



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

2017 CITY OF DESOTO  
SPECIAL ELECTION

NON PARTISAN

# VOTERS GUIDE

EARLY VOTING • AUGUST 9 – AUGUST 22, 2017 ELECTION DAY • AUGUST 26, 2017 • POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 7 PM

## BE A TEXAS VOTER

### About This *Voters Guide*

This printed *Voters Guide* lists candidates in contested races who are on the August 26, 2017 City of DeSoto Special Election ballot and provides their answers to questions posed by the League of Women Voters of Dallas. This *Voters Guide* is funded and published by the League of Women Voters of Dallas which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

### Races & Candidates

Candidate replies are printed without editing or verification.

### Vote411.org

The on-line Voters Guide is at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org).

### Voter Identification: What to Take to the Polls

Here is a list of the acceptable forms of voter ID:

- Texas driver license
- Texas Election Identification Certificate
- Texas personal identification card
- Texas handgun license
- U.S. military identification card containing the person's photograph
- U.S. citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- Passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than four years before being presented.

Here is a list of supporting forms of ID that can be presented if the voter cannot obtain, and has a reasonable impediment or difficulty to obtaining one of the forms of acceptable photo ID:

- Valid voter registration certificate
- Certified birth certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original current utility bill
- Copy of or original bank statement
- Copy of or original government check
- Copy of or original paycheck
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

After presenting a supporting form of ID, the voter must execute a reasonable impediment declaration.

### Polling Times & Locations

#### Disciple Central Community Church, 901 N Polk Street:

August 9 – August 11	8AM to 5PM
August 14 – August 18	8AM to 5PM
Saturday August 19	8AM to 5PM
Sunday August 20	1PM to 6PM
August 21 – August 22	7AM to 7PM

#### Belt Line Conference Center, 200 E Belt Line Road:

Saturday August 26	7AM to 7PM
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### CITY OF DESOTO

The City Council is the governing and law making body of the City of DeSoto and consists of a Mayor and six Councilmembers. All are elected at large, by qualified voters of the entire city, and members must reside in the district they represent. The Mayor represents the city as a whole and is not required to live in a particular district. City Council meetings are open to the public and are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

## QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES

**PROPERTY TAXES:** What specific changes, if any, would you support to DeSoto's property tax rate?

**MANAGING GROWTH:** What challenges are presented by DeSoto's rapid population growth and expansion of its economic base? How would you propose to manage them? Please be specific.

**HOUSING:** As home prices continue to escalate, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families. The city council recently approved additional apartment construction in DeSoto. Share your thoughts on this decision.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Would you reprioritize or enhance code enforcement responsibilities?

**LEADERSHIP:** How would you propose to educate and encourage young people to be future leaders in the city?

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** What do you view as DeSoto's biggest opportunity and/or challenge during the next council term?

## CITY COUNCIL PLACE 7



### Jonathan "Johnny" Salguero:

**PROPERTY TAXES:** According to the City of DeSoto, TX Annual Budget adopted Fiscal year 2016-2017, "city(DeSoto) is still dealing with remnants of past fiscal decisions"(pg.38). Under the leadership of our current city manager the property tax has been decreasing for the second year in a row. A decrease in property tax is welcome by me at any time, except when the money can be used to better the community. If there was an increase in property tax, it would only be done after holding a community meeting and getting citizen's feedback.

**MANAGING GROWTH:** A challenge to match population and expansion would be building on our transportation infrastructure. As each day passes, more people are moving into DeSoto and soon an apartment complex will be built (bringing hundreds of people) which will cause a huge impact on traffic if our transportation infrastructure is not invested in. We need to start building more lanes or etc. in known areas of DeSoto where people are flocking too.

**HOUSING:** I was actually at a city council meeting where they approved an apartment complex. Many home owners feared their housing value dropping, traffic congestion, and an increase in crime. I wish more time would have been used to evaluate the home owner's concern, but I do believe apartments where necessary to alleviate some pressure. Some zoning ordinances should be re-evaluated to create more houses to lower the cost of housing. Apartment will add hundreds of more residents. Hundreds of more people in the City of DeSoto will raise the price on many services to meet up with the citizen population.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** I would enhance code-enforcement responsibilities. According to DeSoto Police Department Annual Report 2016, "code services handled 9,480 issues"(pg.19 2016). The top violations were high grass and weeds, illegal signs, and etc. These items can lead to the mindset where the people in the area do not care. The uncleaned property is then seen by passing individuals who are more likely to leave trash in the area. The area could be thought as of no one living in the residence and now you have people hanging around at all time of the day until a house gets broken into. That folks is the broken windows theory.

**LEADERSHIP:** To get young people encouraged and knowledgeable to become the future leaders in the city, I would focus on them yearly while they are in school via a week experiment. In collaboration with DeSoto ISD, there should be a week experiment, for example, where 7 random students are selected to be council reps for student body and they enact different tedious rules. On the fifth day, give the reason why(in this instance budget cuts) the rule was made, a real city life example to go with it, and reward

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** The biggest opportunity DeSoto has during the next council term is to continue to invest in Eagle Park in hopes even more businesses will come to DeSoto. The biggest challenge Desoto will have next council term will be how to deal with rising cost to run and keep up the city with a limited way of producing income.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** **Occupation:** Probation Officer; **Age:** 9/8/1994; **Education:** B.A in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington; **Email:** [desotoforjohnny@gmail.com](mailto:desotoforjohnny@gmail.com); **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/desoto4johnny/>; **Twitter:** [twitter.com/desotoforjohnny](https://twitter.com/desotoforjohnny)



### James E Collier Jr:

**PROPERTY TAXES:** Desoto provides Cadillac services to the citizens of Desoto. When the city of Desoto can they decrease the rate, and increase when necessary. Based on the mix of residential and commercial properties, commercial business provides the best return on taxes. Desoto is 80% developed, if we increase our commercial property investment in the city the residents could receive a decrease in their tax rate.. This is dependent on quality economic developments and understanding the markets.

**James E Collier Jr, candidate for City Council Place 7, continued...**

**MANAGING GROWTH:** Challenges include knowing your markets and what draws commercial and retail to an area. Restaurants must have pedestrian traffic to survive, are the areas walkable safe spaces? Will people frequent a particular business? Working with owners, the mayor, other council members and listening to citizen's concerns will build a stronger understanding of growth. People are purchasing on-line – and big box retailers are reducing their presence in a community. eCommerce distribution centers are what is working now. Are we protecting space for those future endeavors?

**HOUSING:** While we do have some new construction projected for the future we must make sure the management operations of those apartments work with council and does what they say they will do. As president of the Westmoreland HOA citizens want safe streets, clean city, good schools and citizens that care about their living space. These apartments must be continually reviewed to make sure they live up to our expectations and provide an affordable rate.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Code enforcement is very important. It is the number one activity of our action center that responds to citizen's concerns. Animals, fences, cars on grass. The city of Desoto has a GOREQUEST Iphone App that people can use to report concerns. There is a phone number and email available on-line and contact through the Action Center at the city of Desoto. Many of the concerns are dealt with within 48 hours. For those citizens that like face to face contact, the city of Desoto has 4 people in code enforcement and they are reachable. The city of Desoto also has a graffiti squad that responds within 24 hours of a call

**LEADERSHIP:** All people should be a mentor to one other young person. As part of what I want to do as City councilmember – I will bring together multiple age groups to talk about Desoto and how they plug in and be a part of the city's future and what they would like to see. I plan on having traditional Townhall meetings and on-line Townhall meetings through social media.

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** Keeping our quality services and maintaining our financial rating, property taxes and accountability to the taxpayer, sustainable economic growth, transportation, and quality of life.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Occupation: Business Owner; Age: 7/23/1946; Education: M.S. Degree Criminal Justice Chicago State University 1993; Campaign Phone: (972) 207-2175; Email: [jamescollierjrdesoto@gmail.com](mailto:jamescollierjrdesoto@gmail.com); Facebook: <http://jamesecollier.campaign>; Twitter: [twitter.com/collierplace7](https://twitter.com/collierplace7)



**Kenzie Moore III:**

**PROPERTY TAXES:** I would not support a property tax increase, all thought property owners are experiencing a "Hidden Property Tax" each year when our property value increase, therefore we are already paying a higher tax. The City financials are good, however, if we had to enact budget constraints I would look to defer some Professional Service Agreements and put some projects on hold or delay. I would also see what departments can be outsourced. I would put a freeze on raises. I would have a review of all personnel and their position, I would look to eliminate positions that are not needed.

**MANAGING GROWTH:** Our biggest challenge is increasing our economic base. We have the opportunity to develop Hampton Rd which is a main street in the City. By bringing in mixed-use development we can attract both young and middle age residents who are looking for a great quality of life that offers the arts and entertainment with nice restaurants. I do not believe in imposing more fee's on businesses who may bring jobs to our City, Desoto will be a business friendly community.

**HOUSING:** I am a Real Estate broker and I believe in fairing housing for all. These apartments will meet the need of some of our young residents who are just starting and may be employed in the area. With rent so high in the City of Dallas this is an opportunity for our City to attract more people who may purchase a home at a later time. The apartments will be very professional and attractive, I am excited about this new development.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** I would re-prioritize Code Enforcement and ensure there are no additional fee's but enforce what we have on record. Some enforcement are a burden but also needed to protect our quality of life.

**LEADERSHIP:** We have a number of leadership programs in DeSoto, I went through a program called Leadership Southwest, I became Chairmen for two years after completing my training. It is the reason I decided to get involved. I later went on to be President of Desoto Education Foundation and then ran for DeSoto ISD School Board where I served six years. I'm now a mentor for young boys in the district. The City has a internship for young men and women. Our young people are very excited about serving, our School Board had some of the youngest trustee's in the State of Texas. I was very proud to serve with them.

**OPPORTUNITY/CHALLENGE:** Economic Growth! Our citizens are looking to the City Council, to be leaders and encourage business expansion which will bring more revenue and lower our tax base. There are some projects in the works. We have a great Mayor and City Manager, they work very close together along with our Council to ensure we bring the RIGHT type of business to DeSoto.. My goal is to continue to work with this City Council to bring more business to our great City and to provide quality services to our elderly population.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:** Occupation: Real Estate Broker; Age: 11/24/1958; Education: Southwestern Christian College, Abilene Christian University; Campaign Phone: (972) 523-2573; Email: [kenz3@msn.com](mailto:kenz3@msn.com); Facebook: <http://kenzie.moore>; Twitter: [twitter.com/Kenz350](https://twitter.com/Kenz350)