

League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls

P. O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308-0034 (phone/fax 940-767-0129)



Voters Guide Wichita Falls Municipal Election Saturday, May 8, 2010

This VOTERS GUIDE is published and funded by the League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls (LWV-WF), through donations from League members, Citizens of Wichita Falls, and Residents of the Wichita Falls area. The LWV-WF is affiliated with the League of Women Voters of Texas and the League of Women Voters of the U.S., and is a non-partisan, non-profit organization which works to promote political responsibility through active informed participation of all citizens in their government. The League DOES NOT support nor oppose any political party or candidate. This VOTERS GUIDE is designed to convey factual information to help prepare citizens to cast informed votes. Candidates are grouped by position, and arranged alphabetically within the group

EARLY VOTING

Times: April 26 - April 30 (8am - 5pm)
May 3 - May 4 (7am - 7pm)
Place: Municipal Auditorium, Main Floor.
1300 Seventh Street, Wichita Falls.
Park: Seventh Street, or for handicap parking
use 6th & Bluff parking lot on East Side.

CANDIDATES for CITY COUNCIL

Mayor-

Glenn Barham, 3506 Copperas Cove
Jim Ginnings, 5201 Taft Blvd.
Mike Rucker, 1004 Austin Street

District 3- (unopposed)

Rick Hatcher, 2407 Brentwood Drive

District 4- (unopposed)

Timothy Ingle, 4936 Whisper Wind Drive

District 5-

Phyllis Pennartz-Elmore, 1133 Crescent Drive
Leslie Seipel, 1010 North Beverly Drive
Mary Ward, 5926 Northwest Freeway

CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD are all UNOPPOSED

District 1 (Bob Payton)

At Large (Allyson Flack & Kirk Wolfe)

View Online at:

www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/

WHERE TO VOTE ON MAY 8th

DISTRICT #1

Pcts 40,43 -Sam Houston School
2500 Grant Street
Pcts 35,36,41 -Region IX Education Center
301 Loop 11
Pct 45 -Crockett School
3015 Avenue I

DISTRICT #2

Pcts 37,38 -MLK Center
1100 Smith Street
Pcts 30,34 -Washington/Jackson School
1300 Harding Street
Pct 31 -WFISD Education Center
1104 Broad Street

DISTRICT #3

Pcts 10,12 -MSU Hardin Building
3400 Taft Blvd.
Pcts 42,44 -Cunningham School
4107 Phillips Drive
Pcts 11,46 -Jefferson School
4628 Mistletoe Drive

DISTRICT #4

Pct 16 -Fowler School
5100 Ridgecrest Drive
Pct 18 -TXDOT Training Center
1601 Southwest Parkway
Pct 15 -Fain School
1562 Norman Street
Pct 13 -Southern Hills School
3920 Armory Road

DISTRICT #5

Pcts 20,32,39 -City View High School
1600 City View Drive
Pcts 21, 22 -Kate Haynes School
1705 Katherine

CANDIDATES for MAYOR

Question 1: What are your qualifications for this office (including your occupation, education, training, and experience)? **Question 2:** The Recession is causing cities all across Texas to curtail services, because of lost revenue. What are the city services that you see the biggest cuts in, for Wichita Falls? **Question 3:** Given the reality of a tight economy throughout the nation, what is your “realistic” vision for the economic future for Wichita Falls in the next 5 years? **Question 4:** What are the other most pressing issues facing the City this coming year and how do you plan to resolve them? *Word limit for all answers - 100 words.*

GLENN BARHAM

ANSWER 1: I retired after 33 years with the Wichita Falls Police Department. At retirement my responsibilities included managing all grants utilized by the Department. Graduate of Midwestern State University with Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Graduate of the FBI National Academy where I studied planning and budgeting. Last three years as Councilor At-Large on city council. I have served as the Administrative board Chair, and Finance Committee Chair and am currently serving as a Trustee and Foundation board member at First United Methodist Church; currently vice-president of Salvation Army board and have graduated from Leadership Wichita Falls.

ANSWER 2: If service cuts become necessary, then the areas where cuts could be made with the least impact would be in medians and streets. That translates to flowers and pot holes. Additionally, cuts regarding playground replacement could be made. Department heads have already trimmed their budgets to bare bones levels and cuts in service will be hard to find. The cuts mentioned would be very minimal in cost savings. That would leave personnel cuts through attrition to seek more savings. Personnel cuts would be a last resort move.

ANSWER 3: My realistic vision for the economic future is one of cautious optimism. We are seeing signs of recovery -- unemployment rate dropping, commercial construction permits increasing. Two new large businesses moving here point further to recovery and an even lower unemployment rate with 1,000 new jobs. That translates to citizens spending more in the community. Sheppard AFB being strong and working hard to get new missions is a positive. I am cautiously optimistic that we are seeing the beginning of the recovery.

ANSWER 4: One such issue would be our aging water/sewer infrastructure. City services, particularly streets, sewer, and water must remain at a high quality. A project is being planned to begin an annual replacement of some of the aging water/sewer lines throughout the city. Another issue will be working with the Sheppard Military Affairs Committee to bring new missions to SAFB. New missions mean a strong and vibrant base that will fulfill the mission of training our young airmen for many ears to come. The economic impact from SAFB is 4863 million/year. We cannot afford to lose that.

JIM GINNINGS

ANSWER 1: I am finishing my 4th year on the City Council; one term At Large, and one term District 4. During these terms, I have served on numerous Boards and Commissions, including Aviation, Finance, Nortex, and Parks. I graduated with a B.S.

degree in Petroleum Engineering from Texas A&M University. My work experience includes owning and operating my own oil and gas business, i.e., meeting payrolls, writing and negotiating contracts, leases, bank financing, and making policy that grew and sustained the Business. In addition, I owned and operated my own ranch for 30 years, along with other investments.

ANSWER 2: I am not ready to concede that we will cut services; rather, my focus is to operate within our revenues and not curtail services. If cutting services becomes a reality, then I would review the City Manager's recommendations to make a decision. I would expect such cuts in sanitation pick-up schedules, mowing, and street repairs.

ANSWER 3: External factors, such as the fiscal and monetary policies of the Federal Government make predictions difficult – not to mention world events. Without major disruptions, I see continuing improvement in the Wichita Falls Economy. Residential housing was down about 5% last year, but thus far this year, is up over 9%. With significant new job numbers on the horizon that have the potential to grow, I believe in 5 years all the economic numbers will be positive.

ANSWER 4: Issues most pressing at this time are revenue based. I expect reduced grant income that originates primarily with the Federal Government. Sales tax income is down. General fund revenue is not growing because the tax base is stable and we have invaded our reserves at a modest level in order to maintain services and not raise taxes. These reserves must be replaced. I am hopeful that responsible administration of our budget through close scrutiny of expenditures, and resisting unreasonable employee demands, will allow us to maintain services within our revenue. I hope that the coming year will begin the recovery.

MIKE RUCKER

ANSWER 1. I am honest, trustworthy, not a career politician; I have been a pastor for over 25 years and make my living telling the truth. I have a B.S. degree from Arlington Baptist College. I served on the board of Directors of Arlington Baptist College for 8 years of which 2 years were the chairman of the board and 4 years on the finance committee.

ANSWER 2: Before a true assessment could be made, I would like to see the budgets of each department and also know the number of employees. Then a more intelligent evaluation could be made and proper cuts if necessary.

ANSWER 3: If we adequately promote our city and work diligently at getting new business in town, we should be able to maintain and hopefully grow our population. More people and business bring in more revenue. This would allow us to move forward.

ANSWER 4: Aging utilities and infrastructure are causing multiple problems. Again, we need added revenue by bringing in new business, thus broadening the tax base that will allow us to do proper repairs and upkeep. We need to become more business friendly to our current businesses. Thus developing an attitude of wanting to come to Wichita Falls rather than leave. This attitude would create more employment for our city.

CANDIDATES for COUNCILOR, District 5

Question 1: What are your qualifications for this office (including your occupation, education, training, and experience)? **Question 2:** The Recession is causing cities all across Texas to curtail services, because of lost revenue. What are the city services that you see the biggest cuts in, for Wichita Falls? **Question 3:** Given the reality of a tight economy throughout the nation, what is your “realistic” vision for the economic future for Wichita Falls in the next 5 years? **Question 4:** What are the other most pressing issues facing the City this coming year and how do you plan to resolve them? *Word limit for all answers - 100 words.*

PHYLLIS PENNARTZ-ELMORE

ANSWER 1: Graduated Windthorst H.S., MSU nursing degree, A.M.M, C.D.A. degrees from Dallas County Community College. Worked for Dallas Childrens 18 years, Brackenridge Childrens Austin 2 years, URHCS 18 years. Currently IVCS/endoscopy nurse. Citizen Police Academy Alumni, Secretary 2 years. Co-chair TXCPAA convention 2007; Citizen Fire Academy Alumni, Secretary/Treasurer 2 years; 28 foster children 5 years. Past 6 years: District 5 and Mayor’s town Hall meetings, TML meetings W/12-18 CEU/yr; proactive SAFB, ENJYPT graduations/functions. Read pre/post council meeting agenda, committee reports, city business discussion items, ask questions, discuss with current city councilor.

ANSWER 2: The 2009 million dollar budget cut has worked short term but was worse than expected. All departments substantially cut their budgets and more will be cut across the board for 2010. Poor infrastructure, potholes, drainage, water problems have risen to public notice. We must stick to the plan and fix problems as they arise. Many cities are outsourcing services to decrease costs, which allows private industries to bid and provide expert services at cheaper rates. This would be advantageous to our community. Increased utility and property tax rates are big complaints by the public and are WAY too high.

ANSWER 3: Economy is tight but current indicators show positive for growth over the next 5 years. We need to be very aggressive with the use of 4A/4B funds to attract businesses to the community and especially for District 5. Jobs mean more people/families, more school students, increased real estate values and development, increased sales tax revenue for increased use of city services. Proposed 1100 jobs over the next few years is a very good start.

ANSWER 4: SAFB friends tell us how Wichita Falls people are so courteous, considerate, friendly and helpful. This is a great commodity. We need to be positive in our thinking, budget recommendations, and future plans/goals. The City is responsible for many entities (MPEC, airport, streets, sewer, transportation, parks, police, fire) which need repair. We need to take a proactive approach to prioritizing community needs by upgrading our assets and keeping the infrastructure in good repair. By tightening our belts and looking toward future growth and expansion of new businesses we will have “Blue Skies and Golden Opportunities” in Wichita Falls.

LESLIE SEIPEL

ANSWER 1: I have been a resident of Wichita Falls for over 28 years and graduated from Hirschi in 1984. I have worked in retail sales for the past 26 years and have held various management positions with Sears, Circuit City, and my current employer, Dollar General, where I'm a store manager and District Trainer for new store managers. Community Involvement: Zoning Board of Adjustments, City of Wichita Falls- 2000-03; Certified Lay Speaker United Methodist Church- 2000-03; VRJC Advisory Board for Business Degree- 1994-96; Loaned Executive, United Way Campaign- 1992-93.

ANSWER 2: I certainly believe that the City is going to have to make some tough decisions because it doesn't appear that there is much consumer confidence right now. The Council and the City Manager will have to prioritize expenditures from most important to least and look at all services being provided and how many people utilize those services. I know that the City Manager has asked for two budgets from each department, a regular budget and a budget that reflects a 4% across the board reduction. I would anticipate that Parks & Recreation may see the biggest cuts.

ANSWER 3: The Pride in the Falls marketing campaign is exciting, and I have every reason to believe that we will see more new employment opportunities in the near future. A continuing strong relationship with Sheppard AFB is vital and equally important; we cannot afford to lose anymore of our manufacturing sector. Realistically, however, I'm not certain that our local economy can thrive if the Federal Government continues to grow our debt.

ANSWER 4: In my opinion, the most pressing issue after the budget is jobs, and if I'm elected I would definitely be supportive of any incentives that we can come up with to attract new businesses.

MARY WARD

ANSWER 1: I am now retired and serve on City View School Board, & North Texas Parent Child Development Board. I have a Bachelor of Christian Education Degree. Founded Christmas in Spring in 1983, now known as Christmas in Action. This was a program to help the Elderly and/or Handicapped sixty and older. This was a program of volunteers from Churches, Civic Organizations, and Sheppard AFB Personnel Funds and supplies were donated. I served as an advocate for the Homeowners, & coordinator for the Volunteers.

ANSWER 2: I think first of all a look at the Budget, then look at the Infrastructure that has greater needs and cut those that could be cut with the least amount of disruption of City Services.

ANSWER 3: I see a positive outlook for the City. We have two new Business entities coming to town this year to the Northern part of our City. We still have room for several more in this Area. There is plenty of Open Space for Housing Development. I believe in looking Optimistically at the Future. I am excited about the possibility of being a part of the growth of Northern Wichita Falls in District 5. One person cannot resolve the issues that come before the Council, but as we work as a team along with BCI and others, we can see great progress in Wichita Falls.

ANSWER 4: One of the greatest issues I see is the Gang problems. We need more awareness of neighborhood watch programs, and/or being aware of our surroundings at all times.

THE TWO CANDIDATES ON THIS PAGE ARE UNOPPOSED IN THEIR DISTRICT RACES, BUT HAVE BEEN INCLUDED FOR COMPLETENESS.

Question 1: What are your qualifications for this office (Including your occupation, education, training, and experience)? **Question 2:** What are the most important issues facing the City this coming year, and how do you suggest that they be resolved? *Word limit for both answers - 100 words.*

RICK HATCHER, for District 3 Councilor

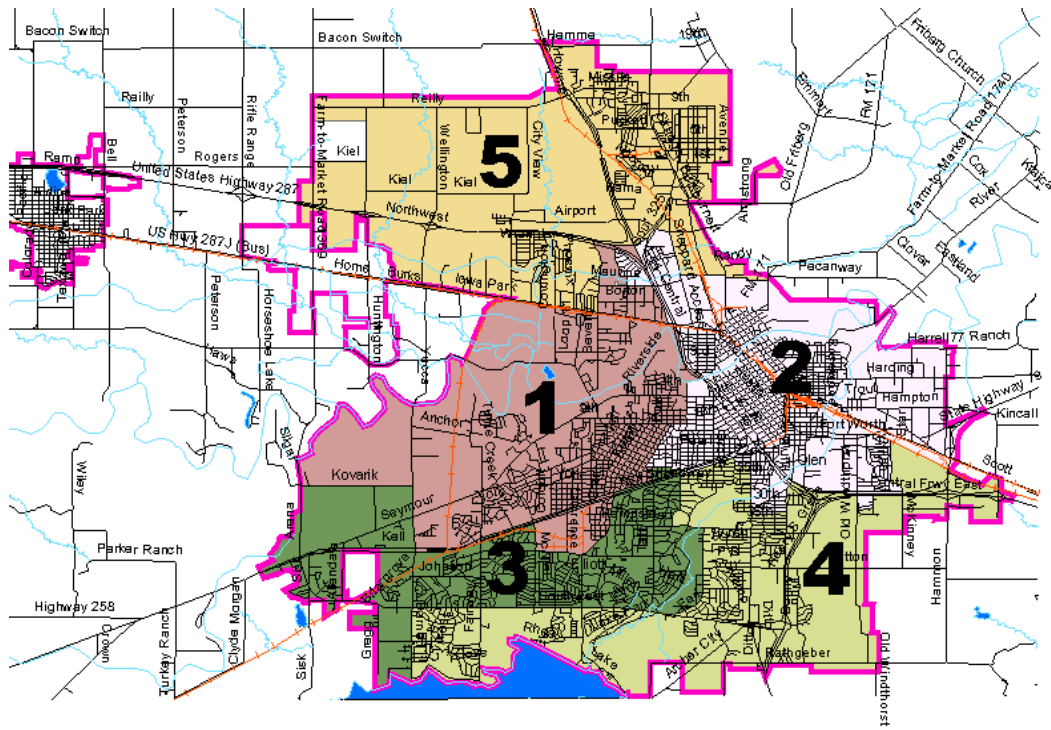
ANSWER 1: I am honored and humbled to have served the citizens of Wichita Falls for the past four years and appreciate the opportunity to do so for the next two as your District 3 Councilor. I am also proud to have been elected by the current council to serve as Mayor Pro Tem, a position I currently hold. In business all my life, I have decades of experience with budgets, and controlling expenses and waste. B.B.A. Marketing/Management from MSU. President Hatcher Poultry & Egg Company.

ANSWER 2: With the current economy, we have sagging sales tax revenues, flat property tax values, and an extremely difficult to balance budget. I have great confidence in our City Manager and his approach to making the necessary hard cuts, preserving jobs where possible. Every city employee is a team player and seems willing to ride out this economic storm. Wichita Falls will rebound and a better day is coming. We should continue to maximize the use of every current tax dollar, through belt tightening and improved efficiencies.

TIMOTHY INGLE, for District 4 Councilor

ANSWER 1: Lived in Wichita Falls over 12 years. Retired Lt. Colonel from USAF. Currently a T-6 simulator instructor training Euro-NATO student pilots and pursuing an MBA at MSU. Command Pilot with over 5800 hours in fighter and trainer aircraft. Flew 487 hours and 161 combat missions over Panama, Iraq and Bosnia. Held numerous leadership positions in the Air Force. Made critical manning and budget decisions - wisely using taxpayers money. B.S. in Astronautical Engineering from USAF Academy. Post graduate study in leadership, organizational management, strategic decision making, aviation and business. Completed Air Command and Staff College in correspondence.

ANSWER 2: The key issue is how to keep doing what we're doing with less money. I'm not afraid to do less with less. However, safety, security and critical city services are paramount and must be sustained and supported. Keeping city personnel properly supported allows the city to perform these functions. I believe a city government that sticks to the basics will not only survive tough times but excel in the good times. Wisely using taxpayer's money is paramount in tough economic conditions. I want to continue improving business friendly policies & foster a stronger economic relationship with Sheppard AFB.



CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

Candidate Forum

The League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls will hold a Candidate Forum, for both contested City Council races.

***Monday, April 26th - City Council Chambers
7 p.m. Candidates for Mayor, and
for Councilor, District 5***

**Live broadcast on Time-Warner Cable channel 11.
Taped replays, daily through Thursday, May 6th, at
4:00 p.m. and/or 8:30 p.m. each day.**

What is the League of Women Voters?

OUR MISSION - The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and which seeks to influence public policy through education and advocacy.



OUR FOCUS - Public policy issues. Members **join** the League because of an interest in general, or an interest in a specific issue. People **support** the League because of the positions on public policy that we advocate, OR because we are non-partisan in our service to voters.

NON-PARTISANSHIP - The League never supports a candidate, nor a political party. We only voice our support for a public policy issue when we have developed an official position. Such position must be supported by a consensus of the League members, and only after thorough study and discussion.

YOU MAY CONTACT the League in Wichita Falls [by phone or fax] 767-0129 [or email] LaryLambert@prodigy.net, or visit our web site www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/. The LWV of Texas phone in Austin is (512) 472-1100. Their web site is www.lwvtexas.org

WE MEET MONTHLY at noon on the first Wednesday of the month (except in July and August), in the Luby's Cafeteria banquet area. Programs are presented on important issues of the day, for our education, and perhaps later action.

OUR MAIN SERVICE is to register voters, publish Voters Guides, and hold candidate forums, for public education.

How to Use this Voters Guide

The Law now permits a voter to take aids, such as this Voters Guide, into the voting booth. You may feel free to do so, as it is a non-partisan help to your intelligent and informed exercise of a Constitutional right -- the right to vote.

The League can Use Your Help!

This Voters Guide is paid for by voluntary contributions. Some of the contributions come from members, but some come from citizens like you -- who want to have non-biased information about the people who are running for public office.

Candidate Forum Expenses are also paid by voluntary contributions. You will notice elsewhere in this *VOTERS GUIDE*, that this year's Forum is set for Monday, April 26th, broadcast live and by tape delay, on cable TV.

Send your voluntary contribution to:

League of Women Voters
P. O. Box 4034
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308.



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**S**ee this Voters Guide on the Web.  
By the time this is distributed, the LWV should have posted this Guide on our web site.

Go to [www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/](http://www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/), and scroll down to the Voters Guide link. Feel free to read, download, or print.