-large and four commissioners who are elected by geographical precinct. Each commissioner is typically responsible for building and maintaining county roads and bridges with the precinct. The term of office is four years.

Duties: adopts the county budget and the county tax rate; approves all budgeted purchases of the county; sets all salaries and benefits for county employees; authorizes all county contracts; provides and maintains all county buildings and facilities; and fills vacancies in elective and appointed county offices.

Republican Primary

Tom Jones	Anne Overby	Tammy Prout
Email: tjones.tj955@gmail.com	Email: ElectAnneOverby@gmail.com	Email: tammy@pickprout.com

What in your background qualifies you to serve as the Kerr County Commissioner for Precinct 1?

Jones: I am uniquely qualified to serve as commissioner due to my many years of serving the County as a non-profit leader and developer, small business owner, and elected official with HGCD. The past seven years I met with Commissioners Court as they prepared the new Subdivision Rules & Regulations. As President of HGCD we try to work closely with commissioners to better serve best conservation practices of Kerr County.

Overby: My degrees from UT-Austin in finance and marketing equips me to address economic and community development. As the office representative for the 21st congressional district representing Kerr County, my commitment to public service serves me well. My community engagement, ability to secure grants and private outreach was beneficial to revitalizing downtown Kerrville with the Arcadia Theatre. Eight years on the Union State Bank board underscores my commitment to responsible governance. This experience will help me make informed decisions for the county's well-being. My diverse work history with full and part-time jobs illustrates my commitment to hard work and adaptability.

Prout: As the owner of the Hill Country Community Journal newspaper for 18 years, I have experience in creating a business from scratch, budgeting to sustain that business, leaning on my tenacity and common sense to withstand difficult economic conditions. As a 30-year veteran local journalist, I have had a front row seat to all local governmental meetings and shared the stories of citizens from all four corners of Kerr County. We are a first responder family and I believe I have a unique understanding of our community that will serve me well as Kerr County Commissioner Precinct 1.

What are the most pressing issues facing the Kerr County Commissioners Court?

Jones: How to handle the anticipated growth without depleting our most precious resources and taxing the residents to death is going to become a real challenge. Property rights allow development, with development comes infrastructure and water usage in an area that's already listed as a Priority Groundwater Management by the State of Texas.

Overby: First, ensuring our community's well-being demands strategic allocation of precious resources. Affordable housing and low-income housing will always need to be addressed. The county budget, a compass guiding our fiscal choices, must take priority, including essentials like road maintenance and a fully staffed sheriff's department. Creative grant writing becomes imperative for accessing state and federal funds, propelling projects like transportation enhancements and finishing out the county animal services building. Ongoing IT updates at the courthouse are crucial. Finally, investing in the development of county employees ensures a skilled workforce, ultimately fortifying the foundation of our community.

Prout: Growth is coming to Kerr County, putting housing needs and water availability at the top of the list. A recent survey of 15 Hill Country counties conducted by Gap Strategies showed what existing regulatory authorities counties like Kimble, Medina and Gillespie are using to manage growth and steward natural resources. Kerr County must follow the lead of our neighbors and plan for the anticipated growth. The recently passed constitutional amendment Prop 6 provides for the creation of a water fund that will support water infrastructure projects in rural areas. We must find a way to tap into that money.

What are the citizens of Kerr County telling you about county problems?

Jones: With Kerr County still being in Drought Stage 3 many questions seem directed towards responsible growth. Other top questions have been directed towards the recent voter issues the court just struggled through.

Overby: While serving the 21st congressional district for 15 years, I have heard from seniors and first-time homebuyers who face an uphill battle against an unaffordable housing market. Escalating food prices are troubling for many Kerr County constituents. Limited public transportation hinders access to essential services, fresh food and job opportunities. Navigating early parenthood for the working class poses challenges with scarce newborn and affordable day care options. Teenagers complain about the lack of entertainment options. Intelligent traffic lights alleviate congestion, but need further improvement. Residents have questioned the integrity of the commissioners court that contends with competing political ideologies.

Prout: While increased property valuations and high taxes are a common complaint, what I hear most immediate concern about is the civil discourse that continues to grow due to local political activism. Anger over national issues is seeping into the fabric of our community, causing division among a population that is 80 percent Republican. We must focus only on local issues. As a candidate for public office, I promise to concentrate on my own qualifications and not attack my opponents. I promise to be honest and steadfast in my quest for office and to always put Kerr County First.

Kerr County Commissioner Precinct 3

A county commissioner in the state of Texas is elected to the County Commissioners Court to conduct the general business of the county. The Court consists of the county judge who is elected at-large and four commissioners who are elected by geographical precinct. Each commissioner is typically responsible for building and maintaining county roads and bridges with the precinct. The term of office is four years.

Duties: adopts the county budget and the county tax rate; approves all budgeted purchases of the county; sets all salaries and benefits for county employees; authorizes all county contracts; provides and maintains all county buildings and facilities; and fills vacancies in elective and appointed county offices.

Republican Primary

Jeffrey Holt	Website: www.holtforkerr3.com
Chase Lantz	Facebook: Chase Lantz for Kerr County Commissioner Pct 3
Charlie McIlvain	Website: www.CharlieMcforPct3.com

What in your background qualifies you to serve as the Kerr County Commissioner for Precinct 3?

Holt: I am a native Texan. I settled in eastern Kerr County in 2022 upon retiring from the Marines as a Colonel. After multiple combat deployments overseas, I was the Base Commander of Camp Pendleton. My management experience prepared me for the challenge of serving as a County Commissioner, who must identify needs, set priorities, and accomplish goals in a collaborative, fiscally responsible manner. We have established roots in Kerr County, in part because of my service as a substitute teacher and leadership consultant, but also as a member of the Comfort VFW and the TCEQ Watermaster Advisory Committee.

Lantz: As someone who was born and raised, and is raising a family currently in East Kerr County, I feel that numerous things have been qualifying factors for becoming a County Commissioner. Being active and involved heavily in the Kerr County 4-H, from club officer to county council officer as well as simultaneously being an active FFA member and officer, I was able to learn parliamentary procedure numerous ways while still giving back to my community as a leader and young adult. Also through my career, adaptation to adverse conditions helped me to think on my feet and react accordingly.

McIlvain: I have a degree in Management and Marketing from NMSU. I am a graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Southern Methodist University's Institute of Organizational Management. My career has included working with economic development organizations. I've lobbied in Washington and Austin. During my 12 years in Kerrville, I've worked with many Kerr County businesses leaders and Kerr County and Kerrville Government officials. I have good working relationships with officials from Schreiner University, KISD, Peterson Medical Center, the Kerrville/Kerr County Airport, KPUB, and the UGRA. I'm dedicated to a life-long commitment to service!

What are the most pressing issues facing the Kerr County Commissioners Court?

Holt: Our greatest challenge is to ensure that our limited water resources meet the needs of current Kerr County residents. This requires working with our state and county agencies to assure that new residential developments comply with all applicable water conservation standards. Responsible development is a good thing; unbridled development is not. Another pressing--and persistent--issue is fiscal responsibility. We should be mindful of the economic environment and, like our residents, live within our means, cutting spending where possible and focusing on where there is the greatest need. Asking citizens for more tax dollars should be a last resort.

Lantz: Growth is something affecting numerous counties including Kerr County. Having spent my life here I have seen these changes first hand. Properly managing growth along with conservation minded measures can help to maintain this wonderful place to live and raise a family, while allowing others access to the same great things. It is my belief that only through cooperation with other elected officials as well as our local communities that we can forge a manageable plan to preserve while simultaneously projecting Kerr County to be an even greater place to live.

McIlvain: Public Safety - As long as our southern border is not secure, public safety will be an issue for Kerr County. We must provide equipment and technology required to apprehend criminals and secure Kerrville and Kerr County in the fight against illegal trafficking, drug distribution and other illegal activities. Controlled Growth - Kerr County will grow. That growth must be controlled. Tax Revenue - Tourism is one of two top industries in Kerr County. Visitors generate approximately 1/3 of the tax revenue for our community. Resources must be maintained including the River, the Youth Event Center and hotel inventory.

What are the citizens of Kerr County telling you about county problems?

Holt: Residents want a county government that is transparent and listens to their concerns, sets realistic goals, and is a good steward of taxpayer dollars. They are concerned when County Commissioners ask them to approve high dollar bond issues without having done their homework. Commissioners must discern needs versus wants and explain why existing facilities are inadequate. Residents want economic development that offers a livable wage, unapologetic support for our Sheriff's Department, and county roads that are in good condition! They want to work hard, have fun, and feel safe under a government that looks out for our best interests.

Lantz: Having lived my life in eastern Kerr County and having a close relationship to numerous local residents, the main concerns that I continually hear are growth and water. Both water availability and growth go hand in hand in an ever changing environment. Being a true native of Kerr County and spending most of my life in agricultural enterprises, I understand the meaning of coming together as a community to achieve goals. With that I plan to be available to my constituents at all times either by phone, email, or visit to work with them to solve any issues that arise.

McIlvain: Discussing citizen concerns was interesting and responses were somewhat determined by the age of the responders. During these conversations, several concerns surfaced. Water uncertainty and housing needs were the most common responses. Kerr County residents feel safe and business owners believe their businesses are secure; however, public safety continues to be important. Attracting and keeping qualified "first responders" is important. Residents are satisfied with roads in Kerr County; however, citizens want to make certain roads are maintained. Road restriping is needed, although in most cases, this is a state responsibility for state highways in Kerr County.

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 five counties. Both men and women over the age of 16 are members of the League and there are various membership levels with annual dues as a part of the membership. Visit the website to join:

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 by mail to the post office box listed on the front page of this voter guide or via the website:

lwvhillcountrytexas.org