



*San Marcos Area
League of Women Voters*

VOTERS GUIDE

Election May 9, 2009

This *Voters Guide* lists local at-large San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District (SMCISD) trustee candidates who appear on the ballot in the May 9, 2009 Election and includes responses to a questionnaire sent to those candidates. Candidates were asked to limit responses to each question to 100 words in length. Candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the ballots. Voters will choose two candidates for the at-large positions listed on the ballot.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a nonpartisan organization that works to promote political responsibility through informed participation of all citizens in their government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. The League does publish and distribute factual information to help prepare citizens to cast an informed vote and does take action on selected governmental issues that it has studied. You may bring this *Voters Guide* into the voting booth.

For more information on elections, the phone number for the Hays County Elections Office is 512-393-7310. The website is www.elections@co.hays.tx.us .

The Candidates Debate among the four candidates for the two at-large Trustee positions on the San Marcos CISD Board will be held at 7 p.m. in the San Marcos Activity Center on Monday, April 27. The Debate will not be televised but video and/or audio will be featured on San Marcos online news media *Newstreamz* and *San Marcos Mercury*, to be viewed at any time through Election Day, at www.newstreamz.com and www.sanmarcosmercury.com.

The San Marcos Area LWV *Voters Guide* will be published in the *San Marcos Daily Record* and online at www.sanmarcosrecord.com. *Newstreamz* and *San Marcos Mercury* will also have the *Voters Guide* on their websites listed above, as will the State LWV at www.lwvtexas.org/sanmarcos .

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Trustee At-Large
San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

<p>List your experience, education, and training that qualify you for this position.</p>	<p>What role do you see members of the Board of Trustees playing in efforts to improve the public's perception of the quality of education offered in SMCISD?</p>
<p>Judy Little Allen</p>	
<p>Education: BS degree from Southwest Texas State University (with a teaching certification), MS degree from University of Missouri in Family Economics and Management, Ph.D. from Texas Tech University in Home Economics Education. Experience/Training: Completing 6 years SMCISD Board of Trustees, President of SMCISD Board 4 years, Vice-President 1 year, 150+ hours continuing education relating to the role of a Board member; Professor at Texas State University Additional leadership responsibilities: past national president American Council on Consumer Interest, past state president Texas Home Economics Association, 37 years university teaching.</p>	<p>SMCISD has made significant progress over the past 6 years: all district schools are new or substantially renovated, TAKS scores are increasing, all teachers are “highly qualified”, the district receives the state’s highest financial rating, and students continually are recognized at all levels in academics, arts, and/or sports. However, the public is “unaware” of many significant improvements. To improve communication, the board is considering each month for some members to meet with the public to share accomplishments, board considerations/actions, and to listen to concerns. Public perception will change with accurate knowledge of SMCISD—not with the SMCISD 5/10/15 years ago</p>

<p>As tax revenues fall due to declining home values, how do you propose to either cut expenses or find alternative sources of income to cover the deficit?</p>	<p>What steps will you take to assure that SMCISD is using energy and water efficiently in its operations, including transportation?</p>
<p>Judy Little Allen</p>	
<p>SMCISD spends \$5425 per student for education which is a combination of property tax revenue plus state revenue. Based on the current state funding formula, the district would be “held harmless” in the event of a decrease in property tax value. In other words, if the property taxes collected by SMCISD decrease, the state would increase state revenue payment in order that SMCISD still receives \$5425 per student. However, the Board’s responsibility is to ensure that spending per category is within an appropriate range based on state averages and benchmarks and, regardless of state appropriations, I support appropriate budget adjustments.</p>	<p>Energy efficiency: The bond building program that will be completed summer 2009, will result in lower energy cost per square foot because the new structures are more energy efficient. In addition, the district continues to look at available and emerging energy technology in order to maximum the energy efficiency of the district. Transportation: The current transportation system is a more modern and efficient bus fleet than 3 years ago which has resulted in energy cost savings. Evaluating emerging technology (such as propane) and continuing to replace older buses will continue to help reduce district energy expenses.</p>

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<p>Christine F. North</p>	
<p>I have three children who attend SMCISD. I've held volunteer positions on more than a dozen boards and commissions, including several directly involving educational issues. During this time I have been integrally involved in many decisions relating to a wide variety of projects and plans affecting San Marcos and surrounding areas. I obtained my GED in 1984, and attended Austin Community College, where I studied Child Development. I'm a single mom raising three great kids, and that is my primary occupation. I also work as the grants coordinator for a local non-profit.</p>	<p>It's important for the Board to take an active role in the promoting the perception of the District and its role in our community. Partnering with the City of San Marcos, Texas State University and the Chamber of Commerce to produce a marketing plan for the SMCISD is critical to growing our economy and improving quality of life for all. I would advocate hiring a Public Information Officer who specializes in mass marketing/media. With a solid strategic plan, we can improve public perception while improving our schools. Good schools are critical for a healthy economic environment and quality of life.</p>

<p>As tax revenues fall due to declining home values, how do you propose to either cut expenses or find alternative sources of income to cover the deficit?</p>	<p>What steps will you take to assure that SMCISD is using energy and water efficiently in its operations, including transportation?</p>
<p>Christine F. North</p>	
<p>While local property values may be flat, they are not in decline. In fact, the City of San Marcos projects a 3 percent increase in ad valorem taxable value. I would budget conservatively and take a hard look at all expenses while keeping an eye on the long-term needs for community. I would advocate for the hiring of a District Grants Coordinator to focus on finding alternative sources of income to supplement tax revenue.</p>	<p>All of our recently constructed schools are by virtue more energy efficient. Our facilities must be well-maintained and upgraded consistently to achieve savings. Opportunities to further conserve resources and reduce pollution abound, and many funding opportunities are available. I would strongly support a District-wide policy that puts a high priority on the sustainable operation of all facilities and vehicles. Transitioning the District's fleet to hybrid vehicles and using alternative fuels, rain water collection, xeriscaping, and recycling are some potential components of the plan. A strong conservation ethic is an important example to set for our children.</p>

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<p>David Chiu</p>	
<p>Education; 2 years Cisco College, 2 years from SWT (Honor received; Who is Who Student American College, from Cisco) Former Chairman of San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, San Marcos Education Foundation and Friends of Fine Art Texas State. Former SMCISD School Board Trustee, former Mayor San Marcos, member Austin AARO Alumnus, former Foundation Board Member of ACC, CTMC. Served on Selection Committee for Office of President of Texas State. Served on Congressional Commission screening candidates to Military Academies. Current service; advisory board member to Texas State College of Education and to Alamo Asian Chamber of Commerce.</p>	<p>When I was on school board, along with other Trustees we had moved as policy to establish The Academic Academy at SMCISD. School district had hired a director to implement it. However the program was cut after I left School Board. When I return to School Board with your support, I will work with other Trustees, teachers and administrators so to see the gradual implementation of Academic Academy at SMCISD. I will work to expand current academic programs as well as new programs with Texas State, Austin Community College to ensure the best education for our children.</p>

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<p>David Chiu</p>	
<p>SMCISD may become a property tax rich district, when we became one, we will have to send some tax revenue back to the States. But as tax revenue falls, the State to some extent will make up the short fall. Also the Federal Government's economic stimulation fund, some of it will be funding to local school districts such as ours. However the down side of taking federal money, it comes with stipulations may cost us money in the long run. Finally, if need be we could perhaps reduce each department operation budget by no more than 5%.</p>	<p>It is important not to be wasteful in the usage of energy be it for cooling and heating of our buildings, or the usage of fuel energy for transportation of our student. Especially, in water conservation. As School Board Trustee I will work with other Trustees and School administrators to ensure against any wasteful consumption at SMCISD.</p>

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<p>Vincent Delgado</p>	
<p>I was born and raised in San Marcos, I have raised my family in San Marcos, I attended san Marcos CISD, I have a vested interest in San Marcos and I have worked for the city of San Marcos for 25 plus years and I am a Crockett PTO member and member of cheerleader booster club at the high school. This is my home and I feel it is my duty to help this community. I have also been an advocate for my children for the last 18 years. I am a Rattler for life.</p>	<p>A Board of Trustees member should always be positive and strong leader in the city and in the school board. It is an unofficial role as an ambassador in and around the community. I will work with the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, Texas State University, City of San Marcos, and Hays County to maintain a positive relationship. It is a crucial element of the Boards responsibility to create positive profile inside and out to attract people to live in San Marcos and support local businesses.</p>

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<p>Vincent Delgado</p>	
<p>To adequately answer this question I must first remove the assumption that the home values in San Marcos are declining. The national statistics indicate that the central Texas area has not experienced extensive decline as in other states. San Marcos is experiencing new development and growth in business like the new Stone Creek Crossing shopping center and the new Embassy Suites center. If by chance home values do decline, I will work with fellow school board members and school officials to influence legislators to restructure the funding to ensure SMISD has adequate funding.</p>	<p>I will support a strategic plan to become more efficient and more "green" over a 5 year span. If elected I will work to help develop the strategic plan. I will work with the district superintendent in order to direct the plan. I will work to develop timely goals and objectives and monitor the plan and supply feedback.</p>

Other elections scheduled for May 9, 2009 in Hays County

Special Election, County Line Water Supply Corporation for Directors and also on the conversion to a Special Utility District
Special Election on Local Option, sale of alcoholic beverages, J.P. Pct. 3
Special Election on incorporation of Village of Jacobs Well
General Election, Hays CISD, School Board Member At Large
General Election, Dripping Springs ISD, School Board Member
General Election, Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Director
General Election, City of Wimberley for Council Members Places 1, 3, and 5
General Election, City of Buda for Council Members, Places 3, 4 and 5
General Election, City of Uhland for Mayor and Aldermen
General Election, Mountain City for Council Members

Elections cancelled for lack of opposition:

Wimberley ISD for School Board Members Places 1, 2, 3, and 5
City of Kyle for Council Members District 5 At Large and District 6
City of Woodcreek General Election for Mayor and Council Members

Early Voting Dates: April 27, 2009 – May 5, 2009

Early Voting Locations for All Elections

San Marcos CISD Trustee Election

San Marcos CISD, Admin. Office 501 S. LBJ Drive San Marcos	Monday April 27 th 7am – 7pm
	Tuesday April 28 th – Friday May 1 st 8am – 5pm
	Saturday May 2 nd 10am – 3pm
	Monday May 4 th 7am – 7pm
	Tuesday May 5 th 8am – 5 pm

Hays County Elections Office 401-C.Broadway St. San Marcos	Monday April 27 th 7am – 7pm
	Tuesday April 28 th – Friday May 1 st 8am – 5pm
	Saturday May 2 nd 10am – 3pm
	Monday May 4 th 7am – 7pm
	Tuesday May 5 th 8am – 5 pm

Early Voting Locations, Continued.

Dripping Springs ISD & Hays Trinity Groundwater Dist #2

DSISD Administration Office Monday April 27th 7am – 7pm
510 Mercer St. Tuesday April 28th – Friday May 1st 8am – 4pm
Dripping Springs Saturday May 2nd 10am – 2pm
Monday May 4th 7am – 7pm
Tuesday May 5th 8am – 4pm

Hays CISD & City of Buda

Hays CISD Administration Office Monday April 27th 7am – 7pm
21003 IH 35 Tuesday April 28th – Friday May 1st 8am – 5pm
Kyle Monday May 4th 7am – 7pm
Tuesday May 5th 8am – 5 pm
No Weekends

Buda City Hall Monday April 27th 7am – 7pm
121 N. Main St. Tuesday April 28th – Friday May 1st 8am – 5pm
Buda Saturday May 2nd 10am – 3pm
Monday May 4th 7am – 7pm
Tuesday May 5th 8am – 5 pm

Kyle City Hall Monday April 27th 7am – 7pm
100 W Center St Tuesday April 28th – Friday May 1st 8am – 5pm
Kyle Saturday May 2nd 10am – 3pm
Monday May 4th 7am – 7pm
Tuesday May 5th 8am – 5 pm

County Line Water Supply & City of Umland

County Line Water Supply Monday April 27th 7am – 7pm
131 S. El Camino Real Tuesday April 28th – Friday May 1st 8am – 5pm
Umland Saturday May 2nd 10am – 3pm
Monday May 4th 7am – 7pm
Tuesday May 5th 8am – 5 pm

JP3 Local Option on Alcohol / Village of Wimberley / Incorporation of Jacobs Well

Wimberley Community Center Monday, April 27th -- 8am – 8pm
16068 River Rd Tuesday April 28 – Friday May 1st – 8am – 5pm
Wimberley Saturday May 2nd – 10am – 2pm
Monday May 4th 8am – 8pm
Tuesday May 5th 8am – 5 pm

(Early Voting for Mountain City, Contact Mountain City Hall for times)

**Address for Applications for SMCISD Early Voting by Mail: Central Administrative Office,
P. O. Box 1087, San Marcos, TX 78667-1087, Attention Early Voting Clerk.
Other cities or school districts have different addresses for early voting by mail. Call those
entities for details, or Hays Elections Administrator, 512-393-7310.**

Election Day Polling Locations open 7 a.m to 7 p.m May 9

(Check Voter Registration Card for District Number, or call Hays County Election office at 393-7310.)

San Marcos CISD Election

District #1: HAYS COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE, 401 C Broadway St., San Marcos

District #2: SAN MARCOS HOUSING OFFICE, 820 Sturgeon St., San Marcos

District #2: MARTINDALE BAPTIST CHURCH, 103 Main St., Martindale
(Caldwell Co. & Guadalupe Co.)

District #3: GUADALUPE HALL, 218 Roosevelt St., San Marcos

District #4: CROCKETT ELEMENTARY, 1300 Girard St., San Marcos

District #5: TRAVIS ELEMENTARY, 1437 Post Rd., San Marcos

Hays CISD Election

District #1: Kyle City Hall, 100 W. Center St., Kyle

District #2: City of Kyle Fire Station #2, 150 Bunton Rd., Kyle

District #3: Buda City Hall, 121 S. Main St., Buda

District #4: Hays Hills Baptist Church, 1401 N. FM 1626, Buda

District #5: Performing Arts Center, 979 Kohlers Crossing, Kyle and also
Driftwood Community Center, 15100 W. FM 150, Driftwood

City of Wimberley/Wimberley ISD/J.P. Pct. 3 Local Option Election

Wimberley Community Center, 14068 Ranch Rd. 12, Wimberley

**See www.lwvtexas.org for *Voters Guides* from other parts of Texas.
Click on “Find information on your Local League” and then choose and click
on the desired name of the town or city to find the *Voters Guide*
for San Marcos or other locations.**

**Website for Hays County Election Administrator: www.elections@co.hays.tx.us
Phone number for Hays County Elections Administrator: 512-393-7310**