



# VOTERS GUIDE

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Sunday, April 26, 2009

## Irving City Council Questions

75 word limit for each question.

1. What are your qualifications and experience that will make you an effective council member?
2. Do you support Single Member districts in Irving? Why or why not?
3. What will you do to stimulate job growth in Irving?
4. The Irving Independent School District has over 800 homeless Irving children and 74.58% of Irving school children (24,571) receive free or reduced lunch. How do you propose to address issues of poverty and homelessness in the City of Irving?
5. Name your top two priorities as a representative of the citizens of Irving and identify your plan to reach those goals.

## ELECTION DAY

Saturday, May 9, 2009

(i) = incumbent

### IRVING CITY COUNCIL Place 4

Lewis Patrick (i), no opposition

### Place 6

Bola Ayanbule

Rick Stopher (i)

### Place 8

Joe Philipp (i)

Don Van Slyke

### SCHOOL BOARDS

#### Irving

Since neither candidate is opposed, the election is cancelled. They agreed to participate in the Voters Guide.

### Place 3

Heather N. Ashley

### Place 4

Valerie Jones (i)

### Carrollton-Farmers Branch

#### Place 3

Howard Fisher (i)

Karin Webb

#### Place 4

Richard Fleming

John C. Tepper (i)

### Coppell

A school bond election is on the ballot and the following two unopposed candidates will also be on the ballot.

### Place 6

Cindy Warner (i)

### Place 7

Bennett Ratliff (i)

### Dallas County School Board

#### (two at-large vacancies)

(The two receiving the highest number of votes will be elected.)

Larry Duncan (i), Mary Darby, Homer Gandara, Cassandra (Cassie) Fincannon

## Irving City Council Place 4

**Lewis Patrick (i)**  
Retired Civil Engineer  
972/790-6478



**Patrick**

1. B.S. degree in Civil Engineering, Texas A & M University. Registered Professional Engineer, State of Texas. Employed over 36 years as Engineer for City of Irving, mostly as Director of Public Works. 13 years service on Irving City Council. Chairman of Public Works Committee. Member of Audit & Finance Committee. Member of Audit & Finance Committee. Liaison to Planning & Zoning, Dallas Co. Flood Control District, Trinity River Authority. Recipient 2005 State of Texas Service to People Award.

2. I favor our present at-large system of government as being best for our city. I do Not support single member districts (8-1). If we lose our at-large system in the courts, I would be amenable to a 5-4 system as second best to our present system.

3. We should continue our close relationship with the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce to promote new businesses and industries and retain our present ones. We will upgrade our aging infrastructure through an aggressive Bond program, thus providing more construction projects and stimulate more Jobs.

4. We should continue to provide support for human service groups such as Irving Cares, Brighter Tomorrows, the Salvation Army, etc. Many of our churches do a great job of providing food and monetary assistance to those in need.

5. 1) Continue our aggressive efforts to reduce the crime rate. This can be done by adequate funding of our Police and Code Enforcement personnel. Also continuance of our CAP program. 2) Assure that our transportation needs are properly addressed. The "Orange Line" should be aggressively pursued and development of our TOD stations completed. We have billions of dollars of projects in the planning and development stages and good transportation is vital to success.

## Irving City Council Place 6

**Bola Ayanbule**  
Former Insurance Agent  
469/835-1139  
bolaayan@gmail.com  
www.bola.com

1. Certified in Architectural Technology with over nine years experience. Certified Real Estate Inspector. Associate Degree in Graphic Design. A+ in Computer Hardware. My last three businesses for the past 10 years. (Computer Service Source.) President and Owner. Amazing Spec. Real Estate Inspector for Resi-dential and Commercial. Sav-On Insur-ance Agency. Li-censed as General Lines Agent. Property and Casualty. President and Owner. Dallas Christian News. President and Owner. The Publisher. It's a great honor to serve the public.



**Ayanbule**

2. I do support single member district in Irving because it is more stable one member one vote and why not is because it will creates conflict in decision making. Let us work together with some businesses, investors, and developers on how to improve Irving City.

3. Irving City need changes. If you let me, I will transform this City into the next century. I would like to see some part of Irving Blvd. 24/7. I am really concern about the minorities, they are more than half the population and they occupied more than half of the Irving City. We need to create more jobs in their community. We need to improve how they live by proposing housing project for minority in . . .

4. We have more poor or homeless people than any other City. Our lives is not getting better and the majority are working class meaning poor people. We need to start planning for the next generation. Our children are growing very fast soon we will have no place

for them. Housing Project is essential all over the city. Housing is the highest bill to pay every month. Invest in real estate. With good management you should . . .

5. As a City Council members, we should be thinking and doing things for the next generation. We need to move forward not standing or backward. I would like to get local Government involve more into Housing project for minority in every Districts as soon as possible.. We need to create new ideas on how to generate new businesses to the communities. We need to start investing on our people for better future.

**Rick Stopher (i)**  
Automotive Consultant  
972/402-0849

1. As a 21-year resident of Irving, eleven of which I have served on City Council, I have a deep understanding of the many issues and opportunities Irving faces. I have extensive



**Stopher**

experience in representing the City in securing increased investments in our transportation infrastructure, ensuring the on-time, on-budget delivery of our DART line, securing long-term water resources for our future, advancing our City's agenda with state and federal legislators and aggressively pursuing economic development opportunities.

2. The City of Irving's Charter currently addresses district representation. I have chosen to run at large in the past, because it keeps me

## VOTERS GUIDE

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The *Voters Guide* can be found on the web site of the League of Women Voters of Texas, [www.lwvtxas.org](http://www.lwvtxas.org) (click on **Voter Information** then on **Local Leagues**, then on **Irving**). This site can be reached without using a password.

## Irving City Council Place 6

**Stopher** *Continued from page 1*

close to the issues and concerns of the entire city and allows me to equally represent residents and businesses north, south, east and west. Once the 2010 Census population and demographic figures are released, I believe citizens should have the right to determine if Charter amendments are needed to change the districts.

3. I will continue to support efforts of the Irving Chamber and take every opportunity to create compelling incentives for corporations to relocate to and/or expand in Irving. I will continue to make personal visits to our corporate leaders to ensure that their needs are being met by the City and its partners in terms of access to an educated and skilled workforce and a robust transportation infrastructure to help them move goods and people efficiently.

4. It is important that the City Council draw on the resources of the non-profit community in meeting the needs of those struggling with poverty and homelessness. Stability and availability in jobs and housing are critical to addressing this issue. It is essential that we work with the Chamber and other partners to bring new business or expand existing business to create new jobs and work with developers to ensure adequate housing stock for our citizens.

5. My top two priorities are public safety and continued economic development. I strongly support the five-year plan underway for our police and fire departments that will evaluate, fund and implement the strategic placement of personnel and equipment to best serve the needs of our community. For economic development, I will support efforts to grow business, sustaining our position as the third-largest employment center in DFW and maintaining the second-lowest tax rate in the region.

## Irving City Council Place 8

**Joe Philipp (i)**

Business Management Consulting  
214/693-0093  
Joephilipp@aol.com  
www.joephilipp.com



**Philipp**

Chairman Community Services Committee, Planning and Development Committee member; Involved in Irving Schools; Successfully reduced homeowner's tax burden, grew the tax base, reduced crime rates 14% over two years.

2. Irving is governed by a Home Rule Charter, adopted by citizens. Citizens determine our form of government, now reflecting in-place residence and general election seats. Irving is growing and becoming very diverse. I will champion community dialogues in town hall meetings and city publications to determine citizen's interests in a single member form of government, and with citizen input, support a charter election to determine if a single member district plan is feasible.

3. I am leading business visits to retain Irving companies, meeting with company leaders to recruit their business to Irving, and

Rotary member; Actively involved in Irving Heritage, Arts and Community organizations; Founder Irving Prayer Breakfast; Chairman of the City Council Audit and Finance Committee; Member of Communications Committee; Past

have promoted Chamber of Commerce Economic Development actions to increase job opportunities in Irving. In two years we have added over 100 employers to our tax base, and added 6500 jobs to Irving's economy, while implementing job center workshops through our public library, while passing ordinances that encourage office, small business and retail redevelopment actions.

4. I serve as Council Liaison to the Human Services Board. We have increased affordable single family housing ownership, implemented Emergency Shelter grants programs, initiated housing restoration and reconstruction actions, initiated renter occupied housing rehabilitation programs and foreclosure counseling. We have started job training programs through our Chamber of Commerce and Northlake College partnerships. I have personally championed senior tax reduction programs, and partnerships with Salvation Army, the Family Advocacy Center and Irving Cares.

5. Economic Development with sound Fiscal Management and Neighborhood Integrity initiatives are my priorities. I lead the council budget planning process, recruiting new business to grow our tax base, and expand job opportunities. I continue to champion strong crime reduction ordinances, add police and fire resources and support 'Multi Family Crime Free' initiatives, achieving the lowest crime rate in Irving's history. I support proactive, effective code enforcement actions to achieve neighborhood integrity, while redeveloping our city.

**Don Van Slyke**

Math Tutor, Sales, and Consulting  
214/258-8340 M-F,  
214/258-8348 S-S  
don@vanslyke.net  
www.DonforIrving.com

1. I worked for IBM for 28 years, have lived in City of Irving for 25+ years, and have followed City of Irving government for over 20 years. I feel that the knowledge gained has helped me to understand the business, home owner, and government sides. I will work to make Irving the "Best City of its size in America".

2. Yes, with comments. Why or why not? I favor the 1-3-5 plan with the Mayor and three city council members elected at large and five city



**Van Slyke**

council members elected by their district.

3. North Texas, the Dallas-Fort Worth area and Irving has more jobs than most areas. I will actively pursue additional businesses, shops and business both large and small to move to Irving by continuing to enhance our business friendly environment.

4. A closer partnership should be formed between the City of Irving, the Irving ISD, and the youth of Irving. When my daughter was in high school, a friend of hers stayed in our home for over one year. I believe that many people in Irving would volunteer their homes.

5. a. Economic – I will actively pursue additional businesses, shops and business both large and small to move to Irving by continuing to enhance our business friendly environment. b. Efficiency – The City of Irving services are great, but can be better. I propose that Irving seek the Baldrige National Quality Award.

## Irving ISD – Place 3

**Heather N. Ashley**

Retail Sales  
214/596-9184

1. I have a passion for the students and teachers of this district and believe my experience as an IISD graduate and committed



**Ashley**

community member will offer a unique perspective. I have actively served the District since 2004 through the Campus Improvement Committee at my elementary school, John R. Good, as well as the District Improvement Committee and other activities. This year, I was elected as chairperson of the DIC after serving two years as vice-chair.

2. Increasing the number of exemplary schools requires teamwork. I will work with other Board members to create policy that encourages and empowers parents, teachers, and students to work together towards this goal. We should learn from campuses that regularly achieve at an exemplary level, as well as those that are showing continual improvement. All students deserve an exemplary education, and we have the privilege offering quality educational opportuni-

## VOTING INFORMATION

Last Day to Register to Vote in May Election.....April 9, 2009

Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail.....May 1, 2009

(Must be received in the Office of the Early Voting Clerk by this date.)

### EARLY VOTING

**When:** Monday, April 27 – Saturday, May 2 .....8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, May 3 .....1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Monday, May 4 – Tuesday, May 5 .....7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** City Hall, 825 W. Irving Boulevard  
Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd.  
Valley Ranch Public Library, 401 Cimarron Trail

### ELECTION DAY

At designated precinct sites (check voter registration card for precinct number)

**Saturday, May 9, 2009, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(214) 819-6358 www.dalcoelections.org.

City Secretary's Office 972/721-2493 cityofirving.org

(then go to: Departments/City Secretary/election)

Irving School Board: 972/215-5000 www.irvingisd.net

Carrollton-Farmers Branch School Board 972/466-1600 www.cfbisd.edu

Coppell School Board 214/496-6000 www.coppellisd.com

## Questionnaire Instructions

Each candidate received a questionnaire from the League of Women Voters with the following instructions. *Responses will not be edited but will be printed as submitted. Replies received in a list or outline format will be printed in paragraph form. Underlining and italics will be deleted. Replies received in capital letters will not be printed in capitals in order to avoid emphasizing any individual response. If the word limit for any question is exceeded, the balance of the reply for that question will not be printed. Any answers which exceed the indicated word limit will be so designated with ellipses (. . .)*

## School Board Questions

### 75 word limit for each question.

1. What are your qualifications and experience that will make you an effective trustee?
2. What can you as a School Board Trustee do to increase the number of Exemplary schools in your district?
3. How do you propose we best prepare our students for the jobs of the future which are expected to require high levels of math, science and technology skills? Would you consider the establishment of a math/ science/technology magnet school in your district? Why or why not?
4. How would you ensure that the citizens of your school district are comprehensively informed about district's priorities, performances, successes and challenges?
5. Name your top two priorities as a representative of the citizens of Irving and identify your plan to reach those goals.

ties to every child in Irving ISD.

3. Superior math and science education begins at the elementary level. We should continue to seek opportunities for all students to learn in interactive and innovative ways by supporting teacher enrichment and training. I do not believe that a new magnet school would be the best fit for Irving. The career oriented tracks at the Academy and Union Bower Center are a good solution and already incorporate applicable math, science, and technology into their specialized programs.

4. Involved and informed parents and community members are the best advocates for the education of children in IISD. The district should continue to provide updates and information on its website and local cable channel; the District Weekly, Board Action, and Inside IISD publications; as well as through regular interaction with local media. There may also be ways to work more regularly with the City and Chamber of Commerce to share information through joint publications.

5. First, I will work with fellow Board members to help guarantee students receive the best preparation for their future, whether at a four-year college, community college, trade school, or in the workforce. My second priority is to address the need for students to be able to fully participate in fine arts programs throughout middle and high school while thriving academically. I will work towards increasing support for student achievement in the arts at all levels.

## League of Women Voters Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

(972) 785-8683 League of Women Voters of Irving (voice mail)

## Irving ISD - Place 4

**Valerie Jones (i)**  
vjones@irvingisd.net  
www.irvingisd.net



Jones

1. As a MacArthur High School graduate, I have lived in Irving for most of my life. My husband, Kerry (also a MacArthur graduate), and I have four children. Two are MHS graduates, two are current IISD students. I have held numerous PTA positions and serve on the Irving Schools Foundation board. During my first school board term I twice served as Board Secretary and have been a member of the Finance, Curriculum and Executive Committees.

2. Everything rises and falls on leadership. It is the Board of Trustees' job to provide sound leadership in guiding the Irving ISD to achieving academic excellence for every student. Each trustee should lead by priorities. Our highest priority must be the students, teachers and faculty. The programs and property of the school district should enable the students and teachers to achieve their highest potential.

3. Under the new Texas 4x4 law, all high school students are required to take four years of Math, Science, English and Social Studies. Students must also take a required number of technology courses for graduation. Irving ISD has focused much attention on Career & Technology courses. These will prepare students not only for higher education, but for jobs in highly skilled workforce areas.

4. Irving ISD uses many ways of keeping parents and community members informed. Regular newspaper inserts and publications put District happenings in the hands of those interested. Parents are kept informed using new technology. Teleparent allows the District, schools or individual teachers to contact families by telephone message with pertinent information. Parents also have online student grade access. IISD website, as well as school websites, are important in providing necessary

details to parents and community members.

5. Parents are often an untapped resource in our schools. They can provide a viewpoint not seen by anyone else, either through the PTA, Campus Improvement Committees or as individuals. The contributions they can make through influence and guidance are invaluable. Increasing parental involvement is key to student success. Continuing the excellent financial position of our District is also a vital priority. Spending District funds with the future in focus is a must.

## Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD - Place 3

**Howard Fisher (i)**  
Attorney  
972/416-4354

Howard@voteforfisher.com  
www.voteforfisher.com

1. I've been a member of the School Board, and the Board's Audit Committee, for three years. I've lived in Carrollton since 1989, and have had three children in the District. I was on the 1998 Citizens Bond Committee, the 2002 District Finance Action Team, the 2003 Citizens Bond Committee, and was President of the CFB Gifted and Talented Association. I'm

Fisher

able to listen well, ask questions, synthesize data, and develop logical conclusions.

2. To have exemplary schools it takes sufficient funding, good facilities, a strong superintendent, innovative programs, active parental and community support, and last but not least, the hiring and retaining of good, enthusiastic teachers. What the Board must do is hire an excellent superintendent, keep teacher salaries competitive, maintain teacher training programs and advanced technology in the classroom, and continue to reach out to our parents and business community for support.

3. The State requirement that students take four years of both high school math and science will help prepare our students for future jobs. The District offers Advanced Placement math and science courses, computer and technology courses, as well as video-conferenced college math courses from UNT. In 2007 the District opened the Math, Engineering, Technology and Science Academy (METSA) in a new building at Turner High School. METSA is designed for students interested in engineering.

4. The District has an award-winning web site with information on just about every aspect of the District, including goals, improvement plans, finances, awards, accomplishments, events and calendars. We also send home a "Report to the Community" from each school, as well as other campus-specific information. The District provides information to our local papers, televises the Board meetings, and uses an automated phone system to provide information about upcoming events and testing.

5. My top two short-range goals are hiring

a strong superintendent and narrowing the budget deficit. The District will be hiring a new superintendent, and I will be looking for someone who has vision and daring, excellent communications skills, and is a good administrator on a daily basis. The budget deficit needs to be narrowed through \$7.5-\$8.0 million in budget cuts and a small tax increase that will be subject to voter approval.

**Karin Webb**  
Executive-Aircraft Inventory  
Management & Svcs, Ltd.  
214/239-3090  
kwebbacinv@me.com  
www.karinwebbforfbisd.org

1. I have a BA in English, a MS in Computer education, community and PTA involvement plus 8 years of experience teaching at R.L. Turner High School. I attended elementary through high school in CFB-ISD. I have two children that will attend district schools, and we have a family owned business in this district. All aspects of my life are connected with the growth, strength and prosperity of this community.

2. I believe the board needs to continue much of their current efforts including maintaining clear goal setting, furthering the work with administration to revise Texas legislation, and continuing the fantastic professional development opportunities. I would like to explore new and creative ways to encourage parents, community leaders and businesses to increase their involvement and education with the schools.

3. I believe that this district has already begun the process of increasing math/science/technology levels in the school with the introduction of the academies. All of the academies have stringent academic requirements. The students and teachers have learned so many new techniques and methods, it would be wonderful to adapt those to mainstream learning.

4. I believe sustaining constant efficient and interactive communication is extremely important. CFB-ISD has taken many steps toward building the communication bridge; including the web site, podcasts, parent connect, emails, and newsletters. The district has worked diligently on staying current on communication techniques, and I believe we could continue with that process. As new technology emerges, we need to be able to adapt that technology to fit our communication needs.

5. The top two priorities are student readiness and accountability to the taxpayer. Through the education this district provides, students should be ready for their next phase in life. This should not only include college, but also vocations. The taxpayers carry to the weight of funding education; therefore the district has the obligation to spend the taxpayers' dollars efficiently and constructively. Taxpayers deserve to see where and how the money is allocated and spent.

## Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD – Place 4

**Richard Fleming**  
State Tax Group/Director  
of Tax Services

www.Richardforschoolboard.com

1. Lifelong Carrollton Farmers Branch resident; graduated from R.L. Turner High in 1986, after which I received a football scholarship from Cameron University. Graduated with a BS in Finance with minors in Accounting & Economics; received a MBA in General Business from Cameron University. Member of Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and Subcommittee “The Young Professionals”, also a member of the Farmers Branch Rotary. Now is my time to serve my school district which has served me and my family . . .



**Fleming**

2. As a board of trustee we need to discuss and identify problem schools. We need to talk with teachers and principals to see how best we can serve our kids in improving their TAKS scores. Also, there needs to be communication to the parents in the districts on the need for tutorials for their kids in an area they might be having problems with. The district has to continue to make strides in this area.

3. I feel The Academy For Media Arts and Technology (AMAT) at R.L. Turner High serves our district very well. I think math and science learning and competition in those areas should begin in the early grade levels. I think we should look at the possibility of adding more science and math to student's curriculum at the High school level. I will continue to support the creation of an environment that encourages kids to explore, learn and . . .

4. I would include inserts in students report cards, having the information on CFBISD website, and using the automated calling services to the parents in the district to better inform the parents in our district about district priorities, performances and challenges.

5. As a board of trustee my priorities are FAIR The F is for being fair and equitable, A is for accountability, the I is for integrity and R is for respectability. As a board of trustee I understand the fact that we serve the district and work for the kids and the parents in the district. Therefore our main priorities and obligations are to the kids and parents, not to the board of trustees and . . .

**John C. Tepper (i)**  
Executive Management,  
Galt Medical Corporation  
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jctepper@aol.com

1. I have 18 years of board service, spanning demographic shifts and increasing accountability requirements. During this time, we have increased academic performance and started closing the achievement gap by implementing comprehensive staff development programs, improved curriculum materials, and effective technology for students and teachers. We have had several successful bond elections to improve district infrastructure, while maintaining the highest financial accountability. I've also seen how C-FB ISD prepares students, having raised three successful children.



**Tepper**

2. A Trustee, working through administration, can increase the number of exemplary schools by, first of all, making sure each school has an exemplary principal, empowered to be the academic CEO on that campus. Secondly, ensure the district can recruit and retain highly qualified and motivated teachers. Then, support teachers with analysis tools that allow them to determine the individual needs in their classroom, and with materials and programs that enable them to address those needs.

3. Recruiting and retaining excellent teachers is critical. It's also important to ensure curriculum and programs are relevant to science and technology in the “real world”. To do that, it's important to establish relationships with professionals in those fields to introduce students to the relevance of their studies. We have established a math/engineering/technology/science academy in our district, and maintaining or expanding it is the highest priority, even during the current budget crunch.

4. That's a difficult challenge, with the demise of most local community newspapers. We've tackled that challenge by expanding our internet presence. We have made high quality, informative websites for each campus and the district a priority. We've also expanded our use of e-newsletters and automatic calling systems. We have a full time cable channel with district information, and we get students involved with communications as often as possible.

5. I think the biggest challenges in the

Irving part of C-FB ISD are growth related: making sure that facilities are in place when needed. This requires vigilance in monitoring student population growth, and making sure facilities, like the new LaVillita Elementary, and the future expansion of Ranchview High School, are ready when needed. In addition, we want to grow a strong IB program at Ranchview High School, by making sure it has adequate resources.

## Coppell ISD – Place 6

**Cindy Warner (i)**  
CPA

972/304-8344  
place6@coppellisd.com

1. I have served as a trustee for nine years, most recently as President of the Board. Prior to (and continuing) serving on the Board, I volunteered in numerous capacities in the schools and in the community. Additionally, my strong financial background is an asset in dealing with the many financial issues we face as a district.



**Warner**

Most importantly however, my passion for excellence in public education drives to work tirelessly for our district.

2. We are very fortunate in Coppell in that most of our schools are Exemplary (as defined by TEA) and I would say that they are all exemplary as defined by Websters. As a Trustee, our roles are to establish the vision, set policy, and work with the budget to maximize our fiscal resources. By setting the high expectations, and valuing our most important assets in the district, our employees, we will continue to have exemplary . . .

3. Coppell ISD is doing an outstanding job of preparing our students for the future, in many ways. A few examples are our current outstanding Engineering program at CHS and our New Tech at Coppell where all students incorporate 21st Century learning skills in their every day experience. Additionally, we currently offer incredible opportunities in science such as Aerospace Studies and Pathophysiology, as well as courses such as Web Technologies and Medical Microbiology in our Career . . .

4. I would like to see more communication from our district on the many successes of our students, as well as our challenges. I believe we have made improvements in our communications through an improved website – but I also believe that we could do a better job in getting information out to our students, parents, and citizens. With the ever-changing technology, we need to constantly re-think all of our communication methods to meet the needs of . . .

5. My top priority is always to work towards ensuring that all of our students have

the best educational opportunities possible. Currently, I believe we (as a Board) must work towards maximizing the limited financial resources available to the best use of all of our students, and 2) must also recognize and appreciate the value of all of our district employees.

## Coppell ISD – Place 7

**Bennett Ratliff (i)**  
Construction Manager  
Place7@coppellisd.com

1. I have served on the Coppell ISD Board of Trustees for 6 years and currently serve as the Vice President of the Board. As an experienced trustee, I realize the challenges that face our district and I have been part of the discussion and decisions that have led this district for the past 6 years. In these challenging times, experienced leadership is necessary.



**Ratliff**

2. I am proud of all of our schools, their students and the achievements that they have accomplished. While I am aware of the rankings I do not believe that the state accountability system is an adequate representation of the great education that we provide our students on a daily basis. I believe that we should worry less about the state accountability ranking and concentrate more on the students' daily needs and educational goals.

3. Coppell ISD is doing a great job of preparing our students for the jobs of the future. Our Engineering Program at Coppell High School allows students to work with robotics, aeronautics, solar cars, and structural engineering and is widely recognized as a leading edge program. Our New Tech High School offers students an alternative learning environment utilizing computer based teaching, and our math and science programs district wide are exemplary at every level.

4. I believe that the district has done a good job of including citizens in every major initiative and decision over the past several years. Our strategic plan has recently been updated by a diverse committee including parents, students, and staff. Our bond program was formulated by a blue ribbon citizen committee. We can always find better ways to communicate, but I believe that Coppell ISD works hard to keep our families informed.

5. I pledge to continue representing our students and working to provide them with the best possible education available in the State of Texas. I will continue to encourage, cheer and celebrate their successes in the classroom and in any other venue where they represent our community. I am proud of the students of Coppell ISD and the staff and parents that support them, and I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to work as their trustee.

# VOTE INFORMED