



VOTERS GUIDE

Nonpartisan

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020, SPECIAL ELECTION
TX SENATE DISTRICT 30

Early voting: September 14-25

Election Day Polls: September 29–7 am to 7 pm

ABOUT THIS VOTERS GUIDE

This Voters Guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls to help citizens prepare to cast an informed vote. The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

This guide is available online at www.lwvwichitafalls.org, along with guides for other offices that include all or part of Wichita Falls. Candidate responses for all races are also available at www.VOTE411.org, where you can enter an address and view a personalized ballot with races specific to that address.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates. Candidate replies were subject to a character limit and are printed without editing or verification. If a candidate did not respond by the deadline, "No response received" is printed. Candidates were asked to avoid references to their opponents. Photos are included for candidates who provided them.

This Voters Guide is organized with candidates listed in alphabetical order, regardless of their political party.

League of Women Voters is a Nonpartisan Organization

The LWV never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties, and any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

TX Senate District 30 – Unexpired Term Ending January 2023

Must be 21 years or older, a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas, and a resident of the district represented. Responsible for representing the citizens of the district in which he/she is elected in the Texas Senate.

Questions

Education: What steps are needed to provide adequate, sustainable funding for public education in Texas?

Healthcare: What legislation would you support, if any, to offer comprehensive, affordable health insurance for the large number of Texans who are uninsured?

Redistricting: How will you support district maps that comply with the federal Voting Rights Act? What options, if any, do you support for redistricting reform?

Gun Violence: What legislation would you support, if any, to curb gun violence in Texas?

Elections: What measures do you support to improve and secure elections and voting in our state?

Other Issues: What other issues do you believe will be most pressing in the next session of the Texas Legislature, and what is your position on these issues?

Craig Carter
Republican Party



Education: Entrepreneurship - No formal training.

Experience: Owner of 18 companies, 12 of which are Old Boot Factory western retail stores in DFW and OKC. I fund and operate Hope 2911 - a Food Bank Outreach Center in Nocona TX. Installed A/V for 300+ church sanctuaries all over the US. Flipped 100+ properties.

Email: craig@craigcarterfortexas.com

Website: <http://craigcarterfortexas.com>

Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/craigcarterfortexas>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/craigfortexas/>

Campaign Phone: (682) 237-7644

Education: I think control should remain at the local level, so it is incumbent upon administrators to engage with teachers and conduct an in-depth look at the needs of each individual campus. Education has become a bureaucracy that politicians have tried to improve by throwing money at, but in the end, their efforts are not providing better results. As a businessman, I believe that we need to pay teachers more in order to attract the best and brightest, and that administrators need to be laser-focused on employing best practices to enhance efficiency, and eradicate waste and fraud.

Healthcare: I believe in a free market health care structure - where the market dictates health care policy value based on competition and type of treatments/services for insured and uninsured Texans. Policies that restrict providers because of patient insurance should be removed. In addition, I would propose replacing our Fee For Service System (FFS) of healthcare system that is failing us due to the challenges embedded in treating chronic illnesses like diabetes and high blood pressure etc. The Mayo Clinic's Integrated Delivery System (IDS) is an example of a positive alternative.

Redistricting: Fair and non-partisan standards should be applied when drawing boundary lines based on demographics and population, but that does not mean that we should yield an inch of ground when it comes to drawing lines that are fair and equitable. In a rural conservative area - like SD-30 - we need to be vigilant in preventing politicians in major metropolitan areas from absorbing us into their districts just for the sake of padding the numbers. In addition, if career politicians enter into partisan gerrymandering, I fear that taxpayers will be stuck with the bill for expensive litigation.

Gun Violence: I do not care for the term "gun violence." Guns don't kill people, people do. With that said, I am a gun owner, and I will not be thwarted in my efforts to preserve our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. The overwhelming majority of crimes committed by people using firearms are committed by criminals who obtain weapons illegally. Rather than create new legislation, I propose working with and supporting current efforts of law enforcement to take guns out of the hands of criminals - as long as they do not infringe upon the rights of law abiding citizens.

Elections: It is beyond me that we are prevented from preserving the integrity of our elections by requiring voters to present photo identification. Its a small segment of our population that is registered to vote without possessing a photo I.D., they do have the means to obtain a Texas I.D. card. If they do not meet the necessary photo I.D. requirement, and they have some other form of identification that verifies their name and address, they should be allowed to vote using a provisional ballot that requires address and signature verification. I would also support stricter punishment for voter fraud.

Other Issues: Politicians failed miserably when it came to property taxes during the last Legislative Session, and it is going to take a lot of work to clean up their mess. We need to eradicate the massive amounts of waste and fraud in government. I am 100% pro-life. Preserving the sanctity of life is a right that I look foreword to defending against liberals and weak-kneed politicians who seek compromise on this issue.COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our economy, our our freedoms and our education system... I was threatened with incarceration for continuing to operate a food bank that provides to the hungry

Andy Hopper
Republican Party



Education: Master of Science in Computer Science, University of North Texas Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Minor in History from Russ College of Engineering, Ohio University

Experience: I serve as a Warrant Officer in the Texas State Guard. I have taught as an adjunct professor, worked for the private sector and defense industry, and hold a US patent. I am also a small farm owner and small business owner.

Email: andy@hopperclan.net

Website: <http://hopper4txsenate.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/hopperfortexasenate>

Twitter: twitter.com/AndyHopper4TX

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hopperfortexasenate/>

Campaign Phone: (940) 255-6674

Education: The COVID-19 pandemic has shown Texans that there are viable alternatives to the standard public-school model. However, our property taxes only support one educational possibility, and this needs to change. Texans should be able to apply the money that they earned to whatever option (private, home-school, public, charter, etc...) that they prefer for their children. Alternative schooling options are often cheaper per student. By opening up the number of choices to parents, funds that are available can be directed to the entities that need it, such as Texas' teachers.

Healthcare: I do not believe that it is the role of government to redistribute wealth or provide entitlements. The key is that Texans have access to affordable private health care options, and this can be accomplished by drastically reducing regulations and ensuring that patients are the customers of care-providers rather than insurance companies. Unfortunately, most of the obstacles here originate from Washington, D.C. rather than Austin.

Redistricting: As a software engineer, I believe that establishing districts that equalize populations and establish regularized geographic regions that align to political, geographic, or road boundaries when possible is a trivial geospatial algorithmic challenge. We should just agree on an algorithm and use it regardless of what party is in power. It would seem that the political fallout on the accusations of gerrymandering often outweighs the political benefits.

Gun Violence: The key to instituting any change always starts with education. I believe that all Texans have a responsibility to teach their children how to handle a gun safely, and how to shoot precisely. I believe that an armed society is a polite society.

Elections: The voice of legally registered Texans must be heard through ballots and that requires us to make elections accessible and accurate. Thus, I support measures that allow election officials to prove, after the fact, that a vote was cast by a particular Texan. I oppose the use of electronic voting machines on this basis, because of the opportunity for abuse and the lack of forensic data that abuse has occurred. Allowing abuse within the system disenfranchises legal voters.

Other Issues: I think that the primary issue facing Texans will continue to be the abuse of the 10th Amendment by Federal Courts. I believe that the relationship that currently exists between the states and Washington DC is illegal according to the Texas and Federal Constitutions. As well, I believe that Texans are currently being crushed by rising property taxes, and I think that while the measures taken the last legislative session were a step in the right direction, it was not nearly enough. We must alleviate the root causes.

Shelley Luther
Republican Party

No response received

Jacob Minter
Democratic Party



Email: info@minterfortexas.com

Website: <http://minterfortexas.com>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/minterfortexas>

Twitter: twitter.com/minterfortexas

Instagram: [@minterfortexas](https://www.instagram.com/minterfortexas)

Campaign Phone: (469) 431-5630

Education: It is my priority to ensure our teachers are well-paid and our schools are fully funded by working to ensure the basic allotment increases with inflation and the state pays its fair share.

Healthcare: I support legislation that would mandate transparency from healthcare and insurance providers so as to allow greater access to healthcare.

Redistricting: Implementing an independent redistricting commission can end gerrymandering in Texas. Several states have already established independent citizen redistricting commissions to ensure that citizens and not legislators have the final say in establishing and approving districts.

Gun Violence: Comprehensive gun education and safety is the best way to reduce gun violence.

Elections: Ranked choice voting is a cost-effective way to ensure the people's voices are heard and can encourage better voter turnout.

Other Issues: - no response -

Drew Springer
Republican Party

No response received

Chris Watts
Republican Party

No photo received

Education: B.S. Computer Science NTSU 1982 M.ED Counseling and Student Services UNT 1992
J.D Texas Wesleyan School of Law 2000

Experience: Real estate developer for over 30 years. Practiced law for 4 years. Have served as Mayor of Denton for 6.5 years, term ending 11/2020. Served on City Council as representative of District 4 from 2007 to 2013.

Email: chris@wattsforsenate30.com

Website: <http://wattsforsenate30.com>

Facebook: <http://wattsforsenate30.com>

Campaign Phone: (940) 380-8754

Education: We must scrub the entire state budget to ensure operational efficiency and savings. These saving can be added to school funding. Additionally, We need to ensure financial parity between traditional public education and charter schools. Currently, Charter schools receive more per student than public schools. This amounts to 750 million dollars of taxpayer funding with less state regulation. Imperative that we take a look at that formula to ensure best use of educational dollars.

Healthcare: First and foremost, we must renegotiate this year the 1115 Medicaid Waiver that has provided 25 billion dollars over the last few years of assistance to hospitals and providers for uncompensated care. We must receive an extension to avoid a catastrophic hole in healthcare. Additionally, it is imperative that we continue to ferret out and fraud, waste and abuse to ensure maximum deployment of health care dollars. .

Redistricting: We need to follow the law and ensure that no voter is disenfranchised.

Gun Violence: I support the current gun laws.

Elections: I support the current laws regulating voting in our state. I support the curbside voting option to ensure that those who want to avoid voting inside, can safely do so in their vehicle.

Other Issues: We need to reassess the emergency declaration statutes to allow the voice of the people through their elected officials be heard if a natural disaster requires extended orders. After a prescribed amount of time for a Declaration of Emergency by the Governor, a special session should be called to receive input and direction for elected representatives. We must address the crisis in rural health care and high speed internet access. Without access to high speed internet, rural cities and counties are disadvantaged when seeking telemedicine services, remote learning for students.

You may bring this *Voters Guide* into the voting booth! In 1995, the Texas law prohibiting use of printed materials, such as this *Voters Guide*, in the polling place was ruled unconstitutional (*Texas Election Code, Section 61.011*)

Your vote is your voice. Be heard.