

Tuesday: The Last Day!

Tuesday is the last day to vote in the 2016 general election. I'm sure most CCART members have already voted. For those who have not, you have until 7pm and must vote at the voting location of the precinct in which you are registered. You don't have to vote in every race. If, for example, you don't like any of the candidates in a given slot just place no mark. However, remember to cast your vote for your state legislator (either Dr. Bonnen or Dennis Paul) and your state Senator Larry Taylor. All of them are unopposed and will be smack dab in the middle of decision-making on the future of TRS-Care next session.

Tim Lee has sent two messages during the last two weeks reminding all of us to vote. The core of his counsel:

Elections determine policy outcomes. They are the biggest factor in determining what happens during the Texas Legislative Session. We must elect officials who see the value in not only the TRS defined benefit plan, but our other valuable retirement benefits as well!

The Senators and Representatives who are elected during this cycle will have the enormous responsibility of deciding the future of TRS-Care. If nothing is done during the next Legislative Session to protect TRS-Care, participants in the program could see massive premium increases or changes in benefits, or both!

Since the October legeglog the *Houston Chronicle* has endorsed three of the candidates running for the Supreme Court of Texas. All of the other endorsements remain the same as indicated in the October issue. Of course, the truly conscientious voter will likely go to houstonchronicle.com/opinion/endorsements/ to read the Chronicle's reasoning for each of their choices.

The Chronicle Endorsements

The Texas Supreme Court

The Texas Supreme Court should be filled with nine of the best lawyers that Texas has to offer. Unfortunately, our partisan elections require that justices become party-oriented fundraisers. It takes about \$1 million, if not more, to run a successful statewide campaign in Texas. That kind of money creates the appearance of impropriety on the court - if not actual conflicts of interest. It is a problem that deserves the attention of our Legislature. The *Houston Chronicle* endorses:

Place 3: Debra Lehrmann, Republican
Place 5: Dori Contreras Garza, Democrat
Place 9: Eva Guzman, Republican

The Texas Supreme Court of Criminal appeals

The Court of Criminal Appeals draws the line between individual liberty and government's police power. It has the duty of deciding between life and death. The *Houston Chronicle* endorses:

Place 2: Lawrence "Larry" Meyers, Democrat
Place 5: Scott Walker, Republican
Place 6: Robert Burns Democrat

House of Representatives

Sen. Taylor and Reps. Bonnen (Dist. 34) and Paul (Dist. 129) have no opponents but our adjacent districts do and are endorsed.

District 23: Lloyd Criss Democrat

District 144: Mary Ann Perez Democrat

Railroad Commissioner

Mark Miller, libertarian

Harris County Criminal Courts

“Voters should look for judges who can run an efficient court while maintaining their compassion.” With those words the Houston Chronicle after study and an interview endorsed the following Criminal and Civil District Court candidates:

174th: Hazel B. Jones Democrat

176th: Stacey W. Bond Republican

177th: Ryan Patrick, Republican

178th: Kelli Johnson, Democrat

179th: Kristin Guiney, Republican

337th: Renee Magee, Republican

338th: Brock Thomas, Republican

339th: Terri Jackson, Democrat

351st: Mark Kent Ellis, Republican

Civil District Courts:

151st: Mike Engelhart Democrat

152nd: Robert K. Schaffer Democrat

164th: Alexandra Smoots-Hogan Democrat

65th: Debra Ibarra Mayfield Republican

215th: Fred Shuchart Republican

333rd: Joseph "Tad" Halbach Republican

334th: Grant Dorfman Republican

Harris Co.Criminal Court at Law #16

Darrell Jordan Democrat

Harris County Civil Court at Law 1

Clyde R. Leuchtag Republican

507th Family District Court

Alyssa Lemkuil Republican

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector

Ann Harris Bennett independent

Harris County Sheriff

Ed Gonzalez Democrat

Today's Specific Voter Info

Go to Harrisvotes.org and click on “Voting Info” at the top; drag down to “Election Day Info” and click. Once there click on “Find your poll and Ballot” where you put in your name and address and click “Search” to see the address of your specific polling place and if you click on “Sample Ballot” you can see a complete ballot for your precinct.

Galvestonvotes.org has a similar process.

Federal law stipulates that if a voter appears at a polling place to vote in an election, his/her name does not appear on the official roster of voters for that polling place, the voter may cast a provisional ballot if he/she claims to be both eligible to vote in the election and registered to vote in that jurisdiction.

Curbside Voting

Voters who are physically unable to enter the polling location without a personal assistance or likelihood of injury to the voter's health may ask the presiding precinct election official to allow them to vote outside the polling location.

Stay in Contact with Your State Legislators

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Rep. Greg Bonnen - 512-463-0729

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Dist. 24 - area south of Clear Creek

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Rep. Ed Thompson - 512-463-0707

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Dist. 29 – area of Pearland/Alvin

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Rep. Wayne Faircloth - 512-463- 0502

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