

# 2019 ELECTION GUIDE

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

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## Issues for KISD candidates reach beyond multimillion-dollar bond program



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Ethan Carranza, 12, left, and the six candidates running for positions on the KISD school board — Lan Carter, Shelley Wells, David Michael Jones, Susan Jones, Robert People and Stanley Golaboff — get ready for the Killeen Daily Herald Candidate Forum in Killeen on Monday, March 18, 2019. Ethan delivered an opening statement on behalf of his candidate grandfather, Corbett Lawler, who was out of town and not at the forum.

BY MATT PAYNE  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

How the Killeen Independent School District is handling \$426 million in taxpayer money isn't the only hot topic of discussion among challengers and incumbents vying for seats in the May 4 Board of Trustees election. Beyond the bond, candidates have shared viewpoints on special education, transparency, employee compensation, student discipline, school safety and more. Running for Place 1 are candidates Lan Carter and incumbent Shelley Wells. Seeking the Place 2 seat are the Rev. David Michael Jones and incumbent Susan Jones, and running for Place 3 are Stanley Golaboff, Robert People and incumbent Corbett Lawler.

**PLACE 1**  
Carter has years of experience working for Copperas Cove ISD. She has also run campaigns for several political seats, and is an advocate

for special education. She said her top three issues are staff compensation, transparency and encouraging more open-door meetings between board members. She attended Killeen schools and graduated from Killeen High School. Carter has earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, and master's in computer information systems and in counseling psychology. She has taught fifth grade and kindergarten in CCISD. Wells has served on the KISD board of trustees since 2007. She is a former KISD teacher and a small business owner. Wells serves on the Killeen Education Foundation as the board of trustees representative, and has served on its board of directors since 1993. She said her top three issues are student learning and preparation for college and the workplace, employee retention and sound fiscal management.

PLEASE SEE **KISD, 5**

## 8 candidates run for Killeen council

STAFF REPORT

Eight candidates are vying for three seats on the Killeen City Council. District 2 candidates are Will Baumgartner, Mellisa Brown and incumbent Debbie Nash-King. District 3 candidates are Sandra Blankenship, Tolly James Jr. and incumbent Jim Kilpatrick. District 4 candidates are incumbent Steve Harris and Brockley King Moore. District 1 Councilwoman Shirley Fleming was unopposed, and the city canceled the District 1 election. Since the filing period ended Feb. 15, candidates for Districts 1, 2 and 3 have participated in several forums, starting March 4 with one sponsored by the Killeen Daily Herald. In the Election Guide today, the candidates answer questions about the city's financial struggles,

the main things they want to accomplish, the evening activities for youth, crimes in their districts and no-knock warrants. **DISTRICT 2** Baumgartner described himself in his candidacy application as a disabled veteran and KISD substitute teacher. He has been in the area for seven years. In his online mini-profile, Baumgartner said his top three issues are: Responsible spending along with a better balanced budget; a more effective police, fire/EMS to include more officers and firefighters and more training; bringing bigger businesses and better paying jobs. Brown is a caregiver. She listed her top three issues as citizen accessibility to elected officials and the ability to address their representatives



GABE WOLF | HERALD

Killeen City Council candidates participated in a political forum hosted by the Killeen Daily Herald on March 4 at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. The candidates are, from left, District 2, Mellisa Brown, Will Baumgartner and Debbie Nash-King; District 3, Sandra Blankenship, Tolly James Jr. and Jim Kilpatrick; and District 4, Steve Harris and Brockley King Moore.

regarding all issues at meetings; Infrastructure improvements without additional fees to residents and business owners; Balanced growth

to improve revenue and allow sustainability in the City. Nash-King is a career counselor and the District 2 incumbent who

has lived in the area for 23 years. She said her top three issues are: Adequate funding for the First Responders; continue to maintain a balanced

budget at the current tax rates; increase planned programs for the youth and senior citizens

PLEASE SEE **COUNCIL, 3**

## Central Texas College board candidates faced with taxation, tuition rates in race

BY MATT PAYNE  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Tuition rates, resident taxation and recruitment and retention of Central Texas College employees are some issues candidates for the Board of Trustees face in a race for a seat. Candidates for the Central Texas College board are the Place 2 incumbent Charles Hollinger and challenger Samuel Thorpe, and Place 3 incumbent Joe Burns and challenger James Pierce Jr. **PLACE 2** Hollinger has lived in the Killeen area for 57 years. Prime issues for Hollinger are unfunded mandates, student loans and social engineering. Thorpe, a U.S. Marine veteran, aims for low taxes and looking for other means to raise funds for CTC. Thorpe is a resident of Copperas Cove.

**PLACE 3** Burns has served as the superintendent for the Copperas Cove Independent School District since 2012. Burns has served with the Texas A&M-Central Texas Strategic Partners Education Advisory Council Committee, the Texas Association of Community Schools, the Texas Association of Federally Impacted Schools and the Texas Association of School Administrators. He aims to seek other avenues of revenue before raising taxes or tuition. Pierce, 10-year resident of Copperas Cove and former city councilman, hopes to increase veteran representation on the CTC board. He is an Army veteran. Pierce's top priorities are ensuring a variety of programs for students, accessibility of classes for students, and taxes, fees and accountability. Early voting begins April 22 and concludes April 30. Election Day is May 4.



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## 2 candidates vying for seat on Heights council

HERALD STAFF REPORTS

Harker Heights will have one contested race for a City Council seat on the May 4 ballot. Jeffrey Keith Harris and Jennifer Michelle McCann are vying for the Place 1 seat currently held by Councilman Hal Schiffman. Schiffman is finishing his second consecutive three-year term in the seat and is barred by the city charter from serving another consecutive term. Also appearing on the Harker Heights municipal ballot is Councilwoman Jackeline Soriano Fountain, who is unopposed for re-election to her Place 3 seat. Harris, 61, has been a resident of Harker Heights for the past 26 years. He is retired from the military and

PLEASE SEE **HEIGHTS, 7**



KILLEEN CITY COUNCIL	Q: Killeen has had financial struggles in recent years. How will you ensure wise choices are made when spending taxpayers' money?	Q: What is the main thing you want to accomplish in office and how would you do it?	Q: What evening activities do youth want and how can the city help make that happen?	Q: What crimes do you see in your district and how would you rally the community to fight the crimes?	Q: What is your opinion of no-knock warrants as a crime-fighting tactic?
DISTRICT 2  Will Baumgartner	When my 6-year-old knows he goes to the toy store to buy toys and he only has \$20 that he can't get two \$10 toys because he won't have enough money. Why is it that grown people can't figure this out? If you don't have the money in the budget, you don't get to keep spending like there's reserves. That reserve money is for other things like natural disasters and lawsuits.	My top priority is and always will be the safety of the citizens of Killeen. From extra lights on darkened streets and sidewalks to funding for more gear and personal in the Fire/EMS and Police, to fixing roads and infrastructure. The money is there, and we need to stop wasting money on things that others could do without. Pennies need to be pinched and fat needs to be trimmed.	The city has a responsibility to its citizens. One group of those citizens are our youth. While there are several organizations in the Killeen area that offer various programs, two main issues seem to be brought up, "How do we get the youth there, and how do we get the parents involved?" We need to have concerts, outdoor plays, festivals whatever. I am a big supporter of the arts, be it music, theater, or visual, it doesn't matter, it's still important and can be a big influence on a lot of the youth in Killeen.	My District, for the most part is divided by I-14/Hwy 190. I live on the south side and therefore I don't get up to the north side very often. Looking at various crime rate maps, the majority of crimes are assault, burglary and theft. We all need to be vigilant. Most of the crimes in this area appear to be crimes of opportunity, and with due diligence, we can each help Killeen be a safer place.	I don't like them. I, myself and no one of the members of the city council have the authority to tell the Chief Kimble and DA Garza not to use them. There is a process that would have to be implemented to make that happen. No-knock warrants are considered a safe alternative to protect all parties involved and the public. If that is so, ask the families of Detective Dinwiddie, Marvin Guy and James Scott Reed. While no-knock do end with no casualties, there is no actual evidence that has been presented to say that it is.
 Mellisa Brown	First, I would request that the private meetings that are held to discuss the proposed budget are opened to public attendance. Second, I would evaluate each expense in the proposed line item budget to make sure it is carefully considered and evaluated to see which are wants and which are needs to prioritize them. Finally, I would propose that all change orders are presented to the Council so that project costs do not become inflated without public knowledge.	Ensuring the citizens are heard and their opinions considered. I would propose a protocol change that allows for citizens to speak about any agenda item at all workshops and meetings, and add a provision allowing an open address to the council at a minimum of one meeting a month.	I have not had an opportunity to speak with a large enough portion of the youth to fully answer what they want. I do feel that the City can collaborate with KISD to survey the youth of all ages in order to implement a variety of age appropriate activities and coordinate facilities. The City also owns a number of buildings that could be utilized after hours for youth and family activities.	District 2 has the same variety of crimes as the rest of the City of Killeen including robberies, assaults, and shootings. Unfortunately, District 2 was also the site of a human trafficking location. I would work with KPD to encourage more interaction and familiarity with the citizens to build trust so citizens feel confident in reporting suspicious activity when they see it so the City can be more proactive on crime.	I am against no-knock warrants. There is no objective evidence that it increases safety for anyone. We have had an officer killed, a suspect killed for a crime that was not a capital offense without due process, officers injured, and at least one child that was put in danger and traumatized all based on the inclination that something bad might happen if the officers announced themselves. In these 3 cases, the officers did not announce themselves first and people were still injured or killed. No-knock warrants are a "Minority Report" mentality.
 Debbie Nash-King (i)	First, I would work with the city council and city manager to ensure the city has a balanced budget. Secondly, I would research all expenditure agenda items to ensure that they are needed for the good of the residents. Thirdly, I would make sure proper procedures are followed to ensure that city staff purchases the best product and service at the lowest bid.	The main thing I would like to do with the council is to increase more revenue for the city by working with Economic Development Committee and Chamber of Conference to recruit IT companies in Killeen. If this goal is accomplished; it would give the city more funding for pay increase, youth activities, and affordable homes for senior citizens.	The city needs to provide the youth a safe place to hang out with their friend's after school and during the summer. The city should continue to work with KISD and local organizations to provide free entertainment and events for our youth. For example, free classes such as, dance classes, gymnastics classes, karate classes, singing classes and cooking classes can be hosted at different locations throughout the city during the summer. The funding can come from taking advantage of federal and state grants in order to offset some of the cost.	The crimes that are the most prevalent in District 2 are auto and home invasion. I will work with the Police Department and Community by continuing to host Crime Prevention Forums and Neighborhood Watch Program in the local churches in order to keep the residents informed and safe.	As a resident, I am personally against no-knock warrants, but I do respect the law. A local, state, or federal judge will make the decision on if a no knock warrant is needed based on the evidences presented to him or her from the police officer. We need to do our very best to prevent a resident or police officer from being hurt. The police officers utilize the tactic as a crime prevention measure.

## EARLY VOTING TIMES AND LOCATIONS FOR KISD, KILLEEN, CTC AND HARKER HEIGHTS

STAFF REPORT

Here are the early voting locations for Killeen Independent School District, Killeen City Council, Harker Heights City Council and the Central Texas College's board of directors.

Note that some site allow Killeen voters to vote in the city, KISD and CTC races in one location.

Early voting by personal appearances begins April 22 and ends April 30.

**KISD**

Early voting will take place between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, at the Main Early Voting Place at the Killeen ISD Central Administration Bldg., 200 North W.S. Young Drive in Killeen.

Early voting will also be conducted at

Permanent Branch Early Voting locations established by the respective cities that lie within the boundaries of the District as listed below:

Killeen City Hall, 101 N. College St., Killeen

Gilmore Senior Center; 2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd., Killeen

Killeen Senior Center; 1700 E. Stan Schlueter Loop, Killeen

Harker Heights City Hall, 305 Miller's Crossing, Harker Heights

**KILLEEN**

The first and last days of early voting, April 22 and 30, will have extended hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voting April 23 through 26 and 29 will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Voters may use any of the four early voting locations to cast ballots for any district. Early voting locations

are:

Killeen City Hall, 101 N. College St.

Killeen Community Center; 2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd.

Lions Club Park Senior Center; 1700-A E. Stan Schlueter Loop

Killeen ISD Administration Building, 200 N. WS Young Drive (open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. all days)

**CTC**

Early voting by personal appearance will take place between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, at the Main Early Voting Place at the Killeen ISD Central Administration Bldg., 200 North W.S. Young Drive in Killeen.

Early voting will also be conducted at Permanent Branch Early Voting locations established by the respective cities

that lie within the boundaries of the District as listed below:

Killeen City Hall, 101 N. College St., Killeen

Killeen Community Center; 2201 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd., Killeen

Lions Park Senior Center; 1700 E. Stan Schlueter Loop, Killeen

Killeen ISD Central Administration Building, 200 N. W.S. Young Drive, Killeen

Harker Heights City Hall, 305 Miller's Crossing, Harker Heights

**HARKER HEIGHTS**

Early voting will be conducted at Harker Heights City Hall, 305 Miller's Crossing, Harker Heights from:

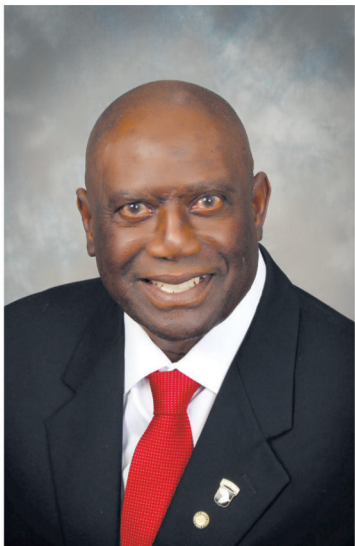
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 22, 24, 25, 26, and 30 and from

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 23 and 29.

JEFFREY KEITH HARRIS

for

HARKER HEIGHTS ★ CITY COUNCIL ★ PLACE 1



- 22 years active military service
- Master's Degree in Criminal Justice
- 26 year resident of Harker Heights
- Federal Terrorism Task Force (Ret.)
- Supports First Responders (Firefighters, Police Officers, EMS)
- Providing a voice for the citizens of Harker Heights
- Continued oversight of accountability and responsibility of the fiscal budget

Early Voting April 22–30 ★ Election Day May 4

Paid Pol. Ad. By Jeffrey Keith Harris Campaign

VOTE DR. JOSEPH BURNS

CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES | PLACE 3

EARLY VOTING APRIL 22–30



ELECTION DAY MAY 4

Pol. Adv. paid for by Dr. Joseph Burns





KILLEEN CITY COUNCIL	Q: Killeen has had financial struggles in recent years. How will you ensure wise choices are made when spending taxpayers' money?	Q: What is the main thing you want to accomplish in office and how would you do it?	Q: What evening activities do youth want and how can the city help make that happen?	Q: What crimes do you see in your district and how would you rally the community to fight the crimes?	Q: What is your opinion of no-knock warrants as a crime-fighting tactic?
DISTRICT 3  Sandra Blankenship	We need to prioritize spending for the City without overextending into unnecessary projects. As a City Councilperson, I will do this by ensuring that the funds we have available are going first and foremost to increasing the reliability and efficiency of city services, especially our emergency services and youth programs. Without these, it will be hard to maintain and improve the quality-of-life for residents and businesses.	As a City Councilperson, I want to make sure that our city's water supply is secure by working to make that Killeen gets back our title to water from the Brazos River Authority and get back our Certificate of Convenience and Necessity from Georgetown. Securing control of our water rights is critical to the security of our city's future growth and development plans. Without a say in how our water is used, we risk increased utility fees for residents and potentially losing our competitive edge in attracting new businesses to Killeen.	The first step to increasing youth activities would be to open the Killeen Community Center on Monday evenings. As usage peaks in the after-school hours, Killeen's youth should have the ability to access low-cost activities all seven days of the week. In the long term, we need to directly survey our city's youth to see what activities they want offered to ensure that we're spending money on programs and resources that will actually be used.	As many District 3 residents unfortunately know: property theft, vehicle burglaries, and malicious mischief are the most common form of crime in our District. As a City Councilperson, I will spearhead a push for renewed cohesion in our community. It is imperative for us to encourage our neighbors to get involved in neighborhood watch and other community safety and crime-prevention programs as well as closely integrating such community policing with Killeen Police and other law enforcement to keep our District safe.	Unfortunately, no-knock warrants are a tactic that are ordered by criminal courts to our law enforcement agencies by criminal courts with no input from the city council. However, our community unfortunately know the human costs of this arrest tactic with the death of a Killeen Resident last year. No-knock warrants involve high risks to both the officers involved and neighboring residents, and as such I believe that they should be used as a last resort.
 Tolly James Jr.	Zero-based line item budgeting is a method of budgeting in which all expenses for each new period must be justified. Nothing is automatic. This form of budgeting improves cost consciousness and increases the effectiveness of discussions between city manager, departments and city council about how money is spent. Secondly, monitor monthly reports comparing revenues vs. expenditures.	The most important thing I can accomplish, is the building of a consistent working rapport with our citizens. I will do this by establishing a District 3 Advisory Committee, and having quarterly workshops to enlighten our citizens on city government issues. Community engagement will empower our citizens to be a part of the process and share our legislative success during my service to them when elected.	The city could lead a forum discussing possible activities for youth including youth, parents, churches and other non-profit organizations, city officials and representatives of KISD. Solutions would need to be a collaborative effort to effectively use resources and see all possible problems and solutions.	Over the last couple of weeks in our district 3, we have had one murder, and 2 drive by shootings of cars and homes in neighborhoods. As a community, we can cooperate with law enforcement and be attentive to our surroundings and even light up our neighborhoods, but we do not fight crime. Instead of eliminating 19 police positions as we did, and cutting the training budget, lets increase funding to our number one priority, Safety.	The discussion of this tactic is a very emotional one, due to the death of one of our citizens recently. This case is open and under review. Because of this, making an emotionally charged decision, without all the facts would not be good. The evaluation of this tactic should be done under the guidance of the police chief and his leadership team.
 Jim Kilpatrick	First, determine if the item requiring funding is a 'want' or a 'need'. 'Needs' always go to the top for consideration, 'wants' will only be considered after ALL needs are fully funded. Second, determine if existing funds are available to fund the 'need', if not then determine where the funds would come from. Third determine the critical impact to citizens if not funded. Gain citizen input through open hearings, town halls and neighborhood meetings. Fourth, determine how the item fits into the existing priorities. If the 'need' is not critical, not within the established priorities, funds are not available, then I cannot and will not support.	Be a part of making the city financial stable while continuing to provide the same high quality services that exist today. I would accomplish this by continuing to support the financial policies, goals and wise business practices this Council and the City Manager has put into place. I would encourage quarterly reviews of operations by the City Manager and semi-annual reviews by the City Manager to the Council on our progress. It is most important that we stay the course in our long term plans and not make short term financial changes for political reasons.	We don't have a good grasp of what the youth want, we have not conducted a comprehensive poll to determine this, we only have thoughts and ideals what they want. So first I would call for this to be done. What can the city do, it can facilitate gaining the physical resources (buildings, parks, venues, etc) and work with private, non-profits, other governmental agencies to gain funding opportunities.	The major criminal activities are burglaries and drugs!! The first is a major activity to support the latter. First and foremost is to take the night away and "light up our neighborhoods". A simple porch light on, a dusk to dawn structure corner light or a parking area motion detector light is an excellent way to deter neighborhood crime. In the case of drugs, citizens must SEE, REPORT AND TESTIFY! The police will do the rest.	No-Knock warrants are a personal and emotional issue. I do think it matters as a representative of the citizens of Killeen what my opinion is but it should be the will of the people if this tool should be available to our First Responders. Thus I believe this issue should be decided by a referendum vote by ALL the citizens after hearing all the facts.
DISTRICT 4  Steve Harris	The decision on how and what to spend taxpayer money on should be a medium size task and decision. Why? If you have revenues coming into the city from all economically sound directions and, knowing that you will have more monies to play with outside of taxpayer money, the effort to ensure responsible spending will be easier. I will work to ensure this gets done by helping to create that more balanced and economically sound revenue stream from all available and feasible directions.	My primary goal for next two years is to work to increase our city's efforts in bringing in larger commercial and industrial businesses to the southern corridor of Killeen. According to our 2015 ThoroughFare Plan, the predicted path for commercial and economic growth is in the southern corridor. Through implementing a plan of balanced growth, I will work with the citizens, the council, city staff and all pertinent parties to make this a reality and no longer a "talked about dream."	Youth in our city would like to see evening opportunities that provide more "activity" and "leisure" choices. While the movies are part of our city's entertainment for our youth and they enjoy it, opportunities for safe places to just "hang out", to participate in low to no cost aerobic (basketball, dancing and etc.) events to keep them "moving". Food and games activities (like Dave & Buster's and gaming tournaments, etc.)" are also desired. The city can help make this happen by creating a "Youth Master Plan" aimed at addressing our diverse youth population in our city and investing in the plan.	The crimes I see happening more in District 4 are the crimes of attempted to successful vehicle break-ins, vandalism to homes and vehicles and some package thefts. As there have been 3 shootings that have taken place, 2 drive-bys and one fatal shooting, the aforementioned crimes are the most consistent in their happenings. My plan to rally the community to help fight crime would be to engage the citizens in consistent crime prevention commitments to themselves and to their neighbors before a crime occurs. This will lessen the possibility of an "emotional" interest, which tends to fade after time.	I am definitely not fond of them but, understand the logic of its controversial use. I believe that it should only be used as a last resort pending reliable and verifiable information before it is implemented anywhere in Killeen. If an outside agency comes in and wants to execute one, I would rather they execute it than our KPD officers who can be used to provide back up if necessary.
 Brockley King Moore	Did not respond to questions.	Did not respond to questions.	Did not respond to questions.	Did not respond to questions.	Did not respond to questions.

# COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

**DISTRICT 3**  
Blankenship, a nurse and former candidate for House District 54, listed her top three issues in her online mini-bio. "We need to secure Killeen's water supply with new storage methods & review current agreements to keep utility costs low. We should incentivize new industries to bring better jobs for a diverse economy. And we must ensure spending is transparent & directed at the issues that are the most pressing for Killeen." James is an HVAC contractor, who has lived in District 3 for 16 years. At the March 4 candidates forum, he said his priorities were being transparent with the residents about issues; striv-

ing to bring industry with good-paying jobs, supporting police and fire. Kilpatrick is retired and has been in the area for 34 years. He said in his news video his priorities are retention of first responders; strong economic development with the Natinoal Mounted Warfare Museum; increase youth, teen and senior citizen's activities.

**DISTRICT 4**  
Harris is a teacher and 12-year resident of District 4. Harris said his top three issues — economic development, police and fire and youth activities, fall under one umbrella — balanced growth in the city. He said his prime focus is economic development to bring larger businesses with higher paying jobs that would help increase spending in Killeen. He said a growth master plan would increase police officers and

build fire stations as the city grows. Moore retired from the military and is a former councilman who has lived in the area 20 years. In his video at [kdhnews.com/centerforpolitics](http://kdhnews.com/centerforpolitics), he said his priorities are providing equipment and tools for first responders; economic

development; infrastructure and development. In addition to the Q&A in today's guide, more information about candidates for local office and local issues are on the Herald's Center for Politics, [kdhnews.com/centerforpolitics](http://kdhnews.com/centerforpolitics).

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

Stay up-to-date on the election and candidates [kdhnews.com/centerforpolitics](http://kdhnews.com/centerforpolitics)

EARLY VOTING Begins April 22

ELECTION DAY May 4

[kdhnews.com](http://kdhnews.com)  
KILLEEN DAILY HERALD





KILLEEN  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

**Q: The district’s overall standardized test scores have generally lagged below the state average for some grades? What do you think the problem is and how would you address it?**

**Q: Will you communicate with residents of the district about school issues and finances and how will you do it?**

**Q: What would say about another taxpayer-funded bond for the school district in the next five years?**

**Q: Bond money allotted for certain projects is being used for others. What do you say about this and will you track these expenditures on behalf of the residents?**

**Q: Special ed parents have raised concerns about timely evaluations of their children to get them appropriate education, and have concerns about staffing for that education. How would you address these concerns?**

<div>PLACE 1</div> <div></div> <div>Lan Carter</div>	<p>Many variables that affect student performance, but a red flag is the STAAR test itself. According to UT Professor Walter Stroup, scores are based on other students' performance rather than what students learn in the classroom. Let's also take into consideration our student population: transient military population, homeless students, low income, and other at risks students such as children with special needs that have and haven't been evaluated. We won't know the specifics until we study our at risk students, but I do believe the practice of taking Mock STAAR tests rather than continuing to teach content isn't the answer.</p>	<p>I have always been a huge proponent of transparency and accountability and keeping the public informed is a must as an elected official. I have and will continue to use the Lan Carter for Killeen ISD Facebook page to educate the public on educational issues. I will be open to emails and phone calls from community members. I also plan to hold periodic Town Hall meetings in person as well as virtually so that I can keep abreast on issues of concerns from parents and staff.</p>	<p>I'm against having another bond within the next five years as I'm not sure KISD is being fiscally responsible with the funds. I would like to evaluate the budget and look into current cost cutting measures in place to see what's working and what's not working. Do we actually need to create new buildings or can we remodel older buildings? Are we using our finances wisely and ensuring that we are getting the best bang for our buck? Are we too top heavy with administrators? Are we investing in curriculum/resources that the staff doesn't utilize? If so, why?</p>	<p>I believe elected officials have an ethical responsibility to follow through on promises made to constituents. If we say we are going to use the money for x and y, then we need to do exactly what was agreed upon. I understand that circumstances change, but these are issues that should have been considered before pushing the bond election last May. More thought, communication, and transparency should have occurred and should occur. Yes, I would track the expenditures and post the changes to social media.</p>	<p>The first thing that I would do is take note of each concern and send the concerns to Dr. Craft. My expectation is that the Special Education Department will research the issues and have solutions in hand. I would also request the concerns be added to the School Board agenda so that everyone is aware of the issues that need to be addressed. Currently, it has been reported by parents that children who should be receiving speech services have not been receiving the services on a regular basis due to shortage of speech specialists. How long has this occurred?</p>
<div></div> <div></div> <div>Shelley Wells (i)</div>	<p>Test scores are an important indicator of student achievement. Each grade level and department hold meetings to analyze each student's test scores individually. They formulate a plan to help each student be more successful. In addition, the district is constantly looking at the instructional strategies our teachers employ to see if they are working and how they can be improved. The district has also hired instructional coaches to help build our teacher's capacity to deliver expert instruction.</p>	<p>Two-way communication between the parents, taxpayers and the school district is my goal. As your trustee, I am always available by phone or email to answer any questions. My contact information is on the district's website or I can be reached by calling the Superintendent's Office. The school district also has a Facebook page where residents can submit questions and receive responses. Board workshops and meetings are open to the public. The dates, times and agendas are available on the Killeen ISD website. Meetings are televised live on Channel 17 or can be viewed afterwards on the district's website.</p>	<p>As a KISD board member, I have always been fiscally conservative. There was a twelve-year period between the last bond issue in 2005 and this one. During that time, millions of dollars' worth of construction and maintenance projects were funded without raising taxes because we strategically managed the school district's assets. It was our policy to budget and spend tax dollars cautiously with an eye toward future growth and the sustainability of our district. I will continue to support saving now so we can fund future projects without further burdening our taxpayers.</p>	<p>The purpose of the bond was to fund safety and security upgrades, renovations and new construction. It must be spent for those purposes until all the projects are complete. Afterwards, any remaining money could be saved and used for future maintenance or construction. The bond projects can be tracked on the Killeen ISD website: Killeenisd.org which outlines: 1) timelines and budgets for each project 2) tracks each project's progress and expenditures and 3) has schematic designs and floorplans of each project There is also a section on frequently asked questions and a place to submit your questions.</p>	<p>Our special education program has made strides toward improvement and is currently in compliance with TEA guidelines. Standardized procedures for referrals and placements have been developed and timelines are being met. Additional staff continues to be added including a coordinator at each school next year to facilitate ARDs. Staff training is ongoing. Services are being provided that our students need and deserve. Is KISD perfect? No, but Dr. Craft is constantly assessing practices and evaluating how our district can improve.</p>
<div>PLACE 2</div> <div></div> <div>David Jones</div>	<p>Need to know what grades have a problem. The state test does not give an accurate assessment of a student's abilities. I believe that returning teaching to the teacher, will be a great help.</p>	<p>Yes, I would, how do we help the students, if we don't have a better relationship with the parents. Therefore, I would suggest that there should be more community forums that are well publicized in advance.</p>	<p>I would say no, we are already taxing the public beyond what many of them are able to pay as it is, there must be another way.</p>	<p>a. Bond money has a specific purpose, if it is not being used for that purpose then there should be an investigation. b. There should be a tracking system in place to show accountability.</p>	<p>a. All special Ed students deserve the right to an education. The system needs to be improved. b. I would see that Special Ed teachers receive the training needed to educate the special Ed students.</p>
<div></div> <div></div> <div>Susan Jones (i)</div>	<p>Accountability of academic performance is important and must be measured by testing, but what testing model is considered appropriate. Our society is more mobile than it has ever been before. Adding to that consideration is the 27 to 33% mobility rate experienced in KISD due to Military transfers. Public Education serves all children and when they enter our district, they do so at many different levels of academic performance. I suggest that a more recognizable test be administered ... such as the ACT or SAT.</p>	<p>Board meetings and workshops are open to the public as well as televised. Workshops clarify much of the ensuing policy discussions. Agendas are posted on the KISD Website and the KDH. Also, the KISD Facebook page and web site provides valuable information. Call me: 254-290-0383. between 7 am and 9 pm, Mon – Sun. Leave a message or text me and I will call you back. Email me Susan.Jones@Killeenisd.org or Jones4KISD@gmail. I office at Extraco Banks in Harker Heights or set an appointment to meet after duty hours. I am always accessible to hear you.</p>	<p>If the Trustees continue to exercise the past budgeting habits and surplus funding is transferred to the strategic facility funds, we may be able to build elementary and middle schools, as needed. We must continue to allocate funds for maintenance, especially as our square footage increases. With the new High School, increasing capacity at KHS, and the increased enrollment in the ECHS, it is my hope that we will not be having this discussion in 5 years. With that being said, this is all dependent on how fast our population grows and how much funding we receive for Impact Aid.</p>	<p>Anticipated savings on High School 6 (Prop A), cannot be redirected to Proposition B and change orders are inevitable. I will always look for the better solution and best value for the taxpayer's dollar ... how it serves the student's educational experience and the security of our schools. The safety of our students and the staff, as the remodeling projects are underway, must be at the forefront of all of our decisions. Gibson Consulting Grp is performing a Pre-emptive Audit and they report directly to the Committee, which I chair. Updates are posted at <a href="https://killeenisd-bond.org/bondprogress.html">https://killeenisd-bond.org/bondprogress.html</a></p>	<p>The District implemented changes from the 2016 Audit and progress was validated in a follow-up audit in the 17/18 school year. There are still efficiencies that we must work toward and recently approved the allocation for 44 Facilitators. I also endorse a follow up audit in 2020. Approximately 13% of our 45,000 students are part of our Special Education Program and the Board has nearly doubled funding since 2015. With that being said, we must do our best to deliver a free and appropriate education to all.</p>



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KILLEEN  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

**Q: The district’s overall standardized test scores have generally lagged below the state average for some grades? What do you think the problem is and how would you address it?**

**Q: Will you communicate with residents of the district about school issues and finances and how will you do it?**

**Q: What would say about another taxpayer-funded bond for the school district in the next five years?**

**Q: Bond money allotted for certain projects is being used for others. What do you say about this and will you track these expenditures on behalf of the residents?**

**Q: Special ed parents have raised concerns about timely evaluations of their children to get them appropriate education, and have concerns about staffing for that education. How would you address these concerns?**

PLACE 3



Stanley  
Golaboff

I'm not exactly sure why our scores are lagging, but based on the historical trend it's obvious this Board doesn't know either. And while I don't have the exact cause today, I believe we can figure it out by reviewing test result data to see where our students are coming up short. Then use that to determine which existing or new programs help correct those shortcomings. Programs that aid in correcting deficiencies should be implemented or used to replace ineffective learning programs. Adding additional teaching staff is also an option we should explore.

I will always communicate with residents about what we are doing with their money. The best way to do it is through the use of technology. The technology exists to allow for dashboard display of all budgetary expenses and revenue for the district. Many of our State comparable districts are already using these dashboard displays to keep their residents informed on much larger budgets than ours. We should be able to do the same thing.

I am against another bond in the next five years. Unfortunately because this Board prioritized wants over needs and is spending more money than the bond authorized, I fear a second bond is inevitable. As one of the fast growing districts in the State, KISD needs a long-term building plan. We have a classroom shortage. That is a need. The longer we delay in adding classroom capacity, the more expensive it will be. Getting rid of portables was the main selling point of the bond, yet the majority of our bond money is not going towards that goal.

The voters approved \$216M for new schools (adding capacity). Initial design cost for both schools came in a combined \$29M lower than expected. In addition the Pershing Park project came in \$9M cheaper. But instead taking that \$38M and increasing classroom capacity by building elementary school #37, the Board has increased renovation cost for the East-West Ward project by \$4M, Clifton Park project by \$19M and KHS project by \$24M for a total of \$47M. This puts the bond \$9M over what the voters approved. This is wrong and yes I will keep telling residents the truth about board spending.

I would address their concerns just like I would for any other parent. I will meet with them to listen to their concerns. I will bring the staff and the parents together to facilitate a dialogue. Special Ed parents are unhappy. They are our customer. We must hear their concerns and help them understand what we can and are doing to alleviate those concerns. If more staff is needed, then we should add more staff. Meeting a child's needs is paramount and the #1 job of KISD.



Corbett  
Lawler (i)

Our standardized scores are not bad but we want to have our students perform higher than "state averages". Part of our problem is student mobility; many of the students we test have not been in our schools very long. Another part of our problem is student preparedness. Many of our students begin their schooling with very little exposure to letters, sounds and numbers. Early childhood literacy programs pose the best hope for improving scores. As early as possible, we need to get our students to be able to read; it is the basis of all subsequent academic performance.

The District does a very good job of communicating with residents. Our board meetings are televised and recorded for play back on the District's website. We use automated phone calling systems to keep parents alerted to happenings. Any questions that residents may have regarding financial issues for KISD can be accessed through the District's website by selecting "KISD Financials". The Board is always searching for better ways to communicate with students, parents, and residents.

Without the benefit of a crystal ball, I believe there will not be a need for another bond election in the near future. The Bond Steering Committee did a very good job of planning for the needs of the District over the next few years. In my 53 years of association with the District, there have only been 3 or 4 bond elections - a tribute to the wise planning of community and school leaders of the past.

The District is NOT spending bond monies on anything other than providing the best possible facilities that are in keeping with the intent of the voters when the bond was approved last May. In some cases, the Board has decided to use Strategic Facilities Funds to enhance a project over what was originally planned. In those cases, safety for kids, less disruption for teachers and kids, and new structures versus re-modelled were the driving considerations.

The State of Texas monitors and reports any problems of these matters when and where they occur. If and/or when they are reported, those problems are addressed immediately. Throughout the last few years, the Board and the Superintendent have added staff and processes to address the concerns of parents. We are committed to serve the needs of all students by providing the necessary staff and resources to guarantee every student develops his maximum potential.



Robert  
People

I would have to find out what is taking place differently in other districts to explain why our scores are lower. However, after speaking with some teachers, they've let me know that they feel they aren't able to fully prepare, nor administer these standardized tests to the best of their abilities. Teachers need to be allowed to be more than just present, but be able to help students when they may be struggling with minor issues. There seems to be a rush to get scores from these tests, and that does not help.

Absolutely. This is the meaning of "transparency." I'm certain that residents are aware of many of these issues already, so keeping topics like these from them leaves the appearance of "something to hide." I will suggest communicating as openly with the residents through the KISD website, but also allowing myself to be available at all times to answer any questions.

I would like to be absolutely certain that this is necessary before moving forward, along with the potential amount of the bond, and the number of residents who would support what the bond would be used for.

This should not be taking place. I'm not certain as to what is being discussed in meetings prior to this for us to need to use bond money on projects other than what they were intended for. That's like my wife and I spending an hour discussing what groceries to buy, only for me to return home with an Xbox or PlayStation 4. Obviously the right conversations are not happening, or there is simply carelessness in those discussions. I absolutely will track expenditures so the residents can feel confident that their money is being spent wisely.

We need to spend the money necessary to get the staffing so that special education students are not forgotten about or placed aside. There should be nothing else more important than doing what we need to do to take care of ALL our students. The staffing for special education students needs to be near the TOP of the agenda, not near the bottom. This needs to be a priority and right now, it is clear that it is not. I would support finding out how we can improve the staffing for the special education students so timely evaluations can happen.

KISD

FROM PAGE 1

PLACE 2

Rev. Jones, a father of 13 children, is the Killeen NAACP first vice president. He has lived in the area since 1994, previously living in the Killeen area in 1977.

Jones, who found out he was dyslexic at a late age, aims to provide an equal platform for all students, and has said it "takes a village" to raise a child. He said his top three issues are

educating students, diversity of the district and funding special education.

Susan Jones has lived in Central Texas area for 34 years. Jones has been employed with Extraco Banks since 2008 and is the West Bell County mortgage manager. She was elected to the KISD board of trustees in May 2011, currently serves on the Board Audit Committee, and represents KISD on the Tax Appraisal District of Bell County board of directors.

Jones said she focuses on a detailed budgeting process,

ensuring the completion of the voter-approved bond program and employee retention.

PLACE 3

Golaboff has resided in the Central Texas area for the last 42 years, having transferred into the district as a fourth-grader and graduating from Killeen High School in 1985.

He is a retired Texas Army National Guard colonel and has worked full-time for the National Guard since 1991.

Golaboff is married to a second-grade teacher at West Ward

Elementary who has taught there since 1991. Golaboff has a bachelor's degree in journalism.

Golaboff has focused his campaign on student achievement, employee compensation and transparent governance.

Lawler has been involved with KISD for 39 years full-time and two years part-time, and retired for the last time in 2009. Twenty nine years of his career in education were spent as a campus principal, 22 of those at Killeen High School, from 1980-2002.

Lawler said he aims to boost student performance, ensure

campus safety and ensure the completion of the voter-approved bond program.

People has years of Army experience and has lived in the Killeen area for the past three years.

He said his top three issues are teacher salaries, project and construction costs to ensure a balanced budget and student assessments.

Early voting begins April 22 and concludes April 30.

Election Day is May 4.

mpayne@kdhnews.com | 254-501-7553

Florence council candidates talk about issues, resident concerns

BY EMILY HILLEY-SIERZCHULA  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

Three spots are opening on the Florence City Council in May, and the initial field of candidates had five people.

Since the election filings, one candidate, Franklin Gabriel Baker, withdrew his candidacy and another will not be eligible.

"I asked to withdraw my name but was too late to officially withdraw," said Lori Enright. "But I will be moving out of the area so I would not be eligible to run."

The Herald sent a few questions to council incumbents Lesa Ragsdale and Richard Sloan Moon, and newcomer Amanda Dawn Vance.

Moon, a retired medical doctor, was elected the council in 2013. Ragsdale, the director of transportation for the Florence school district, has been on the council since 2012. Vance will be a newcomer to the council, but she is a familiar face to many in Florence through her volunteer work.

**QUESTION 1: Tell me about yourself and your background.**

**Moon:** We moved to Florence 40 years ago because I wanted to practice medicine in a small town. I'm now retired with time to contribute to the city



Moon



Ragsdale



Vance

**Ragsdale:** We moved here in 1990 because it was the halfway point between Georgetown and Fort Hood and it's just a good place to raise our three kids.

**Vance:** I am a 38-year-old single mom. I currently care for children in my home and I volunteer wherever I can. My two main volunteer jobs are as the Florence Elementary School PTA Treasurer and a Blue Santa Thrift Store employee. I'm a lifelong resident of Florence, where my mother was raised and my son will be the third generation to graduate as a Florence Buffalo.

**QUESTION 2: What prompted you to become involved in city leadership?**

**Moon:** After two terms on the Florence City Council, I'm familiar with the issues, the complexities, and the possibilities here in Florence. I believe I can continue to make a difference.

**Ragsdale:** Several citizens asked me to run for city council.

**Vance:** In recent years I've come to learn

a lot about our city workings through volunteer work and attending council meetings. It's important to me to invest in the city because I'm raising a baby Florence Buffalo. What better way to be a part of the city you love than to be a leader? I can't wait to be a voice!

**QUESTION 3: What is the number one thing you want to accomplish as a city leader, and how would you accomplish it?**

**Moon:** Besides assuring an adequate supply of water, I'd like to see the completion of a community swim center. We have a grant for part of the cost and are gathering donations to complete it.

**Ragsdale:** I would like to enlarge our city limits to bring more homes into a larger tax base. This would help us fix roads, water and sewer lines without raising taxes on our citizens.

**Vance:** My number one goal as a city leader is to get people involved and have their voices heard. This is our city! I want to learn how it works, share how it works, and get people working on a better tomorrow.

**Question 4: What issues are Florence residents facing and which ones are most important for you to help resolve?**

**Moon:** Water. Water is, has been, and will be in the future the most important

FLORENCE POLLING LOCATIONS

**MOBILE VOTING SITE IN FLORENCE:**  
April 24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

**FLORENCE CITY HALL:** April 22 through April 27 - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
April 29 and April 30 - 7 a.m.-7 p.m  
For a full list of locations, go to: <https://www.wilco.org/elections>

issue for Texas as a whole. It's especially critical for small communities. Anyone who doesn't understand that hasn't been paying attention: water resources are less, the population is growing, and unchecked commercial and industrial usage has destroyed one aquifer after another.

**Ragsdale:** We were having water issues but we have connected with another water system so when our wells do go down we still have access to clean water. Our water and sewer lines need updating. We're looking for grants to help with this. When this infrastructure is fixed then we can repair more roads.

**Vance:** I think our biggest issue as a city is because of communication. If the city and the people worked together we could be unstoppable, like a mighty herd. I plan on being the best line of communication I can be between people and the city.





CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE	Q: What is the No. 1 thing you want to accomplish, if elected, and how will you accomplish it?	Q: Do favor having an attorney attend board meetings after the board misinterpreted state Tax Code requirements?	Q: Do you think online students need more instructional interaction? If so, how would you accomplish this?	Q: What steps would you take to increase enrollment and offset out-of-state military enrollment declines?	Q: Do you favor establishing an endowment fund that would assist students of the Early College High School with paying application fees for colleges and universities that charge the fees?
<div>PLACE 2</div> <div></div> <div>Albert Charles Hollinger</div>	I am running for the CTC Board of Trustees Position 2 because I want to help CTC continue to grow and fulfill their mission to be the premier education source for post-secondary and technical training in Central Texas. I am not running against an incumbent so there is not a program of changes to speak of. This is a naturally open slot because the incumbent chose not to seek reelection. Since Ms. Meyer made her decision known, I have been attending monthly board workshops and monthly board meetings. It appears the chancellor has a staff and a plan already in place.	No. CTC has an attorney on staff who I would always welcome at meetings and could be requested when questions are anticipated. The workshop format gives time before the board meetings for consultation and research.	I understand the on-line route requires instructors and staff be available to students in a timely manner. I am aware a plan already exists for students that chose to attend via on-line means.	It seems the current marketing plan for attracting students is sound and well executed. The military enrollment decline probably has a root in contract or memorandum of understanding (MOU) complications. This issue has not been discussed or briefed in the meetings I have attended. I am sure the issue has been addressed and there is a plan in place.	No. There was an excellent article in the April 1st issue of your paper. Among other recourses, the CTC Foundation has plans and programs in place to address this concern. Students transferring with an Associate's Degree probably do not send out a blizzard of applications like new freshmen would, this will decrease the total amount expended. I understand there are programs in place to assist the transition. However, given the current admissions scandals, we would need an endowment to fund those amounts. I have learned Texas A&M does have a fee and Baylor does not.
<div></div> <div></div> <div>Samuel Thorpe</div>	Did not respond to questions.	Did not respond to questions.	Did not respond to questions.	Did not respond to questions.	Did not respond to questions.
<div>PLACE 3</div> <div></div> <div>Joe Burns</div>	To continue to be a member of a dynamic team focused on helping Central Texas College become the preeminent college for service members on Ft. Hood and around the world, young people entering college for the first time and adults who desire to continue the practice of lifelong learning. CTC enjoys a well-earned reputation for affordability and being responsive to the needs of central Texans and service members the world over. It is my desire to build on the multitude of programs and services that helps the college attain that goal.	At times, trustees consider complex issues and may need counsel from a variety of professionals and practitioners such as: state agencies, federal agencies and in house legal counsel, to insure that actions taken are appropriate and legal. It may be beneficial for an attorney to be available for board meetings. However, a single practitioner would need experience in all aspects of college business; for example, personnel contracts, employment law, facility construction and renovation, building codes, learning disabilities, tax law, and eminent domain are just a few areas often considered by the trustees.	Online instruction is one way Central Texas College has responded to make educational coursework more accessible. Research from Minnesota University suggests it is important for the instructor to use a variety of tools to make sure instruction is relevant and engaging. Tools may include embedded videos, resource hyperlinks, interactive interim assessments, tools for note taking and the posing of questions or the sharing of concerns. The same research informs us that successful online learners are persistent, good time managers, effective communicators, and are motivated and independent. Therefore, online learning may not be the most effective instructional arrangement for every student.	It is important to note that Central Texas College has seen a 6% increase in enrollments this year. This increase is reflective of the college's responsiveness to updating and expanding course offerings around the globe. With the military recovering from years of funding restrictions and organizational downsizing, the college has redoubled its efforts to attract service members who are seeking to enhance their skill set. In addition, CTC has enhanced its efforts at recruiting high schools students across the service area. Examples include the partnerships with KISD's Early College High School and Copperas Cove ISD's Early College Program.	For many young people, their opportunity is limited due to financial resources. In much of central Texas, schools serve a student population that approaches or exceeds 60% who live at or below the national poverty level. However, financial need does not limit a student's potential. Sometimes a bright young mind just needs some support and a hand up to open the doorway of opportunity. The U.S. Department of Education details many benefits of earning a college education, one is a dramatic increase in lifetime earning potential. Therefore, I support assisting students as they seek to initiate their college education.
<div></div> <div></div> <div>James A. Pierce Jr.</div>	To do what is necessary so that property taxes will not be raised on citizens in Bell and Coryell counties. You can do this by not funding unnecessary projects and offering classes that students will want to take and that will make them more educated and highly professional citizens.	An attorney should always be present at board meetings. We are elected citizens from the community and not experts in governmental law. This would allow us to receive the best advice possible and able to make the best decisions.	My Degree is in History and took several online classes through UMUC that were insanely intense. All college classes should be challenging. Students should be earning their degree and not given their degree. It makes it more valuable in the end when the student finishes requirements for graduation.	I would like to see CTC continue to increase vocational type courses in nursing, industrial trades (carpentry, welding, electrical, and HVAC), and police and fire training. If CTC doesn't have it already, develop a standing list of legitimate businesses in the region that will hire them.	The ECHS is part of the Killeen ISD system I feel that if KISD thinks that this is important for the students of ECHS then it should be them that establishes it and, also make the service available to all their high school students. There is no guarantee that the agreement between KISD and CTC will always be in place or changed.

# 5 candidates are vying for 4 seats on the Belton City Council

STAFF REPORT

Five candidates are vying for four seats on the Belton City Council. They are Cindy Black, John Holmes, Dan Kirkley, David K. Leigh and Craig Pearson.

Black did not respond to emails from the Herald with the questions.

**QUESTION 1: What is the No. 1 thing you would like to accomplish in office and how will you do it?**

**HOLMES:** Continue serving the community of Belton. Fiscal responsibility, good stewardship, and being an advocate for the taxpayer. No axe to grind or special agenda from me.

**KIRKLEY:** Because I grew up in Belton and watched our community flourish in both its fiscal soundness and community spirit, I believe the best contribution I can make to our community is to help manage its growth while maintaining our small town atmosphere. That is accomplished through constant communication with all our citizens and engaging them in issues they feel most important.

**LEIGH:** I've served multiple terms as a council member and several terms on Planning & Zoning, so I can't say that there is a 'single issue' that needs to be addressed. If I am able to continue serving on the council, I am looking forward to the last few years of the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) that has allowed us to use tax revenue from new development to help fund things like the downtown façade grants, improvements in city parks, and improvements along Nolan Creek.

**PEARSON:** Belton is truly a special place and I love Belton! We must continue to protect the legacy and character of our great city while improving the quality of life and managing the growth that is upon us. We must accomplish this while keeping the



Black



Holmes



Kirkley



Leigh



Pearson

city tax rate low and actively seeking to expand our tax base to reduce the burden on individual tax payers. Working within our planning and budgeting process we must keep our first responders and all our staff well led, trained, equipped, compensated and fully staffed to provide the protection and services our citizens deserve. That can only be accomplished through our strategic planning and budgeting process.

**QUESTION 2: How will you communicate about city issues to Belton residents?**

**HOLMES:** Friends, neighbors, taxpayers, and anyone who wants to discuss an issue, I am happy to speak with. For the majority of major issues we have multiple public forms, request public input, and often form an advisor committee.

**KIRKLEY:** Personal availability is the most significant form of addressing issues of our citizens. That availability occurs for our citizens through public hearings, attending council meetings, making phone calls and requesting personal meetings. Being on the Belton City Council should be an act of selfless service (the salary is \$1.00 per year). Open communication and involving our neighbors is the key to our success.

**LEIGH:** This is kind of a loaded question. I grew up in the country with parents and grandparents who served on the school board or water boards and I was always taught to be involved and be informed. Therefore, I try to stay plugged in to the local community through my personal in-

volvement with the Chamber, the Lion's Club, through church and through my businesses. I also keep up with social networking

Manager, we begin to look at those needs several months in advance, prioritizing the most critical needs as we progress through those requests. My personal goal, as we go through the process, is always to maintain our current tax structure at its base rate to the greatest degree possible.

**PEARSON:** I believe responsible spending equals stewardship. The best way to be a good steward of public funds is to be a good steward of my own funds and then treat the public funds as if it were my personal responsibility. The best way to spend responsibly is to have a plan, budget to the plan, and stick to the budget. I look forward to working with the city as we look at creative ways that we may be able to get our general fund to pay for projects as we go and stop relying on public debt for many projects.

**PEARSON:** The budget process in Belton is comprehensive, rigorous and transparent and the administration of the budget is impeccable. Every department head develops his budget based on his department's defined goals and objectives derived from the current Strategic Plan. They vet their budgets through the staff and city manager and present them during scheduled council meetings open to the public. The Finance Department that administers the approved budgets has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 26 consecutive years, and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 32 consecutive years, both awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association.

**QUESTION 3: What will you do to ensure the taxpayers' money is spent responsibly?**

**HOLMES:** I am a tax payer first and elected official second. I am very proud of every fiscal vote I have made, proud that I fought to keep fees low. I truly understand the budget process, composition of the tax rate, and impact of the effective tax rate. I understand we have had tax increases through higher property values and we must prepare for leaner days.

**KIRKLEY:** Each year, our staff goes through an arduous process preparing budget requests. In conjunction with our City

**QUESTION 4: What would you envision for the Heritage Park expansion?**

**HOLMES:** If you have attended an event in Heritage Park recently you know

PLEASE SEE **BELTON, 7**









# 6 Lampasas city council candidates fight for 2 available seats

STAFF REPORT

Three people are vying for mayor and three are seeking the Place 2 council seat in Lampasas.

Incumbents Delana Keele Toups in Place 1 and T.J. Monroe in Place 6 are unopposed.

The mayoral candidates are incumbent Misti Talbert, Robert “Bob” Goodart and Brandin Paul Lea. The Place 2 candidates are Randall Glenn Clark, Jason David Glass and Milvern Crozier.

Also on the ballot is a proposition asking whether voters are for or against: “The legal sale of all alcoholic beverages including mixed beverages.”

Candidates Lea and Crozier did not respond to Herald questions and did not provide a photo.

**QUESTION 1: What is the No. 1 thing you want to accomplish as a council member and how will you accomplish it?**

## MAYOR

**Misti Talbert:** I want to secure our future and protect the Lampasas way of life. Planning and making responsible decisions regarding infrastructure, capital improvements, development and growth is more critical now than ever before in Lampasas. In order to move in the direction the residents want, the elected officials must be engaged in the community and they must be accessible. I will continue the efforts to keep the residents involved, such as town hall meetings, stakeholder collaboration, and various forums that allow for input and direction from those impacted by the decisions we are making. I will also represent this city and its needs and concerns on a regional and state level. The relationships I have worked to build not only locally but across the state have proven to be valuable when positioning Lampasas for prime opportunities and assistance when needed.

**Robert “Bob” Goodart:** I would like to see more public participation at the council meetings and more public discussion about issues That concern the City. I feel that honesty and absolute transparency will open up public conversation.

**Brandin Paul Lea:** No reply.

## PLACE 2

**Randall Glenn Clark:** My No. 1 thing is to try to give back. I’ve worked for 28 and a half years. Started building inspection department and public works department. I want to give back. I don’t have an agenda against any council members on any specific thing, but there are a lot of things going on in the city of Lampasas I would like to shape. Financial stability is probably my No. 1 thing.

**Jason David Glass:** To improve and maintain our Courthouse Square and downtown area. More business will draw more traffic into Lampasas and will help our economy. Accomplishing this will take a collective effort with City Council and the Lampasas EDC.

**Milvern Crozier:** No reply.

**QUESTION 2: What area in Lampasas presents the most room for improvement, and how will progress be made?**

## MAYOR

**Misti Talbert:** Our aging water infrastructure is an immediate concern. While officials have worked exhaustively to ensure our access to water and to stabilize the rates we pay for that water, the delivery of it must continue to be improved upon. While there is no fail



Talbert



Goodart

proof system, and our crews respond in the most expedient and dependable fashion, we absolutely must continue to invest in our lines and system. Any downtime from lack of flow/pressure has an immediate impact on the residents, the schools and our businesses. The city must exhaust all efforts to make sure that those interruptions don’t continue to affect us. It’s time to move the needle on the situation from discussing the issue to actually solving the issue, just like the work we are doing to research solutions for the internet issue in Lampasas.

**Robert “Bob” Goodart:** The City of Lampasas needs to update a lot of infrastructure issues such as water/waste water. We need to improve our roadways and drainage around town

**Brandin Paul Lea:** No reply.

## PLACE 2

**Randall Glenn Clark:** Roads and infrastructure are two of the biggest things. As far as an area, there’s an area in the northeastern portion of the city that still needs some improvement. The infrastructure is something most cities are buying and we’re no different.

**Jason David Glass:** Again, downtown can be a major attraction. The potential of increasing local restaurants and merchants will increase revenue by attracting people from both in and outside of our city. Installing updated I.T. infrastructure will help our small businesses run smoothly, as well as provide better service to our citizens.

**Milvern Crozier:** No reply.

**QUESTION 3: What will you do to make sure the council is transparent with residents?**

## MAYOR

**Misti Talbert:** We have a responsibility to make information available to all citizens. I would encourage staff and council to also work to make that information easier to access. I think perhaps Live Streaming of our city council meetings is one possible option that would do just that. Not only would everyone have the ability to watch as decisions are being made by their representatives, but I also believe it would go a long way in making sure the actual FACTS come across clearly.

I would also like to see the creation of an annual Lampasas’ Citizens Financial Report. An easy to use and understand document that provides insight and keeps citizens aware of the financial activity of the city. It would help provide an explanation of our finances while not just being a bunch of numbers on a spreadsheet. It is one thing to provide the data, but we should go a step above that and explain the data as well.

**Robert “Bob” Goodart:** I will be honest to the public. They have the right to know about all issues with the city ranging from projects being completed to the funds being spent. The citizens of Lampasas elect the Council Members so I feel the citizens need to be well informed and hold the City Council responsible.

**Brandin Paul Lea:** No reply.

## PLACE 2

**Randall Glenn Clark:** I am only one vote, but I would welcome the public to



Clark



Glass

start coming to the meetings. We need the input because we’re the financial caretakers they voted in. We need their

opinions.

**Jason David Glass:** I will continue what is being done now by council, hold open meetings and encourage the public to come to our meetings.

**Milvern Crozier:** No reply.

**QUESTION 4: What is your vision for Lampasas moving forward?**

## MAYOR

**Misti Talbert:** Once someone described a product to me as “it’s the same, but it’s better.” While that seems simple but also difficult to achieve, that’s exactly what I want for this community. Lampasas is great place with genuinely good people. The values and the beliefs of the people and their desire to continue to pass those on is something we must work to protect. I have never thought we needed to “change” anything about Lampasas, but that doesn’t mean I don’t want to make it better for the people who live here. The residents of Lampasas work incredibly hard for the things they have, we aren’t a community full of highly paid individuals expecting a luxury lifestyle. The vast majority of us work tirelessly to provide for ourselves and our families.

**Robert “Bob” Goodart:** Lampasas is a small hometown community and listening to the Citizens of Lampasas they want to keep the small town feeling here. Lampasas is a great place to raise a family. Lampasas is close enough to the larger Cities that we can go on day trips with family and friends and at the end of the we can come back to the community we love to call home.

**Brandin Paul Lea:** No reply.

## PLACE 2

**Randall Glenn Clark:** To prepare us for future growth in all areas.

**Jason David Glass:** We as a city have a lot to look forward to. We have a large development being built to accommodate 67 homes, Oil states has chosen to build

a large warehouse here and more people are moving into our city. My vision is to encourage more new businesses and make our town attractive to larger businesses that may be looking for a new home.

**Milvern Crozier:** No reply.

**QUESTION 5: How do you plan to draw visitors to Lampasas?**

## MAYOR

**Misti Talbert:** The city council and the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce, along with our Economic Development Corporation have been working diligently on building a more impactful and dynamic working relationship. While the area of tourism has been determined to be the responsibility of the Chamber, we have all come to realize that a collaborative effort in marketing would be beneficial to everyone involved. I’m excited to see where those efforts will lead us moving forward. The team is in place and the work has begun and I know in my heart its only a matter of time before those efforts result in a larger number of visitors with a new appreciation for and desire to experience the Lampasas we all already know and love.

**Robert “Bob” Goodart:** I feel that the City Council is not in the business of bringing in tourism. We have Boards and Committees that plan and put together such as our annual Spring Ho event as well as numerous events throughout the year. We also have a very busy Chamber of Commerce that plans local events such as our annual hunters welcome and local rodeo events.

**Brandin Paul Lea:** No reply.

## PLACE 2

**Randall Glenn Clark:** To encourage economic development. We need to tie down downtown and key avenue. We have a lot of state maintained areas in the cities, so we need to try to bring those areas together. Promotion is very big, and to bring the citizens together.

**Jason David Glass:** To encourage business growth. Businesses will provide jobs for our community, draw more people to our town and provide revenue for the future.

**Milvern Crozier:** No reply.

# Lampasas school district candidates discuss priorities

STAFF REPORT

Lampasas ISD has two open seats, only one of which is contested. Jeff Rutland and Daryl Hurst are seeking Place 4. Incumbent David Millican is unopposed for Place 5.

**QUESTION 1: What is the No. 1 thing you want to accomplish as a board member and how will you accomplish it?**


## PLACE 4

**Jeff Rutland:** If I had to list one thing it would be to increase the CTE programs. Some of our kids have no plans to attend College. We need to do all we can to help and direct all kids. I know currently the CTE programs are growing and I think that is great. Let’s help our kids get ahead in trades like plumbing, electrical, and other construction trades. The Ag program also falls under this Umbrella. Our Ag programs from livestock judging

to showing livestock teach our kids skills that they can use in their future endeavors.

**Daryl Hurst:** Top priority is to provide a more all-around quality education for our students. One primary way to accomplish a more quality education for students is to provide better support/backing to teachers who possess excellent leadership skills and are top-notch performers in the classroom. Lampasas ISD is not financially wealthy hence it is difficult to properly support our teachers with a deserving pay raise. Our school district’s average teacher pay is about three to four thousand less than the State’s annual average salary. Therefore, since our school district cannot easily raise teacher’s salary, we should ensure that an exceptional work environment exist where quality teachers are hired, supported, and retained through performance and merit.

PLEASE SEE **DISTRICT, 9**



RE-ELECT

Jim Kilpatrick

Killeen City Council

District 3

DUTY ★ HONOR ★ CITY

EARLY VOTING: APRIL 22 - 30

APRIL 22 & APRIL 30 POLLS OPEN 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

APRIL 23, 24, 25, 26 & 29 POLL OPEN FROM 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS:


CITY HALL - 101 N. COLLEGE ST.

KILLEEN COMMUNITY CENTER - 2201 E. VETERANS MEMORIAL

LIONS PARK SENIOR CENTER - 1700-A E. STAN SCHLUETER LP


KISD ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING - 200 N. WS YOUNG DR. (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EVERY DAY)

SOLDIER



★100% Disabled ★Vietnam Veteran

CITIZEN



★Husband ★Father ★Grandfather ★Neighbor

Political Ad Paid by Jim Kilpatrick, 2706 Casey Dr., Killeen, TX 76543. Myrna Banzon- Treasurer.







# Salado aldermen candidates talk safety, growth, before election

BY BRITTANY SODIC  
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

The Salado Board of Aldermen is looking to fill three seats in the upcoming municipal election, to take place May 4. Those seats currently belong to Aldermen Andy Jackson and Michael McDougal, who will not be seeking re-election, and the seat once filled by Fred Brown that was left vacant after his resignation.

Rodney Bell, John Cole, Amber L. Dankert, and Linda M. Reynolds will be the four names on the ballot looking to fill those spots.

Reynolds, also a 2018 Salado mayoral candidate, did not respond to attempts at contact by the Herald.

Early voting will be from April 22 to 30 and will take place at the Salado Civic Center, 601 N. Main St.

**QUESTION 1: Do you think the village needs to focus more on attracting new businesses, supporting those already established, or both? How can it do that?**

**Bell:** First and foremost, the focus needs to be on businesses that are already established. They have made the commitment to Salado and that is very important. We support the businesses by continuing the focus on tourism and attracting visitors to our community. New businesses will emerge organically by recent infrastructure changes. Our commitment needs to be maintaining our standards by adhering to our comprehensive plan.

**Cole:** The city needs to support our existing businesses that have made the city what it is today, but also encourage new businesses that are willing to fall in line with the comprehensive plan. By doings so, our city with its rich heritage and charm, will continue to be a special place to shop, or just come and have a Salado Day.

**Dankert:** Both. The village must understand that supporting current businesses that are bringing in tourism and tax dollars is critical, and new businesses also have the opportunity to contribute greatly to the local economy. Current businesses need help with attracting clientele to the area, as well as support with funding their part of the sewer infrastructure. New businesses will need support in navigating the ordinances in order to develop into an asset for our community. We have to start seeking out businesses to mindfully develop the west side of I-35 to contribute to our tax base and draw in highway traffic.



**Bell** **QUESTION 2: How would you address residents' concerns of infrastructure-related construction, i.e. the wastewater service project, roads, etc.?**

**Bell:** The concern now is the effect of the Main Street improvement project. This will once again impact the businesses on Main Street and needs to be implemented around all tourism and commercial events in the village. Communication by village staff will be the best first step and coordinating the efforts along with TxDOT. We need to hold TxDOT accountable for ensuring this project is completed timely and without impact on the businesses in our community.

**Cole:** For the record, the citizens of Salado voted in favor

**Dankert:** Residents must understand that they fund the infrastructure. Without tax increases (which I am not in support of at this time) the village may not be able to fix everything. But, residents must also elect leadership who give them a voice. The Aldermen should use every available resource to fix roads and infrastructure that are failing first, and then use the rest to maintain the infrastructure. The budget should reflect an increase in this area, as more infrastructure is added. Impact fees must be re-assessed now to ensure they are appropriate and fair.

**QUESTION 3: As more people continue to choose Salado as their home, do you think growth represents more problems? If so, how should they be addressed?**

**Bell:** The proximity of our village to I-35 and north Austin is going to attract growth. We are at a crossroads in this growth pattern and how we address the growth is a major concern. We need to have a better working relationship between Planning and Zoning and the Board of Aldermen. In addition, the standards set in the past need to be a foundation for our growth in the future. We cannot and should not blindly change the standard just to attract new growth. If developers want to be in our community, they should not expect waivers from the village.

**Cole:** Growth is inevitable, and with the right people elected to serve on our

city council, we can embrace growth and change while keeping Salado the beautiful and special place it is. I believe growth problems can be managed, if in-depth studies and all they encompass are performed and analyzed. The city must plan and forecast projected growth and plant shade trees today, for the Salado of tomorrow. That is what we are supposed to do.

**Dankert:** Growth always means more problems, but it is also an opportunity. People move to Salado for a reason – the same reason that the rest of us are already here – because it is a great place to live! Managed growth will mean more opportunity for businesses without minimizing quality of life of current residents. This may mean setting limits on minimum lot sizes, and requiring more green space in planned communities. It will also mean maintaining a good relationship with Salado ISD, the Salado Water Supply, and other organizations to ensure the growth is appropriate for maintaining future quality of life.

**QUESTION 4: If elected, what would you do to inform voters of important issues and encourage engagement?**

**Bell:** Communication to voters needs to be consistent. My belief is that this communication should start with village staff and be published on at least a monthly basis. This would give our community an outline of events or projects that are planned or being considered. Salado is very fortunate to have citizens that are actively engaged in many different areas. The hope is that some that are not engaged would be informed and motivated to join.

**Cole:** Communication is the key to better local government. We have a good solid local newspaper and a great city web site, both venues display information that voters need to know. I fully encourage our citizens to take advantage of the information available and attend the bi-monthly city council meetings to take part in the discussions and the decision-making processes and gauge the performance of the individuals elected.

**Dankert:** The village simply has to become more digitally minded. During my last term on the board, I pushed hard for recording meetings and live-streaming,

as well as social media updates. However, the board found this to be too much of an assumption of risk. I will try again under new leadership to make the meetings and information more accessible to the entire community. Also, simply being present around the community at events opens my ears to many important topics that may not otherwise be made known. Face-to-face, small-group meetings are always welcome and important!

**QUESTION 5: What local issue(s) do you think need more attention from the Board of Aldermen that you would be interested in pursuing, i.e. safety, growth, community engagement, etc.?**

**Bell:** As mentioned earlier, the growth of our community is at a crossroads. It will be very important for our Aldermen to hold the line on growth and remain steadfast to the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances. My main focus will be on restructuring the debt of the village and work to reduce or eliminate the tax rates implemented to build the wastewater treatment system. This will be done by meeting with the village financial advisor in implementing a two year plan for accomplishing this task.

**Cole:** City safety would be my number one concern. We need to find a way to stabilize our police force and make it a career location, not a stop over to get experience and then move on. Our police force needs to be fully engaged through experience and familiarity to provide the best possible service. Secondly, the BOA needs to further develop the working relationship between our “COP” Citizens on Patrol program and our police force.

**Dankert:** Each of these areas plays an important role — but resident priorities are what we should pursue! Appropriately managing growth is key as water resources and infrastructure struggle to keep up with our expanding village. Community engagement is also important, as the decisions we make will directly impact the residents. Committees are a great resource, but the board will have to trust their decisions. I am a big advocate in community engagement, but we have to get people to trust the village enough to communicate with us. Relationship building will be more important than ever in the upcoming year.

## SALADO ISD

FROM PAGE 9

**state performance standards?**

**Kelley:** I feel we have hired qualified administrators that are very good at hiring staff to help our students meet their performance standards. Our administrative team gives the school board members updates on student performances regularly and works hand in hand with staff to ensure student success.

**McLane:** To help the district meet the state performance standards, I would strive to give the teachers all the support they need to make each student achieve their personal best. I believe teacher support is crucial from administration. The state performance standards are high, and I believe our district is fully prepared to achieve these goals.

**Webb:** I expect Salado schools to exceed state performance standards. To ensure this, I will familiarize myself with what the state performance standards are. I will review regular reports on how each school is performing. If standards are not being met, the board and superintendent will take action by identifying why standards are not being met. Ensure adequate resources and training are being provided to meet the performance standards.

**QUESTION 3: Do you think it is important for the SISD administration to communicate issues and news to residents and, if so, how would you do that?**

**Kelley:** I do feel that the SISD administration needs to communicate issues and news to residents. I feel using the various forms of communication including email, local media and other technological resources to communicate is an appropriate way to keep our residents informed.

**McLane:** Yes, as a parent in the district, I believe it is very important for the district to communicate issues and news. Dr. Michael Novotny does an excellent job keeping the parents informed as issues arise, and I would hope this would continue.

**Webb:** Communication by a public supported institution is imperative to maintain engagement and support by the community. The district does a good job disseminating news daily via social media and email and the superintendent, by his weekly newspaper column. As the

### SALADO, SISD POLLING PLACES

**WHAT:** Early voting begins April 22 and ends April 30. Voting for both the Village of Salado and Salado Independent School District will be conducted at Salado Civic Center, 601 N. Main St., during the following dates and times.

**APRIL 22:** 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

**APRIL 23-26:** 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**APRIL 27:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**APRIL 29:** 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

**APRIL 30:** 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

district grows in the future, video streaming of board meetings should be considered to strengthen communication.

**QUESTION 4: What do you think of the district's measures to ensure the safety of students from potential danger, such as school gun violence, and do you advocate for additional measures?**

**Kelley:** I feel like the district is doing all we can at this time with the funds available to ensure the safety of the students. We are working on retrofitting our older campuses with safety in mind. When we designed the newer buildings safety was a top priority and we will be hiring a safety officer this fall.

**McLane:** Safety at school is a number one priority. Without feeling safe, a child cannot grow to their full potential. I believe our district does a good job keeping the students safe by using several means. One cannot enter the four campus buildings without checking in with the office first and the outside doors are locked. Our district also uses the SafeSchools Alert, a nation-wide program that allows anonymous users to alert the district of any safety concerns.

**Webb:** A safe educational environment for students and staff is critical for academic success. The district has done a good job addressing the physical safety of our schools and in the past has effectively managed incidents involving threats to student and staff safety by having protocols in place and by coordinating with local law enforcement. As the district grows, school safety will become more difficult to manage and the addition of safety resource officers to monitor and engage with students and staff would be beneficial to combat internal and external threats.



RE-ELECT  
**SUSAN JONES**  
KISD SCHOOL BOARD PLACE 2

A Well-Rounded Candidate

A VETERAN THAT CONTINUES TO SERVE



OUR CHILDREN OUR COMMUNITY



MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



CONSERVATIVE FISCAL LEADERSHIP



SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENTS

PAID FOR BY THE SUSAN JONES CAMPAIGN HAL SCHIFFMAN TREASURER  
890 VERNA LEE BLVD HARKER HEIGHTS 76548