



# **VOTERS GUIDE**

## **2026 City of Denton and Denton ISD**

### **Election Day Saturday, May 2, 2026**

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**First Day of Early Voting - Monday, April 20, 2026**

**Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail - Monday, April 20, 2026**

**Last Day of Early Voting - Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

#### **About Local Offices:**

**Texas Association of School Boards** Running for School Board: What You Need to Know

<https://www.tasb.org/resources/running-for-school-board>

**Texas Municipal League** Essential Reading

<https://www.tml.org/215/Essential-Reading>

**Need more information? Am I registered to vote? Where do I vote?**

**VOTEDENTON.GOV**

**VOTETEXAS.GOV**

**City of Denton** <https://www.cityofdenton.com/421/Elections>

**Denton ISD** <https://www.dentonisd.org/our-district/board-of-trustees/elections>

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# DENTON CITY COUNCIL PLACE 7 MAYOR

City Charter: [https://library.municode.com/tx/denton/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTICH\\_ARTIITHCO\\_S2.01NUSETE](https://library.municode.com/tx/denton/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTICH_ARTIITHCO_S2.01NUSETE)

Elections Information: <https://www.cityofdenton.com/421/Elections>

Map: <https://cityofdenton.com/DocumentCenter/View/4843/All-City-Council-Voter-Districts-PDF>

The Mayor, Place 5 and Place 6 are elected at large in even years.

	Why are you seeking this office?	What are your qualifications for this office?	What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?	What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?	What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in the city and how will you advance it?
<b>Brian Beck</b>	Denton is facing real decisions about growth, cost of living, and how we prepare for the future. After multiple terms on City Council, I've seen where we can do better and how to get results that truly make a difference. I'm running for Mayor to focus on affordability, strengthen infrastructure, protect our environment, and support creativity, innovation, training, and career development so people can build successful lives and stay in Denton.	I've served three terms on City Council, including as Mayor Pro Tem, and currently chair the Committee on the Environment and the Development Code Review Committee. I've led meaningful efforts on affordability, sustainability, and long-range planning. Professionally, I'm a computational biologist and educator with decades of experience analyzing complex systems, bringing thoughtful, data-driven, and practical solutions to city government.	Open communication starts with showing up consistently and explaining the "why" behind decisions. I prioritize meetings with neighborhood organizations, public forums, and regular online updates so residents can stay informed and engaged. I focus on better coordination of infrastructure work and clearer communication so residents know what to expect and experience fewer disruptions. I've worked to make development and policy processes easier to navigate, empowering residents to participate early and meaningfully. As Mayor, I will expand digital transparency tools, improve accessibility of information, and ensure consistent two-way communication so City Hall listens as much as it informs.	My top concerns are preserving green space, managing growth responsibly, and building long-term climate resilience. I've worked to add wildlife corridors and conservation priorities to our Comprehensive Plan and will continue protecting places like Clear Creek and other natural assets. I support missing-middle housing and transit-oriented development that fits neighborhoods while reducing sprawl and long-term costs. I will advance clean energy and battery storage to lower emissions, improve reliability, and reduce financial risk. I also prioritize blue-green stormwater systems that reduce flooding, protect water quality, and ensure development enhances, rather than degrades, our environment.	My vision is a safe, connected transportation system that gives people real choices - whether they drive, walk, bike, or take transit. I've supported bike and pedestrian studies, safer street designs, and better coordination of infrastructure projects across departments. As Mayor, I will prioritize complete streets, transit-oriented development, and improved public transit access that connects people to jobs and services. Coordinating street, utility, and drainage work reduces disruption and saves money. I will also ensure clear, proactive communication so residents understand timelines and impacts. Transportation should improve quality of life, reduce costs, and strengthen connections across our community.
<b>Angela Brewer</b>	I'm running to build the city that built me. As a native Dentonite, mom, and business owner, I believe government should be about neighbors solving problems together. 2026 is a fresh start for Denton. I'll lead an invitational city where you always have a seat at the table. My goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize affordable growth for residents, not special interests.</li> <li>• Build smart, safe infrastructure.</li> <li>• End pretend listening at City Hall.</li> <li>• Champion local small &amp; micro-business.</li> </ul> Denton First, Community Always.	I offer a blend of professional expertise and the lived experience of a working Denton parent. With 20+ years as an educator, I specialize in bringing people together to solve problems. As the only candidate with a young child, I navigate the same budget struggles as my neighbors. My service includes the City Charter Review Committee, Interfaith Ministries board, 100 Dentonites who Give a Damn, various committees at First United Methodist Church, and Denton Rotary.	My job as Mayor is to be the lead communicator. That means building real connection, where residents are active partners through traditional & creative engagement. To ensure Denton is citizen-led, I will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove Barriers: Provide childcare at city meetings, offer varied meeting styles, &amp; use tech-driven tools to gather ideas so all can participate.</li> <li>Host 6 Meet with the Mayor Townhalls per year for face-to-face accountability.</li> <li>Launch a Budget Sandbox: An online tool where folks test financial scenarios &amp; provide feedback on our priorities.</li> <li>Reform City Boards, not end them.</li> <li>Start a Civic Lab: The Lab will offer education &amp; tours to empower residents.</li> </ul> We must end pretend listening and return the power of the City to the neighbors it serves.	My top concern is ensuring Denton's growth doesn't cost us our identity or our green spaces. We must move from developer-driven sprawl to community-led growth that respects our land & our taxpayers. I will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritize Sustainable In-Fill: Focus on revitalizing existing neighborhoods with medium-density builds.</li> <li>Protect Green Space: Maintain tree preservation &amp; close loopholes that let developers pay fees to avoid building parks because green space protects our watershed and cools our city.</li> <li>Actually Include Dentonites: Bring neighbors into the planning process early, ensuring development serves our needs for affordability, not just special interests.</li> </ul> Denton can grow without losing its soul, and we can make that happen when we work together.	My vision is a connected city designed for people, not traffic. We cannot simply pave our way through growth; we must build a smarter, neighborhood-centered network. I will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote Centralized Neighborhoods: Encourage development that puts groceries &amp; other needs close to home, reducing commutes &amp; making Denton more walkable.</li> <li>Invest in Real Bus Routes: End GoZone and use small, efficient buses for dependable rides.</li> <li>Use Trails as Transit: Build our trail network as a functional transit corridor for bikers &amp; walkers to reach work &amp; school.</li> <li>Build Infrastructure Early: Require sidewalks &amp; bike lanes during development &amp; focus on proactive street maintenance to avoid high rebuild costs.</li> </ul> By investing in a smarter network, we keep Denton moving.
<b>Shannon Childs</b>	I am running for mayor because of what I have experienced working in Denton. Through my work with students facing housing instability, financial hardship, and immigration barriers, I have learned where our systems fall short. I am running to center affordability and livability, strengthen community connection, and bring accountability to this role. Denton deserves leadership that shows up and invests in the people who already call it home.	I have lived in Denton for over 15 years and in Denton County my entire life. My work in casework, higher education, and advocacy has been rooted in helping people navigate systems that were not built for them. I may not come from a political background, but I am grounded in service and accountability to the people of Denton, not political parties, developers, or corporations.	Open communication has to be a priority. I want to build stronger community networks that create direct, reliable ways for residents to share concerns and ideas with the City Council. Denton has so many people already doing the work, from nonprofits to small businesses to community organizers, and the city should be more active in partnering with them, not working in silos. <p>That means more intentional outreach, clearer communication channels, and consistent follow through from leadership. When people feel heard, they are more likely to stay engaged.</p> <p>By investing in these relationships, we can strengthen our social infrastructure in a way that supports affordability, access, and long term stability for the people who need it most.</p>	My top environmental concern is protecting our wildlife and natural spaces. These ecosystems are essential to a healthy Denton, and development should reflect that. When we disrupt habitats, we impact the balance of our environment in ways that come back to affect our whole community. I support preserving green space, strengthening zoning to protect habitats, and prioritizing sustainability as we grow. <p>We also need to be more thoughtful about how projects like data centers and large developments impact our environment by consulting experts and the community. I want more transparency and public input in these decisions.</p> <p>If we plan responsibly, we can grow without losing what makes Denton livable.</p>	My vision for transportation in Denton starts with listening to the people who rely on it every day. Students, families, and people experiencing homelessness all say the same thing: accessibility and consistency matter. GoZone has potential to fill gaps, but right now it cannot be relied on during critical times. We need more consistent bus routes, expanded coverage, and safe, accessible stops. As gas prices rise, public transit should be something people can depend on. We are all one flat tire away from needing it. Maps and data are helpful, but they don't replace the experience of those using the system. By combining community input with data, we can build transportation that truly works for Denton.

	Why are you seeking this office?	What are your qualifications for this office?	What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?	What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?	What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in the city and how will you advance it?
<b>Chris Watts</b>	<p>I am running to return proven leadership and solutions to the city council that has been mired in disfunction and inefficiency over the last 5 years.</p> <p>Denton is at an inflection point. The budget has increased from 1.4 billion in 2021 to 2.5 billion in 2026. An increase of over seventy five percent in five years.</p> <p>Additionally, taxes, utilities and fees have increase, while cutting funding for our most cherished community events creating hardship. We must re-focus on providing core services</p>	<p>I served as Mayor from 2014-2020 and served as the District Four and At Large Place 6 representative.</p> <p>I have been a small business owner over 35 years. My education and life experience have created the skill sets necessary to lead the city.</p> <p>I know the burden of housing insecurity and brief homelessness as a child.</p> <p>During my previous time as Mayor, we tackled some of the most challenging issues facing our city.</p> <p>On day one, I will create a new culture of respect, unity, and teamwork.</p>	<p>Having served as Mayor in the past, I know the importance of communication between the residents and city government. The city strives to provide the best possible options for communicating with its residents.</p> <p>We can always do better. One area is communicating with residents during major construction projects that will impact their neighborhood.</p> <p>The city initiated a new 311 program recently. It will be important to review the data to ensure acceptable response time for both reporting and resolution of problems.</p> <p>I would propose creating a policy that would notify residents on ordinances that will impact them, even if not required by law. We currently do that with public hearing but not much else.</p>	<p>I am troubled that current policy seems to favor extending water and sewer services to large developments beyond the city limits. Yet, some decry sprawl.</p> <p>Extending services beyond our boundaries is the worst kind of sprawl. No tax revenue, virtually no control over the development including environmental and financial concerns. I would initiate a comprehensive conversation to explore the issue.</p> <p>There seems to be competing interests regarding land development. Some want high density, urban style living. Others prefer a more traditional, single family residential experience. They are not mutually exclusive. We can do both.</p> <p>Water conservation is critical. I would explore making irrigation systems optional, not mandatory.</p>	<p>One of the major challenges we have faced over the last few years are reconstruction and maintenance of existing roads and construction of new roads. We all have experienced the frustration of each.</p> <p>It is important to learn lessons from the recent past. City management has admitted that many of the recent issues have been caused by scheduling to many projects in a specific neighborhood. We have to spread the projects around the city instead of focusing on a specific neighborhood.</p> <p>We must take a harder look at developments that do not have the adequate road infrastructure and traffic flow to support them.</p> <p>We will examine policy to create a matrix to assist council in determining the impact of new developments on traffic flow.</p>

## DENTON CITY COUNCIL PLACE 5

City Council at large member, place five (5), shall be a resident of district one (1) or two (2).

	Why are you seeking this office?	What are your qualifications for this office?	What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?	What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?	What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in the city and how will you advance it?
<b>George Michael Ferrie Jr.</b>	<p>After 20 years in Denton , evolving from a service industry worker living paycheck to paycheck to a clinical social worker, I've lived the struggles of our neighbors. As a small business owner, I know the impacts of rising costs on working families. Having served on 12 boards and nonprofits over the last 17 years, I will bring a community driven, results-focused approach to council. My experience will bring compassionate policy that guarantees housing, transit, and fair wages for all Dentonites.</p>	<p>My background blends clinical social work with business and administrative experience. I own a private practice and previously operated a small business on the downtown square. I am President of the Denton Affordable Housing Corporation, managing 95+ homes, and building 84-units of Permanent Supportive Housing for unhoused neighbors with supportive services. I chaired the Denton Parks Board , serve on PRIDENTON's board, and serve on the Denton County Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team.</p>	<p>Open communication requires community-centered governance. I am always happy to discuss ideas or concerns with neighbors. Along my campaign, I'm hosting a town hall in each district. As a council member, folks can expect a bi-monthly town hall and my attendance at neighborhood association meetings to provide updates, field concerns, and listen to my community's needs. Residents will always be met with active listening and actionable solutions. I also advocate for strict transparency, like requiring public reporting for companies receiving incentives. The city manager must facilitate council policy, not act as an "8th council member".</p>	<p>Denton faces rapid expansion that ignores our current capacity, green infrastructure, and tree canopy. My top priority is an "Infrastructure-First Development Ordinance". This prohibits major development approvals without completed traffic, utility, and stormwater studies. We must end approvals based on "future projected capacity" and require developers to pay the full cost of necessary upgrades. I support missing-middle and infill housing, but only when paired with strict affordability requirements, infrastructure planning, and robust protections against displacing our current residents.</p>	<p>Transit equity is non-negotiable. The shift to GoZone created a reliability crisis, hurting transit-dependent residents. With ridership back to pre-COVID levels, I support using DCTA's surplus to restore high-frequency fixed-route bus services and expand the A-train's evening hours. We can further optimize this by exploring the cost savings opportunities with EV buses. Additionally, I will push to strategically invest in green infrastructure, safe continuous sidewalks, and protected bus stops, ensuring our transit network is accessible for all residents, including those with disabilities.</p>
<b>Erica Garland</b>	<p>I'm running for Denton City Council because this community is home. I've lived here over 16 years, raised my four boys here, and serve on the Planning &amp; Zoning Commission. I've seen the challenges of growth, infrastructure, and maintaining our city's character. I'm running to bring steady, practical leadership that prioritizes residents, supports local businesses, and ensures responsible, balanced decisions for Denton's future.</p>	<p>I bring a combination of professional and public service experience. I serve on Denton's Planning &amp; Zoning Commission, where I've worked on growth, zoning, and development issues. Professionally, I'm a recruiter for a major airline, managing complex processes and stakeholder relationships. I've lived in Denton over 16 years, raised my family here, and understand the real needs of our residents and local businesses.</p>	<p>I believe communication should be consistent, accessible, and transparent. I will prioritize regular updates through social media, newsletters, and community meetings so residents know what's happening at our local government level. I also believe in being visible and approachable by attending neighborhood meetings, responding promptly to concerns, and creating opportunities for two-way dialogue.</p> <p>It's not just about sharing information, it's about listening. I want residents to feel heard, respected, and confident that their input is considered in decision-making. Clear communication builds trust, and that trust is essential to strong, effective leadership.</p>	<p>My top concerns are managing growth responsibly, protecting our natural resources, and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with development. As Denton grows, we have to be thoughtful about water usage, drainage, traffic impacts, and preserving open spaces. Through my service on Planning &amp; Zoning, I've seen how important it is to balance development with long-term sustainability while protecting the integrity of our neighborhoods.</p> <p>I support smart, responsible growth that aligns with our infrastructure capacity and protects the character of our community. That means asking the right questions, planning ahead, and making decisions that serve both current residents and future generations.</p>	<p>My vision is a transportation system that is reliable, efficient, and aligned with how people actually live and work. That means improving road capacity, addressing congestion, and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with growth. I also support thoughtful investments in transit that improve access to jobs, schools, and key areas of our city.</p> <p>Advancing this requires long-term planning, responsible budgeting, and coordination with regional partners. We need to prioritize projects that deliver real value, improve mobility, and support economic development while being mindful of taxpayer dollars and long-term sustainability.</p>
<b>Caleb Meese</b>	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.

# DENTON CITY COUNCIL PLACE 6

City Council at large member, place six (6), shall be a resident of district three (3) or four (4).

The League did not ask questions in this race.

Jill Jester Unopposed

## DENTON CITY COUNCIL

The four single member districts are elected in odd number years. In 2026 there will be a special election to fill an unexpired term in District 1 and District 2.

Why are you seeking this office?	What are your qualifications for this office?	What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?	What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?	What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in the city and how will you advance it?
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### DENTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 UNEXPIRED TERM

Kris Cox	To challenge the power of landlords and bosses, to give a voice for the working people of Denton, and bring back social services to the families of my city.	I have worked with the people of this city as the founder of the Denton Left, a socialist and anarchist organization that provided mutual aid to all in need. I have worked in the city as one of many good people that built the Parks and Recreation Department. I've learned to make a dollar stretch for the people and never to ask another to do something I wouldn't do myself.	I plan on having labor, leftist, and progressive organizers form an advisory committee to keep me connected to my constituents. Groups that work with the homeless, tenants, and the service industry employees. I want to hear from the people that sweat for their bread.  I will also be advocating for the creation of a Union Advisory Committee or Council that will inform the the City on what the organized working class and renters want. Those people built Denton. Why do they deserve to be ignored while the property managers, developers, and cops always have the ear of the council?	We need a balance between the badly needed housing and the fears of gentrification. My district is frequently targeted for development and it raises the rent on working people. Who profits? Not the renter or the homeowner, but the developers and landlords get to laugh their way to the bank. All the while, our green spaces are paved over for apartment complexes. We have abandoned buildings that can be remodeled or replaced with affordable housing, we don't need to knock down trees or kill our ecosystem for a few more blocks.	I want to work with groups like Abundance Denton, to make new bus routes and clear the way for our train system to expand. GoZone is an absolute failure of a system. We need to replace it with on-demand bussing for those who can't make it to bus stops. The drivers can be trained in a well-paying job with higher standards and we can address the climbing demand for busses.
Michael Herron	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.	No response received.
Jordan E. Villarreal	I'm running because Denton is at a crossroads and District 1 deserves a neighbor-driven voice. I'll fight for safer streets, real housing affordability, and growth that respects our unique character so families, students, and longtime residents can all afford to live, work, and retire in Denton with dignity and opportunity.	I'm a former vice chair of Denton's Planning and Zoning Commission, where I worked to protect neighborhood character, push back on gentrification, and demand that development meet our community standards. As a former Texas Legislative Chief of Staff, I know firsthand that good policy comes from working with all voices at the table and ensuring we strive towards consensus.	Trust starts with access. I will hold regular district listening sessions in neighborhoods, maintain open office hours, and publish clear, plain-language updates on upcoming votes, not just after decisions are made. I'll create multiple feedback channels—email, text alerts, and social media—so working families, renters, and seniors can weigh in on their schedules. I will also push for more user-friendly public meeting notices, hybrid participation options, and better translation and outreach so all voices in District 1 are at the table, not just the usual insiders.	Denton's biggest land-use challenge is rapid growth that fuels sprawl, strains infrastructure, and pushes out longtime residents. I will champion plan-driven development that follows Denton 2030 and our strategic plan, focusing growth where we already have streets, utilities, and transit while protecting green space and rural edges. On council, I'll insist new projects pay their fair share for roads, utilities, and parks, support stronger tree and stormwater standards, and push Denton toward its climate goals by investing in walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods that fit within the existing character of our neighborhoods.	My vision is a Denton where it's safe and convenient to walk, bike, roll, or ride transit—not just drive. I support the city's focus on safety and street maintenance first, including fixing dangerous intersections and sidewalks before chasing expensive expansions. I'll work to fully implement our Mobility Plan by expanding protected bike lanes, safer crossings near schools and bus stops, and better DCTA coordination so more residents are within a 10-minute walk of frequent, reliable transit. By tying new development approvals to real investments in multimodal infrastructure, we can reduce congestion, cut emissions, and give every neighborhood in District 1 safer, more affordable ways to get around.

### DENTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 UNEXPIRED TERM

Robert J. Archer III	I am running for City Council because I believe our community deserves leadership that is focused on results, accountability, and service.  As a veteran and someone who has spent over 17 years serving the public, service has always been a core part of who I am. I didn't decide to run because of politics-I decided to run because I care about what happens in our community and I believe I have a responsibility to step up and be part of the solution.	My qualifications to serve on City Council come from a lifetime of service and hands-on experience in public service. I am a veteran, and my military service instilled in me the values of duty, accountability, and putting the community before personal interests. I have also spent more than 17 years working as a public servant, gaining practical experience in how government operates and how decisions affect the community.	I would also support regular community meetings and open forums so residents can speak directly with their elected officials. Communication should be a two-way conversation, and residents should always be able to see how their input is considered in the decisions City Hall makes.	Responsible planning and transparency in the development process. Denton will continue to grow, but that growth must be managed in a way that protects our environment and maintains the quality of life for residents. That means carefully evaluating development projects, ensuring proper drainage, protecting green space where possible, and making sure roads, utilities, and public services can support new growth.  I also believe in holding developers accountable to city standards and making sure projects are planned responsibly from the beginning.	My vision for transportation is a safe, reliable system that meets the needs of all residents—including teens and new drivers.  I will prioritize maintaining roads, improving traffic flow, and ensuring new development contributes fairly to infrastructure. Planning will be practical and forward-thinking, with community input and transparency, so Denton's streets are safer, less congested, and ready for future growth.
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	Why are you seeking this office?	What are your qualifications for this office?	What strategies will you use to ensure open communication between City Hall and residents?	What are your top environmental and land development concerns and how do you plan to address them?	What is your vision for transportation infrastructure in the city and how will you advance it?
Nick Stevens	We are headed in the wrong direction. Property taxes and utility rates are sky rocketing while residents income has remained stagnant. Green spaces are disappearing, and developers get the last word. I am running to help change the course of the city. I have years of experience of bringing Dentonites together from all backgrounds to solve issues that benefit the city.	Chair of Health and Building Standards Commission Co-founder of JBD College Neighborhood Association Co-founder of West Denton Neighborhood Council	I will hold regular town hall meetings to keep Dentonites informed. Practically, I will call for more transparency with our budget, as well as more city-wide outreach for public hearings. Similarly, too many decisions are made behind closed doors. We must decrease the amount of closed session meetings, and make everything transparent when legally permissible.	My biggest environmental concern, currently, is the possibility of a second gas plant. After the city doubled their energy consumption because of an AI Data facility, I warned that the city would seek to build or purchase a second gas plant. I am opposed to this, period.  I am concerned with leap frog development, urban sprawl, and the decimation of our trees. We must reform our tree code ordinance more quickly to end this.	This is two fold. First, we need smarter street reconstruction. It's time to end the pro-longed street construction wreaking havoc on neighborhoods. We must hold contractors accountable for mistakes made, and shorten the length of period for construction.  Second, public transportation should be more accessible and more affordable. This includes bus routes, but it also includes pedestrian and bicycle transit.  I support advancing these items by calling for a work session on construction accountability and best practice as well as having stronger coordination with DCTA.



## DENTON ISD SCHOOL BOARD PLACE 6

Elections Information: <https://www.dentonisd.org/elections><https://www.tasb.org/Board-Service.aspx>

DISD board members are elected at large by all voters in the district.

	Why are you seeking this office?	What are your qualifications for this office?	What are the greatest challenges facing Denton ISD in implementing the district's mission statement adopted March 19, 2013: "Denton ISD: Empowering lifelong learners to be engaged citizens who positively impact their local and global community."?	How can Denton ISD school board policies address these challenges to benefit a diverse student population?
Vicki Byrd	I'm seeking a seat on the Denton ISD School Board because I believe strong schools build strong communities. I've spent my entire career serving and protecting the people of Denton. From law enforcement to emergency management, special education to city and non-profit leadership, every chapter of my life has centered on safety, service, and supporting families. At this time, this is an excellent opportunity to add additional value to the Board of Trustees.	I've served 37 professional years of service to this community. My background is unique because it brings together safety, education, and public leadership – the three things our schools need most right now. I began my career as a police officer and later spent 13 years in OSH/ESH, emergency and risk management and training, which taught me how to protect people, manage crises, and make decisions that keep students and staff safe. I was a sped teacher for Denton ISD. I am a mom of two Broncos.	1. Academic disparities across campuses. Some schools are thriving, while others are working hard to close persistent gaps. When students start behind or experience frequent transitions, it becomes harder for them to build the confidence and curiosity that lifelong learning requires. To fulfill our mission, we must stabilize struggling campuses, support strong instructional leadership, and ensure every child has access to high-quality teaching and a safe, supportive environment. 2. Teacher recruitment and retention. Lifelong learning starts with great teachers, and we cannot empower students if we cannot keep the educators who inspire them. Teachers need competitive pay, manageable workloads, the respect and support that allow them to build fulfilling careers in Denton ISD. Despite challenges, I believe Denton ISD has the strength and community support to empower students to thrive.	First, we can strengthen academic equity by adopting policies that ensure every campus has the staffing, resources, and instructional support needed to close gaps and keep expectations consistent across the district. Second, we can support student well-being by expanding access to counselors, reinforcing anti-bullying protections, and promoting safe, welcoming environments for all students. Third, focus on teacher recruitment and retention. Policies that protect planning time, support manageable workloads, and invest in professional development help us keep great teachers in our classrooms. Fourth, responsible budget and resource policies ensure that funds are directed where they have the greatest impact – especially on high-need campuses and growing areas of the district. And finally, we can keep classrooms focused on learning by adopting policies that support evidence-based curriculum, protect teacher professionalism, and encourage respectful family engagement.
Greg Petolick	I am seeking this office because strong public schools are essential to a strong community. Through volunteer work, committee service, and substitute teaching in Denton ISD, I have seen both the strengths of our schools and the challenges they face. I want to use my experience in data-driven decision making, financial stewardship, and organizational leadership to help ensure Denton ISD provides excellent opportunities for all students while responsibly managing taxpayer resources.	I spent more than four decades in business and retired as a management consultant with Ernst & Young where I helped organizations improve performance through better use of people, process, data, and technology. I now teach data analytics at SMU's Cox School of Business. In Denton ISD, I've served on the 2023 Bond Committee and the 1925 Committee, am active with the Denton Public School Foundation, chaired the Vote for Denton ISD Kids PAC, and serve as a substitute teacher in the district.	One of the greatest challenges facing Denton ISD is ensuring that every student, regardless of their zip-code, has access to the opportunities and support needed to succeed in an increasingly complex world. Our district is growing rapidly and serves a diverse student population whose needs can vary significantly from campus to campus. At the same time, school districts must operate, with safety in mind and within a state funding system that limits local flexibility while costs continue to rise. Balancing enrollment growth, maintaining strong academic outcomes, supporting and retaining effective teachers, and responsibly managing taxpayer resources are ongoing challenges. Meeting the district's mission will require thoughtful planning, strong partnerships with families and the community, and a continued focus on preparing students for college, career, the trades, or military service.	Policies should focus on clear priorities, responsible financial stewardship, and the use of data to guide decision making. Policies that support strong instruction, attract and retain effective teachers, and expand opportunities such as career and technical education, dual credit, and advanced coursework help ensure students are prepared for life after graduation.  Equally important is maintaining safe and welcoming schools where every student feels respected and supported. In today's digital age, bullying can extend beyond the school day through social media and online communication. District policies should promote a positive school culture, educate students about the impact of bullying - especially with available technology - and set clear expectations for respectful behavior.  Transparency, community engagement, and regular review of programs and outcomes help ensure resources are aligned with student needs while keeping student success at the center of every decision.

## DENTON ISD SCHOOL BOARD PLACE 7

The League did not ask questions in this race.

Unopposed

Anita  
Martinez-Strickland