



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

2021 DeSoto

VOTERS GUIDE

NON PARTISAN

EARLY VOTING • JANUARY 20, 2021 – JANUARY 29, 2021

ELECTION DAY • FEBRUARY 2, 2021 • 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 February 2, 2021 City of DeSoto Special Election. 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. Call 214-688-4125 or lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net for questions.

Texas law allows you to carry this Voters Guide inside the voting booth.

Vote411.org

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

Photo ID Requirement

People voting in person must present a form of photo ID or alternative approved by the state or else may only vote provisionally. For more information and exceptions see DallasCountyVotes.org or call 214.819.6300.

Dallas County Health Protocols for Voters Voting in Person

For detail, see DallasCountyVotes.org.

In general,

- Voters should perform a Self-Assessment before going to a polling location for signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19.
- Voters exhibiting any of the known symptoms of COVID-19 should consider curbside voting.
- Voters should consider bringing their own marking instruments such as a pen, pencil with eraser, etc.
- Voters should consider wearing their personal cloth face covering when entering the polling place.

- The voter should be prepared to lower or remove their face covering when checking in if the election judge is not able to determine identity while wearing a face covering.
- If a voter contracts COVID-19 or other condition that prevents the voter from appearing at the polling place on election day without a likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health after the deadline to submit an application for a ballot by mail, the voter should contact Dallas County Ballot by Mail at 214.819.6364 for details about submitting an Application for Emergency Early Voting Ballot.

Eligibility for Voting

You must be a citizen of the United States, 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.

Early Voting Times & Locations

Wednesday Jan 20 – Saturday Jan 23	8AM to 5PM
Sunday Jan 24	1PM to 6PM
Monday Jan 25 – Wednesday Jan 27	8AM to 5PM
Thursday Jan 28 – Friday Jan 29	7AM to 7PM

Dallas County residents may vote at the Disciple Central Community Church (Sanctuary), 901 N Polk Street, DeSoto 75115

Election Day Times & Locations

Dallas Co residents may vote at any polling location on Election Day.

Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM on Feb 2, election day. For election day locations see DallasCountyVotes.org or call 214.819.630

City of DeSoto Special Election

The City Council is the governing and lawmaking 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. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the votes, there will be a runoff election.

City Council 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

BUDGET: How will you balance the city's budget with the loss of sales tax revenue and potentially property values due to COVID? Will you support cuts in services or raising the tax rate? Please, be specific.

DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC: How can your city support residents during the pandemic and through recovery? Discuss jobs, housing and other specific impacts the pandemic may have on your city

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: With the high cost of housing, pressure increases for affordable housing options for families and city workers. It is becoming unaffordable for some to live in their own neighborhoods. Do you support additional apartment construction in the city? What changes, if any, would you support?

PUBLIC SAFETY: How would you rate the city's performance in the area of public safety? Would you recommend changes? If so, how would you pay for them? How would you prioritize these upgrades compared to other city needs?

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

MAYOR

Rachel L Proctor



Age: 12/15/1980

Occupation: Small Business Owner

Education: BA - Interdisciplinary Studies, UT - Arlington

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BUDGET: Should the city be faced with a budget constraint due to COVID, one of the initial measures I would suggest would be to look at cutting a percentage of the budget across each department. The reason for this is that is, it causes departments to "trim the fat" and it forces you to look for ways to be more efficient in how you operate. I've seen many times that when faced with making those choices, you can operate on less than you think you can and realize savings as a result of it. Also, something else that I would consider is looking at positions of retirees or employees who quit and evaluate each of those positions in terms of necessity before filling that position again. Reducing services or raising the tax rate is currently not ideal and I would only consider that as a last resort should all measures attempted before not be enough to get us through the constraint.

DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC: During this unprecedented challenge of the current pandemic, the city would need to first proactively lobby for as much in Covid relief dollars as possible. These dollars would need to be provided to residents impacted by job loss and used for housing and utility payments. The city could also work with Landlords to provide an eviction moratorium in return for some tax incentives. With the increase in banks investing in minority-majority areas and initiatives, the city could meet with bank leaders to establish business loans specifically for DeSoto business owners that would increase jobs while investing in our own. Housing and jobs are the two areas that have been hardest hit and addressing these areas will have a positive impact on other issues throughout the city caused by the pandemic.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I'm in support of providing a variety of housing options for residents. Many cities have found that there are millennials and single adults who look over their city because the only housing option is a single-family home and they aren't either financially at that point or simply aren't interested in ownership at that time. For them, a townhome or apartment is more in line with their current lifestyle. Some travel for work or don't want to worry about the upkeep of lawns, etc. that apartment and townhome living doesn't require. I am in support of quality, high end, affordable apartment and townhome developments to provide that option to our citizens and those who may desire our area but don't see the variety of choices for housing in neighboring cities. To ensure accountability standards, we can put registration processes in place for apartment owners and landlords.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I believe that our city currently has done a good job in the area of public safety but there is always room for improvement. We need to provide greater coverage and presence across the city. I would also work to help initiate the process of forming Neighborhood Associations for those subdivisions without a Mandatory/Voluntary HOA already in place. This way, communication can be further strengthened between residents and the police and fire departments. These types of initiatives pay huge dividends and don't cost a thing. As far as increasing the numbers of police as has been suggested by some that would cost to not only recruit but to retain qualified candidates by matching industry compensation plans. This would require an in-depth look at the budget to first determine areas where we could reduce spending without impacting services to see what dollars could be reallocated to police recruitment and salaries.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: The greatest challenge and opportunity in the next several years will be the pandemic because its impact will be far-reaching into our future. It is incumbent upon us to look at this through a multifaceted lens. From the impacts on our residents following unemployment or underemployment to the academic slide of our students this pandemic is going to play a role in our decision making for years to come. This challenge is also an opportunity to come together as a whole and make strides that will serve as an example of what a city can do when they decide to work together on their collective issues.

Kenzie Moore III



Age: 11/24/1958

Occupation: Real Estate Broker

Education: SWCC Studied Religion Edu. ACU, studied Accounting, attending UNT Dallas, completing by B.S. degree!

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BUDGET: As small business owner in DeSoto, I've been balancing budgets for over 30 years. As a DeSoto council member and the Mayor Pro-Tem, We must realize cost savings through attrition and be creative with remote work options that reduce administrative expenses. We can strategically use our strong fund balance to maintain city services and avoid raising taxes at all costs. Also, our E-Commerce business has generated more revenue for our city which has off-set the lost of revenue from hotel revenue fund(HOT Fund).

DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC: I'm a strong advocate for using COVID Relief funds to directly impact our citizens, businesses and neighborhoods. I support direct grants to small businesses in DeSoto. I led the Small Business Subcommittee to identify businesses in our community that needed assistance with their payroll and supplies also, temporary grants for residents with the greatest need for things like rental, mortgage, transportation and utility assistance. I also wanted to make sure our students have what they need to be successful with remote learning, which is why I strongly pushed for a \$300,000 investment in wifi for our young people in DeSoto ISD.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I am a strong proponent of the benefits of home ownership. I do not believe we need more apartments at this time. As a community, we have a ton of talented individuals and resources and I am committed to supporting partnerships that offer educational resources for all citizens to realize home ownership. We must also diversify the commercial tax base to further lessen the burden placed on homeowners. We are a rooftop city with home values greater than the average in southwest Dallas county and as a business owner, Real Estate Broker, I'm for protecting home values.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I believe our performance in public safety has been generally strong. But there is always room for improvement. We must focus on proactive crime prevention, and ensure officers are visible in our neighborhoods and serving the needs of our citizens. But we must also expand public safety to include public health, particularly in light of COVID-19. That is why we have created a Mental Health Service Unit thru the (CARES Team) Public safety is the number one priority for the Mayor, and our budget must reflect this priority

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: Our greatest challenge is restoring trust and increasing transparency. In all my years serving DeSoto - I have been open, honest and loyal to our community. I have never switched up, and I never will. Our greatest opportunity is the chance to really transform DeSoto into an oasis of arts and culture for southern Dallas County. Our people are innovative and talented. And I will work tirelessly to ensure we bring businesses that are culturally relevant to take DeSoto to the next level as the place to live, work, play and raise a family.

John W McCalib



Age: 12/7/1950

Occupation: National Credit MGR

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BUDGET: I would consider a hiring freeze first and try to avoid cuts in services. If that did not achieve a balanced budget, I would then review each department for specific ways to reduce costs. I would not want to impact our police, fire, and EMS departments. We are critically short of officers at the present so that would be off the table. Our recent survey, as of October 2020 confirms the highest rating of all departments are our police, EMS, and fire departments.

DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC: DeSoto is dealing with the pandemic through the C.A.R.E.S. Federal government ac. and the Dallas County Emergency housing program (EHAP) designed to provide rapid, short term housing funding. It targets a population eligible through specific household and individual incomes. EHAP provides critical assistance if more families experience loss of income and face potential homelessness. I would ensure we are monitoring the success of our programs and follow-up to determine if sufficient assistance is provided to those who need it. We have to be proactive and vigilant in providing all available resources to our citizens. The city of DeSoto is working with our businesses through the Small Business Administration for those in need of grants. So far, a total of \$421k have been awarded to businesses. Also, for food pantries a total of \$76k was awarded. We have to continue to take advantage of all resources and programs, let our citizens know what is available and assist them in getting it.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Since DeSoto is 90% built out, we have nowhere else to build but up. I support apartments and townhomes but only within specific zoning approved areas. I would suggest they be built bordered by a utility easement or land border. For example, the Veloweb bicycle trail system area or 10 Mile Creek where there is a natural boundary and less likely to have HOA disapproval's. I would also consider rent assistance for police officers, fire department or city employees that live in the apartments.

PUBLIC SAFETY: DeSoto's recent survey released in October 2020 suggests the citizenry is 100% behind our police force and feels they are doing a good job. In the spirit of continuous improvement, I would propose we go back to community policing. That could include having one specific police officer in a specific territory. We can get the police officers to engage in the neighborhood and HOAs. I also suggest we help neighborhoods form or strengthen their current neighborhood watch programs. Police officers would attend these meetings to introduce themselves and specifically tell citizens what the crime statistics are and share preventative measures they can take. The community would see police cars patrolling their neighborhood and being accessible. Currently, DeSoto has started a program to be proactive in helping citizens with mental health issues get help. It is worse when a 911 call comes and the situation might be more heightened due to a mental health issue.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: DeSoto citizens have longed for a natatorium and now it is on our 2021 Strategic Plan. Fortunately, with my background and experience on the DeSoto Park & Recreation Board, I have acquired knowledge of what that entails. I have visited several locations in the metroplex to get an idea of what a great complex should look like. Being on the city council I would be able to help my vision become a reality. Each natatorium I've researched includes positives and negatives. I would work to ensure we have one unique to DeSoto that fits our citizens needs. Some positive features could include a workout area and swimming areas. Extras amenities would be childcare availability for members, designated sections of the pool for children and adults, and birthday parties, as well as landscaping towards low maintenance or xeriscape properties. It would be a great achievement for the city to achieve this goal and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

Calvin Graham



Age: 2/25/1950

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BUDGET: Many readers may see this as a hypothetical question but I assure you it's not: it's not if the budget will experience a shortfall but rather when. As councilmember I would not support either a reduction in city services nor raise the tax rate. My reasoning is this: if the city find itself in a financial bind for operational funds, I must assume residents too are also experiencing greater financial difficulties. Therefore, arbitrarily adding additional expenses to the residential community would be a betrayal of ones fiduciary duty. In response to the short fall issue: as a councilmember I advocate maintaining a rainy day fund and/or a rolling reserve account to handle emergencies.

DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC: Policies developed at the national level designed to contain the COVID-19 virus outbreak are well conceived but collaboration my local officials are vital to ensure success of policies. Efforts on the ground by local actors implementing and regulating guidelines regarding such mandates as mask, social distancing and crowd gathering will play a huge role in control and eradication of the virus. Finally, local officials must provide treatment sites to in sufficient numbers to accommodate the public.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Affordable Housing is a code phrase for income inequality. As long as we fail to address the income inequality issue affordable housing shall continue to plague housing market and be a drag on the economy. With regards to growing pressures on affordable housing for city employee: the present pay scale structure of city employees is problematic. Therefore, the city itself is a contributor of the problem they allege to want to solve. As for as more apartments: I would be reluctant to support additional apartment construction because apartment dwellers do not have skin in the game if they are renters. Then, the question becomes how do we convert renters to homeowners? As a councilmember I would bring innovative business policies that would achieve homeownership for all city employees.

PUBLIC SAFETY: My observations regarding policing and public safety are yet to be substantiated and therefore I must reserve my thoughts on this topic until a later time.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: It's difficult to address a problem without first acknowledging a problem exist. Throughout the entire election cycle much of the rhetoric has been about how great the city - DeSoto - i is doing. I suppose the objective is to camouflage the fact(s) that the school system is imploding, black-listed by industry who is hesitant to relocate within city boundaries, the city held hostage by political officials who are conflicted about their fiduciary responsibilities and on and on. As with any problem(s) there are opportunities to fix it. As a councilmember I am convinced that growing the economic base and creating economic development formation is the greatest challenge and opportunity before us. Accomplishing this objective would allow council to deliver a diverse mix of quality services to residents which allow DeSoto to "RISE AGAIN".

Letitia Hughes



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BUDGET: Hi.As it stands that I am aware of,the city's budget is currently functioning and operating well.In order to continue to balance the city's buget,but making necessary cuts due to COVID,I would recommend cuts across the board in several if not all departments.I would ask if it be possible to trim back the hours of staff so that staff would not suffer complete job loss.I would research all avenues possible so as not to have to increase the tax rate.

DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC: Our city has done well with the CARES act for citizens.We are offering assistance for individuals,non profit groups and small businesses which covers a great number of our citizens.As I have traveled the various areas and businesses that our city has,there are businesses open and citizens making the best of a new way of living.I see many and most citizens being very cognizant of the pandemic and being very cooperative when it comes to wearing masks for the health and safety of themselves as well as others.Housing has

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: I understand the need for affordable housing. I believe that we can construct new apartments in more desirable areas that don't appear to be forced in a particular area. I believe there is land available in areas of the city that could/would be a better fit than some of the places I have seen most recently.

CHALLENGE/OPPORTUNITY: I think our city's greatest challenge will be to change some of the old restrictions and ordinances in order to change the mindset of some of our citizens. It is time for us as a council to follow through on some of the changes that have been promised and not delivered. I believe the challenge will be to prove ourselves, follow thru on promises and win our citizens confidences back. I believe the greatest opportunity will come when we have MADE those changes and can now look forward to the fruits of our labor.



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.

The League of Women Voters is a peoples' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all Americans in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. We never endorse or oppose political parties or candidates, but we are political.

The League is different from many organizations in that what it accomplishes comes directly from the involvement of its members. It is a **grassroots organization** providing every member with opportunities to learn and educate others about government and take action on public policy. We walk our talk: we believe that we need everyone to participate in order for our community to be strong, safe and vibrant. Whether you contribute your time, your money, or both you can feel confident that your investment in democracy goes further in the League.

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