



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

SEAGOVILLE
2023

NON PARTISAN

VOTERS GUIDE

EARLY VOTING • APRIL 24, 2023 – MAY 2, 2023

ELECTION DAY • MAY 6, 2023 • POLLS OPEN 7 AM TO 7 PM

BE A TEXAS VOTER

About This *Voters Guide*

This printed *Voters Guide* lists items that will be on the ballot for the May 6 election, which includes city of Seagoville races and charter amendment propositions. Candidate responses are presented as submitted without editing. 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.

Vote411.org & LWVDallas.org

You may also see all items on your ballot on-line at Vote411.org.

The LWV Dallas website at www.lwvdallas.org has a wealth of practical information for voters.

Eligibility for Voting

You must be a citizen of the United State, registered to vote in the county of your residence 30 days prior to election day, and must be at least 18 years old on election day. You cannot vote if you have been declared by a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote or are a convicted felon who has not completed your sentence, probation and/or parole.

Polling Place Times & Dates

Monday April 24 – Friday April 28	8AM to 5PM
Saturday April 29	8AM to 5PM
Sunday April 30	12PM to 6PM
Monday May 1 & Tuesday May 2	7AM to 7PM
Saturday May 6 (ELECTION DAY)	7AM to 7PM

Polling Place Locations

Voters registered in Dallas County may vote in person at any of the Dallas County polling locations during early voting and on election day (“Dallas County Votes Anywhere”). For addresses of locations open during early voting and those open on election day, see www.DallasCountyVotes.org or call 469.627.8683.

Early Vote by Mail (Absentee)

Because of changes enacted by the state legislature in 2021, it is important that voters applying for mail ballots not use application forms issued before 2022. The new forms and also mail ballot envelopes ask voters to provide additional identification. We recommend voters provide BOTH a Texas Driver’s License or Texas Personal Identification Number AND the last four digits of their social security number on the new application form and ballot envelopes.

You are eligible to vote early by mail if you are registered and:

- 65 years of age or older on Election Day
- Out of the county during the entire election including early voting
- Sick or Disabled
- Confined in jail but eligible to vote.

People voting by mail due to disability or age may use a single application to request ballots by mail for all elections in a calendar year. To do so, simply mark “Annual Application” on your application for a ballot by mail. **This option must be renewed every year.**

Once you have received and marked your ballot it can be returned.

- If hand delivered or if delivered by a common or contract carrier without a delivery receipt, it must be **RECEIVED** by the early voting clerk by **7 p.m. on election day**.
- If mailed and postmarked by 7 p.m. on election day or delivered by common or contract carrier and accompanied by a delivery receipt showing the voter submitted the ballot for delivery by 7 p.m. on election day, it must **ARRIVE** by **5 p.m. on the next business day after election day**.

Track your mail ballot at www.DallasCountyVotes.org.

Other Information

For more information on any of these topics or on provisional voting, limited ballots, photo ID, military or overseas voting, health protocols or any other voting topic see www.lwvdallas.org or www.DallasCountyVotes.org or call 469.627.8683.

A runoff election, if any is needed, will be held **Saturday June 10**.

Table of Contents

Seagoville Mayor and City Council Races

Page 2

Seagoville Charter Amendment Election

Page 5

Helpful Information

Websites

Dallas County Elections Department
Texas Secretary of State
League of Women Voters of Dallas
League of Women Voters of Texas

DallasCountyVotes.org
VoteTexas.gov
LWVDallas.org
LWVTexas.org

Telephone Numbers

Dallas County Elections Department
Texas Secretary of State - Elections Division
League of Women Voters of Dallas
League of Women Voters of Texas

(469)627-8683
(800)252-8683
(214) 688-4125
(512)472-1100

SEAGOVILLE CITY COUNCIL

The Seagoville City Council consists of five council members and a mayor, elected at large to two-year places with staggered terms. City Councilmembers shall serve no more than three (3) consecutive two (2) year terms, excluding the mayor. If no candidate for Mayor or a city council place receives 50% or more of the votes, there will be a runoff election.

The Council is the governing body of the City, responsible for setting policy, approving the City budget, and enacting municipal ordinances. The City Council appoints the City Manager, City Secretary, City Attorney, Municipal Judge, and other officials as designated by the City Charter. Public hearings, legal notices, and city ordinance captions are published in the official newspaper, Daily Commercial Record.

SEAGOVILLE MAYOR

LACKEY STEPPER SEBASTIAN, DENNIS K CHILDRESS: NO RESPONSE

SEAGOVILLE PL 2

JOSE “JOJO” HERNANDEZ



Occupation: Sr. Int'l. Trade Compliance Manager
Campaign Email: jojopl2@sbcglobal.net

Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: I understand the duties of the office involved: to make decisions for the betterment of the city. I have over ten years of experience as a city council member for the City of Seagoville.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: Yes, there is a need for housing diversity. We need to be able to provide housing that is affordable, sustainable and upgradeable. I would like to see families start here and stay here during their lifetime. I am tired of seeing families leave to other cities that have greater housing choices.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: It is fair and efficient. I would only support changes that would provide greater efficiencies than what we have today.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: We need to be competitive in salaries but not be the highest or lowest in the region. I support to keep compensation in the middle of similar cities. We should provide them the necessary tools and training to be the best they can be.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: No, as this could make the ballot even more lengthy and voters may omit the choices for local candidates as they would be on the bottom of the ballot.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: Keep taxes low, attain additional economic growth, and keep our infrastructure in check to accommodate the anticipated growth.

BAMBI WADE: NO RESPONSE

SEAGOVILLE PL 4,

MIKE FRUIN, ALLEN GRIMES, LISA NIEDERMEIER: NO RESPONSE

PHILIP PELAYO



Facebook: www.facebook.com/philip.pelayo?mibextid=LQQJ4d

Campaign Email: philip.pelayo@gmail.com

Education: Mesquite High School

Occupation: CEO Greenforest Landscaping

Q: WHY RUNNING: What qualifies you to be an effective City Council member?

A: 20 years of experience operating a small business has allowed me to grow professionally in many aspects that will help me be an effective Council Member. 2 years of experience with the Seagoville Economic Development Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce and Seagoville Seniors Association has given me the experience of how municipalities operate. That familiarity and knowledge helped grow my passion to serve my community in a greater role.

Q: HOUSING: Do you believe there is a need for increased safe, quality, affordable housing in your community? Are there other housing issues? What do you recommend?

A: I feel that every community needs safe, quality affordable housing. I feel that community code enforcement plays a role in ensuring city ordinances and standards are maintained, but community involvement and education are also key for our city. Educating the public to other services our city offers that help keep our neighborhoods clean. Also working with code enforcement officials to see how we can help them with resources to educate residents and show them how they can report problems using the current online system and app.

Q: LICENSING AND PERMITTING PROCESS: How do you rate your city's licensing and permitting process? Do you recommend changes?

A: The new online system is fantastic. I encourage residents and contractors to sign up. You have direct access to the inspectors and ability to upload photos and documents quickly. However I think public education is crucial. Many residents are easily discouraged when they find out what they thought was a simple DIY project requires permits, inspection and often times results in perceived road blocks they didn't expect. If we could improve the system to educate those "do it your self" home owners on the proper steps, maybe they will feel there are less "road blocks" or hire qualified contractors when it's more then they are qualified for.

Q: PUBLIC SAFETY STAFFING: What changes, if any, would you support to attract and retain public safety personnel?

A: I think our city and staff encourages a fantastic work place environment that encourages retention of public safety staff. I would continue to support existing crossing guards that help protect our kids at our local schools and extend the search to hire additional crossing guards where needed as our city continues to grow and traffic around our schools increase. As our city continues to grow i will support increasing staff for our Animal Shelter, Code Enforcement, Police, and Fire Department.

Q: TIMING OF ELECTIONS: Would you support moving the city's election from May to November of odd numbered years? Why or why not?

A: I think ensuring local May elections are separate from November is crucial for bipartisanship. Local elections are to ensure the entire communities voice is heard and by keeping it separate it allows for everyone to hear community issues and have those elections apart from the national issues.

Q: CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: What is the city's greatest challenge and opportunity over the next several years?

A: The biggest challenge and opportunity is the huge growth that our city is experiencing. We have numerous housing developments and large businesses that are coming to our city. Being able to maintain the growth and expanding our infrastructure while supporting the existing neighborhoods is crucial. While growth is fantastic, it's brings construction and other issues that we must be able to manage. Our existing residents can not be forgotten during this time of growth. It's an exciting time for our city and we have to embrace all the new opportunities that growth will bring us.

SEAGOVILLE CHARTER AMENDMENT ELECTION

The city of Seagoville serves a population of 19,000. It proposes eight amendments to its home rule charter, the document that sets forth the city's structure and describes its powers and duties. Texas cities review their charters periodically, usually at five to ten year intervals. Seagoville last reviewed its charter in 2018 and one of the two proposed amendments was subsequently approved by voters.

As a home-rule city, Seagoville may pass the laws and regulations it deems necessary unless prohibited by state law. By contrast, a smaller general-law city may only do what is authorized by the state legislature.

The ten member Charter Review Commission met four times in July 2022 and made a report to City council on November 7, 2022. In February 2023 the council voted to seek voters' approval of eight amendments during the May election.

AMENDMENTS

The following lays out the proposed amendments (propositions), their impact and reasons to vote for or against each. Voters may vote "for" or "against" each proposition separately.

PROPOSITION A

Ballot Language:

Shall Article I, Section 1.01(b) of the Home Rule Charter be amended to revise number of signatures required on a petition requesting the calling of an election to change the form of government to fifty (50%) percent of the total number of legal qualified electors voting for Mayor at the last preceding City election?

Impact:

The "form of government" in the Seagoville Charter is "Council-Manager" meaning the manager has the legal authority to hire and fire employees. The alternative form is "strong mayor" where the mayor has executive power and can hire and fire employees. Currently, an election to change the form of government requires that at least 20% of the number of voters in the last Mayoral election sign a petition requesting the election.

Reasons to Vote "For":

Nearly all cities in Texas, large and small, use the Council-Manager form of government. The bar should be set high for an expensive election to consider this unlikely change. The amendment would require that more signatures be garnered before an election is called.

Reasons to Vote "Against":

While Houston is the only major city in Texas to use a form of government other than Council-Manager, the Seagoville citizens should be able to vote on such a change if they wish. Leave the bar low to make it easier.

PROPOSITION B**Ballot Language:**

Shall the Home Rule Charter be amended to delete outdated language and add updated language to comply with state law requirements?

Impact:

This would allow routine cleanup of Charter language not compliant with current state law.

Reasons to Vote “For”:

This proposition would provide an efficient way to bring the Charter up to date and in compliance with State law. State law always dominates regardless of what is in the Charter.

Reasons to Vote “Against”:

No reason to vote against.

PROPOSITION C**Ballot Language:**

Shall Article III, Sections 3.01 and 3.02 of the Home Rule Charter be amended to clarify the requirement that the mayor and members of the city council must be qualified voters of the City residing within the City of Seagoville for a minimum of one (1) year prior to and on the date of the election and during the term of office in order to hold office?

Impact:

This change clarifies the residency requirement for the mayor and members of the council.

Reasons to Vote “For”:

This change would prevent misunderstanding of requirement that a qualified candidate must have lived in Seagoville for at least one year prior to election and must reside in the city during the term of office.

Reasons to Vote “Against”:

No reason to vote against.

PROPOSITION D**Ballot Language:**

Shall Article III, Section 3.01 of the Home Rule Charter be amended to add a provision that a member of the city council, including the mayor, shall forfeit his office should he lack any of the qualifications of office prescribed by law and to provide that the city council may, by ordinance, provide the process for determining and declaring forfeiture?

Impact:

The Charter currently cites the qualifications for holding elected office but does not specify what happens should an office holder not meet qualifications. This amendment specifies that an office holder who does not meet qualifications shall forfeit his/her office.

Reasons to Vote “For”:

This amendment provides a needed process for dealing with an office holder who does not meet minimum qualifications.

Reasons to Vote “Against”:

No reason to vote against.

PROPOSITION E**Ballot Language:**

Shall Article III, Section 3.03 of the Home Rule Charter be amended to provide for compensation for each member of the city council, including the mayor, at a rate of thirty (\$30.00) dollars for each regular and special called council meeting attended by said member?

Impact:

Currently, City Council members serve without compensation.

Reasons to Vote “For”:

The amount of compensation proposed, \$30 per meeting attended, is minimal and may provide some incentive for councilmembers who donate a great deal of time and energy to serving the city.

Reasons to Vote “Against”:

Council members should serve because of their sense of duty and love for the city, not because of compensation.

PROPOSITION F

Ballot Language:

Shall Article III, Section 3.19 of the Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that a member of any city board or commission shall not have been finally convicted of (1) a felony or an assaultive class A misdemeanor for which the person has not been pardoned or otherwise released from the resulting disabilities or (2) a non-assaultive class A misdemeanor within ten years of the date of appointment of such person to the board of commission?

Impact:

Currently the Charter states that a person is disqualified from serving on a board or commission if convicted of certain offenses but does not specify that being pardoned or otherwise released from the charge reinstates the qualifications. Also, currently the Charter does not cite any disqualification in connection with a non-assaultive class A misdemeanor.

Reasons to Vote “For”:

The reinstatement of a person who was convicted but subsequently pardoned or released is only fair. Such a person should be allowed to serve on a board or commission. This change also adds a time-limited disqualification of a person convicted of a non-assaultive class A misdemeanor, which is a serious offence.

Reasons to Vote “Against”:

Ten years is too long a time to disqualify a person from serving on a board or commission who was convicted of a non-assaultive class A misdemeanor.

PROPOSITION G

Ballot Language:

Shall Article IX, Section 9.03 be amended to provide that relationship to another city employee does not prohibit a person being employed by or contracting with the City, except that no person related to a supervisory city employee within the second degree by affinity or the third degree by consanguinity shall serve directly under the supervision of such relative?

Impact:

Currently the Charter states that no person related to any city elected official or other city employee shall be allowed to work for the city or contract with the city, with a few very limited exceptions. This change would allow relatives to work for the city but not be supervised by a relative.

Reasons to Vote “For”:

This would expand the pool of people eligible to work for the city without the risk of a supervisor unfairly favoring a relative.

Reasons to Vote “Against”:

The risk of relatives working in the same organization is complicated beyond their simply working for each other. The current Charter language protects the city more completely.

PROPOSITION H

Ballot Language:

Shall the Home Rule Charter be amended to add a new section 12.04 to Article XII to provide that in the event of typographical, grammatical, gender-specific, or other non-substantive errors in the Charter, the city council may, by majority vote, correct the same, provided that such correction may not alter the substantive meaning of any provision of the Home Rule Charter?

Impact:

Currently the Charter provides no way to correct non-substantive errors.

Reasons to Vote “For”:

This would enable routine corrections to the Charter to be handled efficiently without an expensive election.

Reasons to Vote “Against”:

No reason to vote against.



Local Elections Matter. Get Ready To Vote.

 **Local*** elections are **Saturday, May 6!**

- **EARLY VOTING: MONDAY, APRIL 24-TUESDAY, MAY 2**
- **LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE: THURSDAY, APRIL 6**

**Local elections are nonpartisan. This is your opportunity to vote for your mayor, city council member, and school district trustee.*

Have a voice in *your* government! 

CHECK IF YOU
ARE REGISTERED
TO VOTE



votetexas.gov

SEE SAMPLE
BALLOT, WHERE &
WHEN TO VOTE



[↑dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org)
or ballotpedia.org

RESEARCH
CANDIDATES ON
YOUR BALLOT



Vote411.org

LEARN HOW DALLAS
GOVERNMENT
IS STRUCTURED



bit.ly/Ballotpedia_DallasGovt

FOR
QUESTIONS
CALL OR VISIT



[↑lwvtexas.org](http://lwvtexas.org)
or lwvdallas.org
214-688-4125

Got questions? We have answers! Vote411.org

GOT VOTING ISSUES? ELECTION PROTECTION HAS ANSWERS! CALL 866.OURVOTE

LWVD is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, civic organization. We do not endorse or oppose parties or candidates