

El Paso

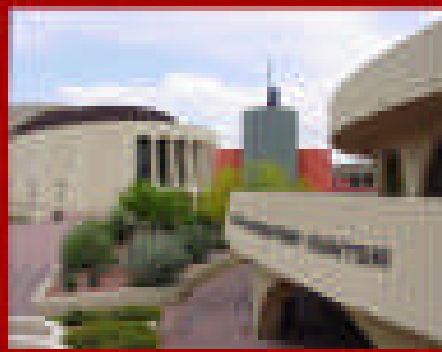
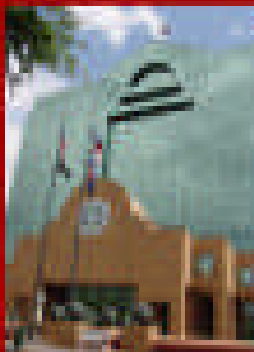
Greater El Paso Prosperity Project

✓oter's Guide

2008 Election



www.VoteElPaso.org



**The El Paso Prosperity Project
would like to thank the three
members who sponsored the
publication of the 2008 Primary
Election Voter's Guide.**



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Welcome to the **Voter's Guide of the El Paso Prosperity Project!**

Launched by the Government Relations Division of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, **the El Paso Prosperity Project (P2)** is a non-partisan, pro-business education program that aims at increasing the business community's involvement in the political process through educating employers, stakeholders and employees about the political process, voting, and candidates. Since politics affect business and industry, the business community's involvement in shaping pro-business public policy is vital. Employers use this Project's toolkits to provide political information to their employees and stakeholders and to encourage them to vote. The El Paso P2 offers a wide range of tools and information that teach employers and employees about voting, their elected official and other issues that affect their livelihood and business.

Because more informed voters are more likely to vote, the El Paso Prosperity Project brings you the 2008 Primary Elections Voter's Guide to educate you and encourage you to go vote!

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

IT'S ABOUT OUR JOBS, WAGES, THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN, AND THE HEALTH OF OUR ECONOMY.

IF WE IMPROVE PRO-BUSINESS VOTER TURNOUT BY JUST 2%, MOST OF THE RACES PERTINENT TO BUSINESS WILL BE WON! YOU CAN AFFECT YOUR LIFE! YOUR VOTE COUNTS! VOTE EL PASO!

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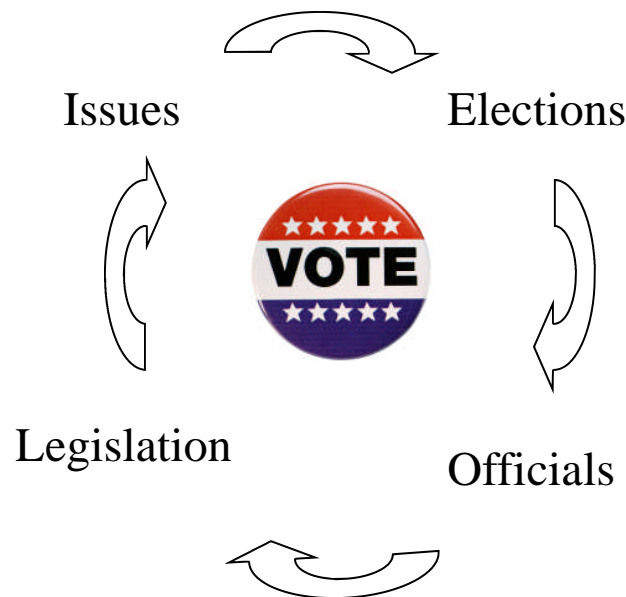


Voting Information: Why, Who, What, When, Where

Why vote?

As a citizen, it is your freedom, right and also your responsibility to VOTE. Voting is the exercise of your rights in this democratic society. It is also your avenue to take part in the political process and decision making through electing officials who decide on matters that will directly affect your life, the life of your family, and your business and industry.

Issues— such as health care, education and taxes— drive elections! Policy that affects your life is shaped through legislation; legislation is decided by officials; officials are chosen through elections. As such, the way to affect this cycle is through voting! **VOTE EL PASO!**



Following is a summary of helpful information about voting, voting registration, and early voting.

Sources of information

The voting information in this section were gathered from The Texas Secretary of State's Election Division and the El Paso County Elections Department, the two main entities responsible for elections in the State of Texas and El Paso County respectively. Texas Secretary of State is the chief election officer for the State of Texas, while the Elections Administrator is the voter registrar for the County of El Paso. It is the responsibility of El Paso County's Elections Department to register people to vote and to conduct elections for the State, County, City, School Districts and Water Districts.

Who can vote in Texas?

An American citizen who is:

- A permanent resident in Texas
- At least 18 years old on Election Day (17 years and 10 months to register)
- Not a convicted felon (unless sentence, probation and/or parole are completed)
- Not declared mentally incompetent by a court of law.

This year's Elections:

Primary Elections: Will take place on **Tuesday March 4th, 2008** (the first Tuesday in March of an even-numbered year). You will vote in either the Democratic or Republican Primary and for federal, state, and county officers. Minor parties that have ballot access in Texas do not hold Primary Elections.

Runoff Elections: If necessary these will take place on **Tuesday April 8th, 2008** (the 2nd Tuesday in April following the primary election in an even-numbered year). You can only vote in one primary, after which you are entitled to vote in that party's Runoff Election. If you have not voted in the primary, you may still vote in the Runoff Election for whichever party you choose.

General Election For federal, state, and county officers, will take place on **Tuesday November 4th, 2008** (the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November of an even-numbered year). Candidates who won the Primary Election from the Republican and Democratic Parties as well as candidates who did not compete in the Primary will compete in the General Election.

What is on your ballot?

To view a sample ballot, visit www.voteelpaso.org. This year's election will determine offices for various federal, state and countywide officials, among which are the following offices:

Federal level: President, U.S. Senator; 16th Congressional District; 23rd Congressional District

State level: Railroad Commissioner; Supreme Court Chief Justice; Supreme Court Justice, Place 7; Supreme Court Justice, Place 8; Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, Place 3; Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, Place 4; Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, Place 9; State Representative Dist. 75; State Representative Dist. 76; State Representative Dist. 77; State Representative Dist. 78; State Representative Dist. 79;

County level: County Commissioner No. 1; County Commissioner No. 3; District Attorney, County Attorney, Sheriff, County Tax-Assessor Collector; Constable, Precinct No. 1; Constable, Precinct No. 2; Constable, Precinct No. 3; Constable, Precinct No. 4; Constable, Precinct No. 5; Constable, Precinct No. 6; Constable, Precinct No. 7; Chief Justice, 8th Court of Appeals District; Justice, 8th Court of Appeals District, Place 3; 34th Judicial District Judge; 41st Judicial District Judge; 65th Judicial District Judge; 346th Judicial District Judge; 383rd Judicial District Judge; 384th Judicial District Judge; 388th Judicial District Judge; 409th Judicial District Judge; 448th Judicial District Judge; Criminal District Judge, Court No. 1

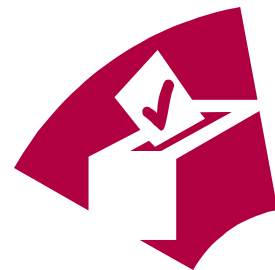
When to Vote?

Primary Election– March 4th

Early Voting: February 19– February 29

Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail– February 29

Runoff Election, if necessary: April 8



Where to vote?

To find out the polling locations, call El Paso County's Elections Department at (915) 546 2154. You may also check polling locations by precincts at the Elections Department's website by visiting

<http://www.epcounty.com/elections/voterinfo.htm>.

How to Vote?



Voting is your right and responsibility! There are three basic steps to voting:



1) Register to vote

2) Be informed

3) Go vote!

1) Register to vote

The Elections Administrator is the voter registrar for the County of El Paso. It is the responsibility of El Paso County's Elections Department to register people to vote and to conduct elections for the State, County, City, School Districts and Water Districts. For the Primary elections, **the last day to register was February 4, 2008**. For the voter's convenience, registration could be done through various methods described below. A voter must be **at least 17 years and 10 months** of age on the date of application. You need not be affiliated with a political party to register.

Registration is **easy** and **free**, postage paid by the State of Texas.

You will only need to register **once** unless you move out of El Paso County. If this is your first time to register in El Paso County, you must present a proof of identity, unless you a military voter, a disabled voter, or 65 years of age or older.

Obtaining Voter Registration Application:

- Online: **This is the easiest, most convenient and efficient method.** To obtain a **Voter Registration Application**, visit www.voteelpaso.org and go to **Register to Vote** link.
- In person: Applications may be obtained from the El Paso County Elections Department, libraries, various post offices, and even some high schools. You may also register to vote when you apply for or renew your driver license.

Returning the application: Once you get the form, read its instructions and fill it out. Then you must **return it** by taking it in person or by mailing it, postage paid by the State of Texas, **to the El Paso County Voter Registration Office**. Registration forms must have been received **by February 4, 2008**.

Necessary documents: To register, you must provide a Texas Driver License number or personal identification number issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) or, in lieu of those numbers, the last four digits of your social security number.

2) Be informed!

To be best prepared to vote, follow our easy steps:

- a) Mark your calendar for registration deadlines, early voting, and elections dates.
- b) Know your rights as a voter.
- c) **Know the candidates. Read the Candidate Profile section of this Voter's Guide** to learn about candidates running for El Paso City Council and for School Board Trustees. Get candidate background information, learn their qualifications, and understand each candidate's position on issues that affect your livelihood, your family, your job, and impact the business community and the citizens of El Paso.
- d) Decide which candidates you will vote for.
- e) Find your polling places.

3) Go VOTE!

Early Voting

Early voting is a way to cast your ballot *before* Election Day either in person or by mail. **Any registered voter can vote early in person.** Early voting starts on **February 19th , 2008 until February 29th, 2008, including weekends.**

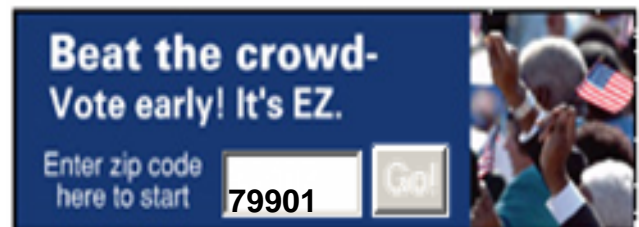
Early Voting Locations: Early voting is available at the County Clerk's office and at the County's Elections Department. For information about other early voting locations and hours, please contact the County's Elections department at (915) 546 2154.

You may also vote early by mail – also referred to as absentee voting.

Absentee Ballot

Your inability to be present at the polls will not and shall not prevent you from voting, as you can vote through the absentee ballot. Absentee voting is for voters who:

1. Will be away from El Paso County on Election Day and during the hours of early voting;
2. Sick or disabled;
3. 65 years of age or older on Election Day; or
4. are confined in jail.



To download an Absentee Ballot Request form, check the EZ vote feature on www.voteelpaso.org.

You may also **request a ballot from the County's Elections Department** to be sent to you by mail anytime until **February 26th, 2008**. Once you complete the form, you must mail it or deliver it to the County's Elections Department at the following address: 500 E. San Antonio, 4th Floor Suite 402, El Paso TX 79901.

For your vote to count, the County's Elections Department must receive your ballot by:

- Elections day, March 4th, if you live inside the US
- Monday, March 7th, if you live overseas.

You must return your absentee ballot at the polls even if you do not vote. If you decide not to vote with your absentee ballot and vote in person instead, you must turn in your absentee ballot at the polls in order to be able to vote.

Candidate Profiles

U.S. Representative

The Candidate Profile section is designed to educate and provide you information that will help you make an informed decision at the polls in order to bring about pro-business public policy. To this end, this section offers candidate responses to the El Paso P2 Questionnaires, developed by a committee of volunteer Chamber members. The questionnaires seek candidates' background information and their various positions on issues that affect the business community in particular.

The team of the El Paso Prosperity Project— in cooperation with the volunteer Chamber members of the El Paso P2 Advisory Committee, the Government Relations Executive Committee, and the Chamber's Executive Committee — developed a questionnaire and sent it to all candidates running for U.S. Congressman for the following Congressional District:

U.S. Representative: District 16 and District 23

Each candidate received the same questionnaire. Each candidate was requested to observe a fifty-word limit per question. Candidates' responses comprises their candidate profile. The Guide also indicates when a candidate did not respond to the Questionnaire. Candidates are listed according to the office they are seeking, and then by alphabetical order (according to last name) for each race.

Each candidate's response was posted under the candidate's name exactly as the candidate submitted it to the Chamber. The Chamber did limit responses to fifty words and edited as such where indicated by an '*'.

Following are the candidates' responses to our questionnaires.

16th Congressional District: Jorge Artalejo

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Jorge Artalejo

Age: 46

Education:

Employment: YISD

Civic Engagement:

Address: 515 W. Missouri APT # 4

Phone: 351-2756

Email:

Website:

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

Candidacy in the House of Representatives is specific. There isn't cause for me to extend its requirements by suggestion of qualifications I perceive I possess resulting in my qualification before another.

2. **What is (are) your top priority(ies) you want to accomplish in the 111th Congressional Session in order to assure prosperity for all Americans.**

The top priorities in the next session of Congress are economic.

3. **Discuss the effects of free trade agreements on border infrastructure.**

Free trade has suffered on the border because of negligence in City Hall.

4. **Since transportation infrastructure across the border region benefits the entire country, who do you think should bear the responsibility of maintaining and supporting current and future infrastructure programs?**

Any issue pertinent to a state's neighbors is the states. The federal constitution provides relief to the states through its agencies of government. It doesn't excuse them from their interest.

5. **Do you think it is the responsibility of the Federal Government or that of the citizens of El Paso County to provide healthcare services for undocumented aliens? Elaborate.**

Again interest of the state are the states.

6. **How will the new identification requirements at the international bridges affect travel and what steps do you propose to reduce bridge wait times?**

The issue of identification requirements is after the fact because the federal government in cooperation with the states has moved on it. Build a new bridge if wait times are exhausting.

7. **Describe your proposal for dealing with the millions of undocumented people living in the United States.**

Undocumented aliens are afforded the leniency of the federal government to due process of law. It isn't necessary forgiving in their presence. It is required by agreement it has entered with the states for them to be given this due process

8. **The re-authorization of funding for transportation will be of concern. Will you be sponsoring or supporting new legislation on this issue if elected?**

This issue was to have been addressed with the military before the fact of the placement of others here associated with the military because their presence results in congestion of our byways, but with Congressman Reyes it hasn't

9. **How will you/ are you preparing for the next BRAC process with regards to Ft. Bliss, state and regional bases?**

The next BRAC process is along way from arriving in the next session of Congress and it could result when I no longer have a presence in Congress.

10. **Are you current in your tax obligations?**

My tax obligations are a personal matter not having been publicly known otherwise as this is a right of privacy concern it is of no matter in a questionnaire.

16th Congressional District: Silvestre Reyes

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Silvestre Reyes

Age: 63

Education: Associates degree in Criminal Justice from El Paso Community College; attended UTEP and UT Austin

Employment: Member of Congress

Civic Engagement: Big Brothers Big Sisters, Red Cross, Rotary Club, American Cancer Society, Paso del Norte Group

Address: 1011 Montana Avenue El Paso, TX 79902

Phone: 915-204-5705

Email:

Website: www.reyesforcongress.com

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

As a combat veteran and a former Border Patrol officer, I have practical experience with border policy and defending our nation. As your Member of Congress, Chair of the powerful House Intelligence Committee, and a senior Member of the Armed Services Committee, I will build upon my record of serving El Paso families.

2. **What is (are) your top priority(ies) you want to accomplish in the 111th Congressional Session in order to assure prosperity for all Americans?**

My priorities to assure prosperity for all Americans include: strengthening national security, improving education, enhancing economic competitiveness, upgrading infrastructure, and passing comprehensive immigration reform.

3. **Discuss the effects of free trade agreements on border infrastructure.**

The border is a paradox. As new trade laws have encouraged the flow of commerce, border crossings have become more congested and infrastructure has deteriorated more rapidly. We must have increased investment in border infrastructure such as additional ports of entry and advanced technology.

4. **Since transportation infrastructure across the border region benefits the entire country, who do you think should bear the responsibility of maintaining and supporting current and future infrastructure programs?**

I will continue to fight for increased federal transportation resources. If we are to build state-of-the-art transportation infrastructure during these tight budgetary times, I believe we must also consider innovative approaches that leverage private sector funds and foster opportunities for public-private partnerships. This is critical if we are to remain economically competitive for the 21st century.

5. **Do you think it is the responsibility of the Federal Government or that of the citizens of El Paso County to provide healthcare services for undocumented aliens? Elaborate.**

El Paso taxpayers should not have to pay for our broken federal immigration laws. For years, President Bush has eliminated federal funds to reimburse local governments for the care administered to undocumented immigrants. In Congress, I have fought to restore funds for this program which has provided some relief to our local health care providers.

6. **How will the new identification requirements at the international bridges affect travel and what steps do you propose to reduce bridge wait times?**

Unless cross-border travelers arrive at the ports of entry with proper documentation, they will likely face delays. I have worked tirelessly with the Departments of Homeland Security and State, GSA and others to increase resources and personnel at our international bridges and will continue to do so.

7. **Describe your proposal for dealing with the millions of undocumented people living in the United States.**

I firmly believe we need comprehensive immigration reform that consists of an earned path to legalization for the undocumented, a guest worker program with employer sanctions, and strong border security measures by increasing personnel and resources. This approach is outlined in the STRIVE Act which I helped author and support in Congress.

8. **The re-authorization of funding for transportation will be of concern. Will you be sponsoring or supporting new legislation on this issue if elected?**

As I have throughout my tenure in Congress, I will continue to support El Paso transportation and infrastructure priorities in both authorization as well as appropriations legislation.

Continued: 16th Congressional District: Silvestre Reyes

9. How will you/ are you preparing for the next BRAC process with regards to Ft. Bliss, state and regional bases?

As a federal official and a senior member of the House Armed Service Committee, I have taken the lead to provide our region and the Army with the resources and facilities they require. My efforts are focused on ensuring that the expansion of our regional military facilities continues as planned.

10. Are you current in your tax obligations?

Yes.

23rd Congressional District: Quico Canseco



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Francisco “Quico” Canseco

Age: 58

Education: BA & JD St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO

Employment: Self

Civic Engagement: Associate General Counsel Republican Party of Texas; Board Member: Texas Federation of Republican Women; Board Member: Texas Cultural Trust

Phone: 210-251-3334

Email: info@quicoforcongress.com

Website: www.quicoforcongress.com

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have been a businessman, banker, attorney and a family man in the 23rd District all my life. I want take my experiences of service to schools, water districts, charitable organizations, farmers, ranchers and small businesses to congress. I want to use my experiences to serve my community

2. **What is (are) your top priority(ies) you want to accomplish in the 111th Congressional Session in order to assure prosperity for all Americans.**

- Lower Taxes
- Less Spending
- Secure Border

3. **Discuss the effects of free trade agreements on border infrastructure.**

Federal gas tax monies should be used to help us shore up the infrastructure used to export goods to the nation. At the same time, we must respect private property rights of those who own property where infrastructure may seek to expand.

4. **Since transportation infrastructure across the border region benefits the entire country, who do you think should bear the responsibility of maintaining and supporting current and future infrastructure programs?**

Federal gas tax money contributed by the people of Texas should be returned to allow us to keep up with the infrastructure demands being forced upon us by increased international trade. The federal government has been taking more than it has been giving back, I will work to change that.

5. **Do you think it is the responsibility of the Federal Government or that of the citizens of El Paso County to provide healthcare services for undocumented aliens? Elaborate.**

As the recent chairman of a 300 bed hospital on the border I am well aware of the burden placed on healthcare services by illegal aliens. The federal government is responsible for securing our borders and where they are lax in this enforcement it should not unduly burden local communities.

6. **How will the new identification requirements at the international bridges affect travel and what steps do you propose to reduce bridge wait times?**

We need to apply technology in a way that we can expedite travel as much as possible. Many individuals who are crossing that bridge do so regularly and we should easily be able to know who can pass quickly and who needs more scrutiny.

7. **Describe your proposal for dealing with the millions of undocumented people living in the United States.**

The American people have shown they will not accept an immigration and border-security overhaul that includes amnesty for illegal immigrants. We must secure the border and then work to streamline our immigration services. We must fix our broken immigration system to one that can handle increased demand for legal immigration.

8. **The re-authorization of funding for transportation will be of concern. Will you be sponsoring or supporting new legislation on this issue if elected?**

Our communities have not seen a proportional reinvestment of the gas tax money we have been sending to the federal government. I will see to it that our communities get money from the federal government proportional to the services our transportation infrastructures are providing to the nation.

9. **How will you/ are you preparing for the next BRAC process with regards to Ft. Bliss, state and regional bases?**

I will fight vigorously to ensure that our bases continue to be utilized. I also want to work with communities across this district to assure that – should BRAC choose one day to close or draw down these installations – they are as strong as possible economically to absorb the repercussions.

10. Are you current in your tax obligations?

Yes.

The following candidates did not respond to the questionnaire:

- **23rd Congressional District: Lyle Larson**
- **23rd Congressional District: Ciro D. Rodriguez**

Candidate Profiles

U.S. Senate

The Candidate Profile section is designed to educate and provide you information that will help you make an informed decision at the polls in order to bring about pro-business public policy. To this end, this section offers candidate responses to the El Paso P2 Questionnaires, developed by a committee of volunteer Chamber members. The questionnaires seek candidates' background information and their various positions on issues that affect the business community in particular.

The team of the El Paso Prosperity Project— in cooperation with the volunteer Chamber members of the El Paso P2 Advisory Committee, the Government Relations Executive Committee, and the Chamber's Executive Committee — developed a questionnaire and sent it to all candidates running for U.S. Senator for the State of Texas.

Each candidate received the same questionnaire. Each candidate was requested to observe a fifty-word limit per question. Candidates' responses comprises their candidate profile. The Guide also indicates when a candidate did not respond to the Questionnaire. Candidates are listed according to the office they are seeking, and then by alphabetical order (according to last name) for each race.

Each candidate's response was posted under the candidate's name exactly as the candidate submitted it to the Chamber. The Chamber did limit responses to fifty words and edited as such where indicated by an '*'.

Following are the candidates' responses to our questionnaires.

The following candidates did not respond to the questionnaire:

- **United States Senator for the State of Texas: John Cornyn**
- **United States Senator for the State of Texas: Gene Kelly**
- **United States Senator for the State of Texas: Larry Kilgore**
- **United States Senator for the State of Texas: Ryan McMurrey**
- **United States Senator for the State of Texas: Richard “Rick” Noriega**
- **United States Senator for the State of Texas: Rhett R. Smith**

Candidate Profiles

State Representative

The Candidate Profile section is designed to educate and provide you information that will help you make an informed decision at the polls in order to bring about pro-business public policy. To this end, this section offers candidate responses to the El Paso P2 Questionnaires, developed by a committee of volunteer Chamber members. The questionnaires seek candidates' background information and their various positions on issues that affect the business community in particular.

The team of the El Paso Prosperity Project— in cooperation with the volunteer Chamber members of the El Paso P2 Advisory Committee, the Government Relations Executive Committee, and the Chamber's Executive Committee — developed a questionnaire and sent it to all candidates running for State Representative in the following Districts:

State Representative District 75

State Representative District 76

State Representative District 77

State Representative District 78

State Representative District 79

Each candidate received the same questionnaire. Each candidate was requested to observe a fifty-word limit per question. Candidates' responses comprises their candidate profile. The Guide also indicates when a candidate did not respond to the Questionnaire. Candidates are listed according to the office they are seeking, and then by alphabetical order (according to last name) for each race.

Each candidate's response was posted under the candidate's name exactly as the candidate submitted it to the Chamber. The Chamber did limit responses to fifty words and edited as such where indicated by an '*'.

Following are the candidates' responses to our questionnaires.

State Representative District 75: Charlie Garza



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Carlos "Charlie" Garza

Age: 47

Education: College/Universities

The George Washington University

Old Dominion University

Eastern CT. State University

Southern Illinois University @ Carbondale, IL

Employment: Assistant Principal

Civic Engagement:

Phone: 630-2427

Email: Charlie@Charliegarza.com

Website: Carloscharliegarza.com

Other:

Degree(s)

Ed.S. Candidate

M.S

ABT

BS

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

-Nominated to be the United States Under Secretary of Homeland Security

-Retired U.S. Navy

-Top Secret Control Officer with access to "Sensitive Compartmented Information

-Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO) an official Secretary of the Navy representative - entrusted with honoring and taking care of the families of a service members who gave their lives for our country *

2. **What is (are) your top priority(ies) in seeking office?**

Increase economic development and work to attract good high paying jobs to the El Paso region.

3. **What are the top transportation issues in El Paso? How do you propose to fund solutions?**

Since El Paso has become a major metropolitan area we need to look at some of the solutions already in effect in other major cities. Many venues exist to fund such a project to include but not limited to the private sector.

4. **Please offer your assessment of current funding levels for CHIP and Medicaid. What suggestions do you have for improvement of these programs?**

In a perfect world programs such as these require additional funding but given the tax burden already on the average El Pasoans, given that practically every utility is scheduled to increase in the not so distant future and given that current political leaders are not taking into consideration cost of living pay increases. *

5. **What mechanisms do you suggest to assist small businesses offer its employee health insurance? Do you think the state has a role in reducing this encumbrance?**

The New Health Insurance Solution: How to Get Cheaper, Better Coverage Without a Traditional Employer Plan by Paul Zane Pilzer is a great guide and provides several mechanism to assist business. History has shown that few programs originated and the state or federal level while well intentioned is productive.

6. **What is your position on recording all votes in the State legislature and making them available to the public?**

Everyone should be held accountable to include the State Legislature and for that reason I am firmly resolved that all votes should be made available to the public.

7. **Do you support a State Franchise Tax imposed on all business entities?**

No, business is the lifeblood of job and the economy. Moreover, any tax would only be passed on to the consumer making the tax counterproductive the average El Pasoans.

8. **Do you believe that the current Speaker of the House has been supportive of El Paso's issues and agenda? Why/ why not?**

It is not the responsibility of the Speaker of the House to be supportive of El Paso's issues and agenda. It is the responsibility of the elected representatives to make the agenda know and work to making El Paso's agenda that same as that of Texas.

9. **Do you support the on-going effort to create a Medical Center of Americas utilizing what has already begun with Thomason General Hospital and Texas Tech Medical School? If so, how do you plan to help the Hospital fulfill this mission?**

Yes, to meet with those individuals and find out what the needs of the hospital are.

10. **Are you current in your tax obligations? Yes**

State Representative District 76: Norma Chavez

1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Norma Priscilla Chavez

Age: 47

Education: Attending The University of Texas at Austin

Employment: Keller-Williams Realty

Civic Engagement: State Representative - District 76

Phone: (915) 778-9960

Email: norma.chavez@house.state.tx.us

Website: NA

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

Currently, I serve as the Vice Chair of the House Committee on Calendars, and serve on the influential House Appropriations Committee, and the House Committee on Financial Institutions. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I secured \$48 million in funding for El Paso's medical school. During my 12-year legislative career, I have passed a wide-array of legislation dealing with workforce training, higher education, health care, and transportation.

2. What is (are) your top priority(ies) in seeking office?

Education is the most important issue for El Paso in the upcoming session. In order to take advantage of the four-year medical school, the potential for R&D associated with defense-based industries, and our just-in-time location to major Latin American trade routes El Paso must raise our educational attainment. I support increased funding for financial aid for lower income students and their families.*

3. What are the top transportation issues in El Paso? How do you propose to fund solutions?

El Paso must complete its outer-loop and it is vital for our community to take advantage of the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) and use it as another partner and funding mechanism to build out our infrastructure in a more timely manner. We must create joint public-private partnerships, use traditional TxDOT funding, and pursue both federal and state matching funding.

4. Please offer your assessment of current funding levels for CHIP and Medicaid. What suggestions do you have for improvement of these programs?

Our community has one of the high levels uninsured residents in the state. Specifically, I believe in fully funding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) but further, CHIP's bureaucratic process needs to be reformed and responsive to its customers. My goal is to ensure that if a child is eligible, the application process should not prevent that child from receiving the care they need.*

5. What mechanisms do you suggest to assist small businesses offer its employee health insurance? Do you think the state has a role in reducing this encumbrance?

Cost is always a factor for employers providing health insurance, the State needs to continue expanding waivers for insurance carriers to develop flexible health plans for small employers. Also, Texas needs to continue amending the Texas Health Insurance Risk Pool or provide other opportunities to allow small employers to purchase health insurance through a pool and should also continue to work with our Congressional delegation to promote additional tax incentives for the purchase of health insurance.*

6. What is your position on recording all votes in the State legislature and making them available to the public?

I support open and honest government. Last session I voted in favor of the HJR 19, Proposition 11 (Constitutional amendment) that requires record votes on final passage of a bill. I believe all votes should be easily accessible to the public.

7. Do you support a State Franchise Tax imposed on all business entities?

I support a fair and equitable state franchise tax but I am against taxing sole proprietorships and businesses that generate less than \$300,000 in revenue per year. As long as our small businesses are treated in a fair, rational manner I am always open to new ideas that help alleviate property taxes and protect our current sales tax rate.

8. Do you believe that the current Speaker of the House has been supportive of El Paso's issues and agenda? Why/why not?

Politics is the art of compromise and hind-sight is always 20-20. Retroactively, I believe the El Paso delegation should have acted in a more united fashion and proactive manner, such as filing a direct line-item legislative appropriation

Continued: State Representative District 76: Norma Chavez

8. request, starting in 2003. With that being said, the El Paso four-year medical school received legislative authorization in 2003 and received its appropriation in 2007.*

9. **Do you support the on-going effort to create a Medical Center of Americas utilizing what has already begun with Thomason General Hospital and Texas Tech Medical School? If so, how do you plan to help the Hospital fulfill this mission?**
Yes, this campus will effect El Paso positively for many generations. Thomason hospital, the medical school, and proposed "Medical Center of Americas" are located in my district. Currently, I serve as an honorary board member of the Medical Center of Americas Foundation. Through the foundation, I will work with the business and medical community, institutions of higher education, and the public to ensure that the center becomes a crown jewel for our region.*

10. **Are you current in your tax obligations?**
Yes.

State Representative District 77: Marisa Marquez



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Marisa Marquez

Age: 29

Education: Masters of Theology, University of Notre Dame 2008; Bachelor of Business Administration, University of Notre Dame 2000

Employment: Community Relations Manager, Texas Community Care.

Civic Engagement: Americorps *VISTA Volunteer (ACCION-Texas), 2000-2001; Current Chair, El Paso City/County Revolving Loan Fund board; Volunteer, Nolan Richardson Charity Golf Tournament; Adjunct Faculty, Tepeyac Institute.

Phone: (915) 790-6508

Email: Marisa@votemarisa.com

Website:

Other: NA

b. **What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?**

District 77 has no engaged representation. Paul Moreno missed 46 days out of 140 days last session. I will use my education, energy, ideas, and enthusiasm as the state representative for District 77.

2. **What is (are) your top priority(ies) in seeking office?**

I will support legislation focusing on seniors and children. I support fully funding CHIP. The bureaucratic process needs to be responsive to consumers. I will apply the same principals to senior health care by supporting legislation that requires a comprehensive review of Medicaid provider reimbursement rate methodologies

3. **What are the top transportation issues in El Paso? How do you propose to fund solutions?**

El Paso needs to finish our outer loop through a combination of free-lanes and toll lanes-especially for tractor-trailer traffic. Our community should use federal and state grant funds, traditional TxDOT pay-as-you go funding and public-private ventures through our RMA and MPO.

4. **Please offer your assessment of current funding levels for CHIP and Medicaid. What suggestions do you have for improvement of these programs?**

I support reducing barriers to CHIP, and Medicaid enrollment, increasing public outreach, and making the program more transparent for taxpayers, legislators, and the consumers it serves. I will file legislation to augment and enhance these specific goals.

5. **What mechanisms do you suggest to assist small businesses offer its employee health insurance? Do you think the state has a role in reducing this encumbrance?**

I will work with the State creating a less regulated market, expand waivers for insurance carriers to develop flexible health plans for small employers. Also, Texas needs to continue amending the Texas Health Insurance Risk Pool or provide other opportunities to allow small employers to purchase health insurance through a pool.

6. **What is your position on recording all votes in the State legislature and making them available to the public?**

I fully support providing open and transparent access to all votes taken during the Texas legislative session.

7. **Do you support a State Franchise Tax imposed on all business entities?**

I support an equitable franchise tax that continues the exemption for small businesses that have less than \$300,000 annually in revenue.

8. **Do you believe that the current Speaker of the House has been supportive of El Paso's issues and agenda? Why/ why not?**

I believe in judging people through personal experiences-I have never met Tom Craddick but most, if not all his media coverage statewide is negative. Coming from a long line of staunch Democrats I support a Democratic Speaker for the House of Representatives.

9. **Do you support the on-going effort to create a Medical Center of Americas utilizing what has already begun with Thomason General Hospital and Texas Tech Medical School? If so, how do you plan to help the Hospital fulfill this mission?**

Absolutely, the MCA will fundamentally change our community for the better. It is an opportunity of a lifetime. I will support and file legislation that will support this endeavor. Furthermore, I will work with the business and medical community, institutions of higher education, and the public to ensure that the center becomes reality. (58 words)

10. **Are you current in your tax obligations?**

Yes.

State Representative District 78: Louis Irwin



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Louis Irwin

Age: 65

Education: B.A., Texas Tech University, 1965; Ph.D., University of Kansas, 1969

Employment: Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso

Civic Engagement: former president of Unitarian-Universalist Community of El Paso

Phone: 915-497-7267

Email: lou@lirwin.org

Website: www.lirwin.org

Other:

b. **What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?**

I bring a unique set of skills and experiences to state government, as

A BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST, with a career of research in brain function and physiology, including medical disorders like diabetes and drug addiction;

A TEACHER of college students in biology and the health sciences, and NASA Space Science educator working with middle and high school teachers to relate math, science, art, and history to the human endeavor of space exploration; *

2. **What is (are) your top priority(ies) in seeking office?**

- **Health Care**, by providing basic and emergency medical treatment as a right at out-patient clinics staffed by a Texas Medical Corps of community service and health care professionals.

- **Education**, by rewarding innovation in the classroom, and stemming the epidemic of high school drop-outs with vigorous retention programs for at-risk students, and a community job corps leading to GEDs. *

3. **What are the top transportation issues in El Paso? How do you propose to fund solutions?**

Congestion on the interstate (requiring long-range planning by TxDOT), repair of city streets, especially in HD78, affected by flooding in 2006, currently being funded by city, county, and state resources. Future developments should include bicycle paths (provided by developers) and access to bus lines. UTEP's expensive parking rates should be lowered, to take pressure off of surrounding communities.

4. **Please offer your assessment of current funding levels for CHIP and Medicaid. What suggestions do you have for improvement of these programs?**

CHIP should be fully funded, and the Medicaid formula should be adjusted at the federal level to adequately supplement the state's contribution. Ultimately, health care should be federalized for all citizens, as it currently is for all members of the military, all retirees (Medicare), and the poor (Medicaid). An interim option is for family, prenatal, pediatric, and emergency outpatient care to be provided for all at clinics in high school infirmaries, firehouses, or other public buildings, staffed by a Texas Medical Corps of nurse practitioners and physician's assistants, supervised by physicians who serve two years in the Corps for each year of tuition waiver at one of the state's 8 publically-funded medical schools.

5. **What mechanisms do you suggest to assist small businesses offer its employee health insurance? Do you think the state has a role in reducing this encumbrance?**

My plan of state-funded outpatient clinics would remove the need for small businesses to provide health insurance. Those that wish, and larger companies, could provide supplemental insurance as a benefit, but the need to finance basal and emergency health care would be removed as an employer obligation.

6. **What is your position on recording all votes in the State legislature and making them available to the public?**

I favor recorded votes in the Legislature, and the public availability of those votes.

7. **Do you support a State Franchise Tax imposed on all business entities?**

I support the franchise tax laws as they currently exist. I favor eliminating loopholes, but am not in favor, generally, of increasing corporate and business taxes.

8. **Do you believe that the current Speaker of the House has been supportive of El Paso's issues and agenda? Why/ why not?**

Clearly not, as shown by his inexcusable delay of funding for the Texas Tech Medical School, and the way he has marginalized the influence of the El Paso House delegation.

Continued: State Representative District 78: Louis Irwin

9. **Do you support the on-going effort to create a Medical Center of Americas utilizing what has already begun with Thomason General Hospital and Texas Tech Medical School? If so, how do you plan to help the Hospital fulfill this mission?**

Yes, through support of its three major components: the Texas Tech Medical School, UTEP's Border Biomedical Research Center (which I helped establish), and Thomason's and Childrens Regional Hospitals. All three will depend on strong state support *supplemented* by aggressive grant support from the federal government and private foundations

10. **Are you current in your tax obligations?**

Of course.

State Representative District 78: Patrick B. Haggerty

1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Patrick B. Haggerty

Age: 63

Education: Bachelor's and Master's Degree, UTEP

Employment: Real Estate Broker

Civic Engagement: Sun Bowl Host Committee, Transmountain Optimist Club; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8919; American Legion Post 58; Member of the Veterans and Military Affairs Coalition of El Paso

Address: 4529 Monahans, El Paso, Texas 79924

Phone: (915) 838-6200

Email: electhaggerty@att.net

Website: www.ReElectHaggerty.com

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

Since 1989, I have represented El Paso in the Texas legislature with integrity and have always put the needs of our community before the demands of Austin's special interests. I rank in the top 10 in seniority in the Texas House and have a 20-year record of getting results for El Paso.*

2. What is (are) your top priority(ies) in seeking office?

El Paso's border location and the growth anticipated at Fort Bliss make our community completely different from any other in Texas. That is why my foremost priority is to continue putting the needs of El Paso first—whether fighting to properly fund our schools, ensuring our top high school graduates have equal access to the state's universities, or securing our fair share of funding for infrastructure projects.*

3. What are the top transportation issues in El Paso? How do you propose to fund solutions?

El Paso's top transportation issue will be building infrastructure needed to accommodate the influx of troops, families and support services accompanying Fort Bliss expansion. In 2007, I co-authored legislation that will give local city and county governments more flexibility to build and fund needed roads without raising taxes or tolling.*

4. Please offer your assessment of current funding levels for CHIP and Medicaid. What suggestions do you have for improvement of these programs?

I supported legislation last session restoring cuts made to the CHIP program in 2003, since those reductions were resulting in local taxpayers having to pick up the tab for uninsured children being treated at our county hospital and emergency rooms. For CHIP to be truly responsive to the needs of Texas' children and taxpayers, we need to improve our educational outreach and ensure those eligible under the current funding structure are enrolled.*

5. What mechanisms do you suggest to assist small businesses offer its employee health insurance? Do you think the state has a role in reducing this encumbrance?

State policymakers can and should develop incentives for employers to provide health insurance, utilizing franchise tax credits, deductions or refunds. In 2007, I supported SB10, the Medicaid reform bill, which requires a thorough study of potential incentives to be conducted before next session, along with recommendations for statutory change.*

6. What is your position on recording all votes in the State legislature and making them available to the public?

I supported legislation during the 2007 session requiring that all votes on the final passage of bills, proposals to ratify the Texas Constitution and non-ceremonial resolutions be recorded and made available to the public on the Internet. I would also support legislation prohibiting legislators from changing their votes in the official House Journal after the public vote is taken.

7. Do you support a State Franchise Tax imposed on all business entities?

The new broad-based business tax was established by the legislature to relieve residential property owners from carrying a disproportionate amount of the burden for funding public schools and to prevent the need for a statewide income tax, which I oppose. While the new business tax has funded much-needed property tax relief, we need to carefully monitor its impact, especially on small business.*

8. Do you believe that the current Speaker of the House has been supportive of El Paso's issues and agenda? Why/ why not?

Absolutely not. While we had broad-based bi-partisan support for fully funding the Medical School during the 2005 legislative session, the Speaker blocked the funding in retaliation for the delegation's failure to support an initial school finance reform proposal that was harmful to El Paso schools and taxpayers. One of the reasons I am running for Speaker is to allow legislators to represent their districts without fear of retribution.

State Representative District 78: Patrick B. Haggerty

9. **Do you support the on-going effort to create a Medical Center of Americas utilizing what has already begun with Thomason General Hospital and Texas Tech Medical School? If so, how do you plan to help the Hospital fulfill this mission?**

Yes, I have supported this mission since its inception, when I worked with my colleagues in the delegation to establish the Border Health Institute. Beyond securing continued funding for the Medical School, I will use my seniority position on the House Transportation Committee to address the challenging transportation infrastructure needs of the Medical Center of the Americas project.*

10. **Are you current in your tax obligations?** Yes

State Representative District 78: Dee Margo



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: D.R. (Dee) Margo II

Age: 56

Education: BA Vanderbilt University

Employment: CEO JDW Insurance

Civic Engagement: 30 yrs active involvement; Civilian Aide to Secretary of the Army 1990-1998; Chairman Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce 2005; Founding Member El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDCO); Principal Partner for Operation Noel – Coats for Kids; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Rotary Club of El Paso; Various Charities from United Way to Junior Achievement, including the Border Fund from 1993-2006

Phone: 915-496-8400

Email: dmargo@deemargo.org

Website: www.deemargo.org

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have a proven track record of getting positive results for El Paso. I took JDW Insurance from an organization of 6 employees in 1981 at age 29 to the largest privately held insurance agency in El Paso with almost 100 employees. I have been actively involved in El Paso through the Chamber, REDCO and numerous philanthropic groups.*

2. **What is (are) your top priority(ies) in seeking office?**

I am running for State Representative District 78 because I do not feel El Paso as the fifth largest city in Texas, with a Republican Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Senate and House with one Republican in our delegation is being properly represented. I want to cut property taxes, rein in out-of-control state spending and protect our citizens from violence crossing the border, putting El Paso first, not special interests in Austin.

3. **What are the top transportation issues in El Paso? How do you propose to fund solutions?**

There has been no new significant transportation assets added in the last 3-4 years in El Paso and there are no new projects for this fiscal year per TXDOT. The Inner Loop is the only major project to be completed as a commitment to El Paso and Fort Bliss by Governor Perry.*

4. **Please offer your assessment of current funding levels for CHIP and Medicaid. What suggestions do you have for improvement of these programs?**

We need to make sure CHIP is fully funded for all children who qualify. The one-year eligibility as opposed to 6 months is appropriate. The Medicaid reimbursement formula for physicians needs to be changed to allow El Paso physicians to be properly compensated on par with the rest of Texas. CHIP should not be used as a door to Government-mandated healthcare for everyone.

5. **What mechanisms do you suggest to assist small businesses offer its employee health insurance? Do you think the state has a role in reducing this encumbrance?**

Insurance is regulated by each individual state. To make coverage more affordable and available Texas needs to deregulate health insurance removing costly mandated burdens. We need to look at providing individual competitive coverage outside employer purchasing.

6. **What is your position on recording all votes in the State legislature and making them available to the public?**

All votes in the legislature should be public record and our local media should inform El Paso voters. We need transparency and accountability from our elected legislators.

7. **Do you support a State Franchise Tax imposed on all business entities?**

Our Franchise Tax System needs to be reviewed in conjunction with property taxes. Even with a \$300,000 exemption, many small businesses are seeing their tax bills increase regardless of property tax reductions. The House needs to revisit taxing formulas and our property tax levels. El Paso needs effective small business representation in the House. All business owners are responsible for our "fair share" but we should not reduce one area to raise another and represent as reform.

8. **Do you believe that the current Speaker of the House has been supportive of El Paso's issues and agenda? Why/ why not?**

The race for District 78 State Representative is not about Speaker Craddick, it is about the record of incumbent Haggerty and my positions on conservative government and lower taxes. There are 145 members of the house in addition to El Paso's 5 – we need to have effective leadership persuading other members of our legislative needs.

Continued: State Representative District 78: Dee Margo

- 9. Do you support the on-going effort to create a Medical Center of Americas utilizing what has already begun with Thomason General Hospital and Texas Tech Medical School? If so, how do you plan to help the Hospital fulfill this mission?**

Yes – I will continue to support full funding of the Texas Tech Medical School, UTEP’s School of Nursing and The Children’s Hospital. I am also a personal financial supporter of the Paul Foster Texas Tech Medical School and UTEP

- 10. Are you current in your tax obligations?**

Yes

State Representative District 78: Joseph E. Moody



1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Joseph E. Moody

Age: 27

Education: New Mexico State University (B.A. 2003), Texas Tech School of Law (J.D. 2006)

Employment: Assistant District Attorney

Civic Engagement:

Phone: (915) 873-3498

Email: joseph.e.moody@gmail.com

Website: N/A

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

As a prosecutor, I work to assure that our streets are safe and our citizens are secure. I have been blessed by parents, one a distinguished judge and the other an outstanding teacher, who have taught me to work hard, that right makes might, and to be respectful of everyone.

2. **What is (are) your top priority(ies) in seeking office?**

My priorities will be to push for comprehensive campaign finance reform, full funding for the Texas Tech Medical School, and to expand and preserve Franklin Mountains State Park. I will also lend a voice for change in the areas of education and healthcare.

3. **What are the top transportation issues in El Paso? How do you propose to fund solutions?**

El Paso lacks a reliable form of public transportation and continues to battle with sprawl and urban growth. At the State level, we must ensure that our gas tax is spent efficiently and for what it was intended.

4. **Please offer your assessment of current funding levels for CHIP and Medicaid. What suggestions do you have for improvement of these programs?**

CHIP and Medicaid are in need of more funding and further expansion. We must find new ways to inform people of whether they qualify, so that we can start to address the high levels of uninsured children in our community.

5. **What mechanisms do you suggest to assist small businesses offer its employee health insurance? Do you think the state has a role in reducing this encumbrance?**

We can create tax incentives to encourage businesses to offer healthcare. Locally, doctors have created health maintenance plans to help small businesses offer access to inexpensive primary care. The state must play a role, and can do so by implementing these programs on a larger scale.

6. **What is your position on recording all votes in the State legislature and making them available to the public?**

I strongly favor all forms of transparent and open government. The public has an absolute right to know where I or any member of the legislature stands on every issue.

7. **Do you support a State Franchise Tax imposed on all business entities?**

While I believe that we must all play our part in supporting this great State, an imposition of this tax has the potential to cripple small businesses in El Paso. We should always look to how we spend are taxes currently before creating new taxes.

8. **Do you believe that the current Speaker of the House has been supportive of El Paso's issues and agenda? Why/ why not?**

Speaker Craddick has not been supportive of El Paso. The media has reported on numerous instances in which he has used his position to threaten the El Paso delegation over funding, and has stood in the way of progress for our city.

9. **Do you support the on-going effort to create a Medical Center of Americas utilizing what has already begun with Thomason General Hospital and Texas Tech Medical School? If so, how do you plan to help the Hospital fulfill this mission?**

Yes. The Hospital has been moving in the right direction by hiring a new CEO, by operating at a profit, and working closely with the medical school. We must continue to fund and foster this relationship at the local and state level.

10. **Are you current in your tax obligations?**

Yes.

The following candidates did not respond to the questionnaire:

- **State Representative District 75: Chente Quintanilla**
- **State Representative District 77: Paul C. Moreno**
- **State Representative District 79: Joe Pickett**

Candidate Profiles

8th Court of Appeals

The Candidate Profile section is designed to educate and provide you information that will help you make an informed decision at the polls in order to bring about pro-business public policy. To this end, this section offers candidate responses to the El Paso P2 Questionnaires, developed by a committee of volunteer Chamber members. The questionnaires seek candidates' background information and their various positions on issues that affect the business community in particular.

The team of the El Paso Prosperity Project— in cooperation with the volunteer Chamber members of the El Paso P2 Advisory Committee, the Government Relations Executive Committee, and the Chamber's Executive Committee — developed a questionnaire and sent it to all candidates running for 8th Court of Appeals following positions:

Chief Justice
Judge Place 3

Each candidate received the same questionnaire. Each candidate was requested to observe a fifty-word limit per question. Candidates' responses comprises their candidate profile. The Guide also indicates when a candidate did not respond to the Questionnaire. Candidates are listed according to the office they are seeking, and then by alphabetical order (according to last name) for each race.

Each candidate's response was posted under the candidate's name exactly as the candidate submitted it to the Chamber. The Chamber did limit responses to fifty words and edited as such where indicated by an '*'.

Following are the candidates' responses to our questionnaires.

8th Court of Appeals, Chief Justice: David Wellington Chew



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: David Wellington Chew

Age: 60

Education: United States Naval Academy (1971); SMU School of Law (1978)

Employment: Chief Justice, Court of Appeals Eighth District of Texas

Civic Engagement:

Phone: 915-546-2240

Email: dwchew@swbell.net or dwchew@8thcoa.courts.state.tx.us

Website: www.8thcoa.courts.state.tx.us (court site)

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I am the incumbent and unopposed. I have served as a justice since 1995 and was appointed Chief Justice in October 2006 by Governor Rick Perry.

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

U.S. Supreme Court, 5th Circuit Court of Appeal, 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, Texas Supreme Court, Western District of Texas

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.** Graduated in 1978 from the SMU School of Law. Member of Texas and El Paso Bar Associations. First recipient of the Justice David Wellington Chew Award of the Asian Pacific Islander Section of the State Bar awarded annually to the section's outstanding attorney.

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.** Private practice 1979 to 1995; named partner in Douglass, Chew & Chew.

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law, 1982 - 1997.

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

15% **Federal Court**

10% **State Courts of Record**

75% **Administrative Hearings**

0% **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

0% **Family Law**

10% **General Civil**

20% **Criminal**

0% **Personal injury**

70% **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

N/A

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

City Representative, District 2 (West Central) 1987-1989

Justice, Court of Appeals Eighth District of Texas 1995 – 2006

Chief Justice, Court of Appeals Eighth District of Texas 2006 – present

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

N/A

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.** No

12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**

Author over 1200 opinions

Continued: 8th Court of Appeals, Chief Justice: David Wellington Chew

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

Consultant to Paso del Norte Streetcar Preservation Society; Lady Justice Restoration Project of the El Paso Bar Association; volunteer AP economics teacher at Cathedral High School.

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

No

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations ___ Yes ___

Legal licensing requirements ___ Yes ___

8th Court of Appeals, Judge Place 3: Kenn Carr



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Kenneth R. (Kenn) Carr

Age: 66

Education: B.A. in History, cum laude, Rice University, 1963; J.D., University of Texas Law School, 1966.

Employment: I am the incumbent Justice on the El Paso Court of Appeals

Civic Engagement: Labor Counsel, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce; Labor Lawyer Advisory Board, Texas Association of Business; General Counsel, Paso del Norte Better Business Bureau for approximately 30 years; former member, Board of Directors, El Paso Symphony Orchestra; former Treasurer, El Paso Zoological Society; former member, Board of Directors, El Paso Lighthouse for the Blind;*

Phone: 546-2240

Email: kcarr17@elp.rr.com

Website: www.keepjusticecarr.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

Incumbent Justice. 41 years' legal experience. 5th highest score among 521 applicants on the Texas Bar Exam. Editor, *Texas Law Review*. Board Certified, Labor and Employment Law since 1975. Listed in Best Lawyers in America annually since 1989. Named "Texas Super Lawyer" annually since inception of award.

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

All state courts in Texas and Nevada; U.S. Supreme Court (successfully argued case at age 32); U.S. Courts of Appeals for the 5th, 7th, 8th, and 10th Circuits; U.S. District Courts for the Western, Northern, Southern Districts of Texas and District of Nevada. I have also appeared by permission before state and federal courts in New Mexico, and the U.S. District Court for Southern Iowa.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

Law Degree, University of Texas. Editor, *Texas Law Review*. Member, Labor Law Section, State Bar of Texas. Member, Labor Law Section and Committee on Federal Labor Standards, American Bar Association. El Paso Bar Association.

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

My practice has been primarily labor and employment law, which is one of the fastest growing litigation fields in Texas. My experience is uniquely helpful to the Texas judiciary, because, of 98 appellate judges in Texas, I am the only one who is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law.

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

Labor and Employment Law, since 1975.

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

<u> 25 </u> %	Federal Court
<u> 45 </u> %	State Courts of Record
<u> 15 </u> %	Administrative Hearings
<u> 15 </u> %	Arbitration

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

<u> 0 </u> %	Family Law
<u> 85 </u> %	General Civil
<u> 0 </u> %	Criminal
<u> 0 </u> %	Personal injury
<u> 15 </u> %	Other

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

My best estimate would be more than 40 and fewer than 75.

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

El Paso County Republican Chairman; State Republican Executive Committee

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

For 29 years, I was a partner/shareholder in various law firms, including five years as President of Carr Flora, P.C. I have served on the Board of Directors and as Secretary of DATAMARK, Inc. since its incorporation in 1989.

Continued: 8th Court of Appeals, Judge Place 3: Kenn Carr

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No.
12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
Since I joined the Court of Appeals in 2006, I have authored dozens of opinions, which are available on Westlaw and Lexis. Before joining the Court, I wrote the chapter on “Employment Agreements” for the first edition of Texas Association of Business’ *Texas Employment Law Handbook* in 1989, and I have prepared each annual update since then.*
13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
Labor Counsel (volunteer), Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce; General Counsel (volunteer), Paso del Norte Better Business Bureau; Member of Board of Elders and Adult Sunday School teacher, El Paso Bible Church.
14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No.
15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations __ Current____
Legal licensing requirements __ Current____

8th Court of Appeals, Judge Place 3: David C. Guaderrama



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: David C. Guaderrama

Age: 53

Education: University of Notre Dame Law School 1979

Employment: Judge 243rd Judicial District Court

Civic Engagement:

Phone: 915-546-2168

Email: DGuaderrama@sbcglobal.net

Website: JudgeGuaderrama.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, tried 50 jury trials as a lawyer, presided over 270 jury trials as a judge, started El Paso County's Public Defender's Office, sat as a visiting judge to the 8th Court of Appeals on two occasions, started El Paso County's first adult criminal Drug Court, pioneered El Paso County's use of videoconferencing between the jail, jail annex, and the courtroom.

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

United State Supreme Court, United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, all Texas state courts.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

My legal education consisted of three years of law school at the University of Notre Dame. I am the President of the Criminal Law Group, Inc. and for the last 15 years have organized legal seminars in Criminal Law, member of the El Paso Bar Association.

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.** Entered private practice and handled both civil and criminal cases. In 1987, I was appointed by the El Paso County Commissioner's Court to start up a Public Defender's office. I tried about 50 cases to a jury, at least 35 of which were felony trials. I handle numerous appeals.

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

Criminal Law 1981.

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

<u> 1 </u> %	Federal Court
<u> 98 </u> %	State Courts of Record
<u> 1 </u> %	Administrative Hearings
<u> 0 </u> %	Arbitration

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

<u> 1 </u> %	Family Law
<u> 14 </u> %	General Civil
<u> 70 </u> %	Criminal
<u> 5 </u> %	Personal injury
<u> 10 </u> %	Other

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

70 as a lawyer, over 270 as presiding judge.

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

Chief Public Defender and Judge, 243rd Judicial District Court

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

Partner in law firm of Guaderrama and Guaderrama for 8 years.

Continued: 8th Court of Appeals, Judge Place 3: David C. Guaderrama

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No.
12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
"Professional Conduct-When Should You Squeal On Your Client," Voice For The Defense, co-authored with Bruce Weathers;
"Recent Cases In Charging Instruments" and "Jury Charge," Voice For The Defense, both co-authored with Matthew DeKoatz.
13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
With the help of various partners, started up El Paso County's first adult Drug Court which involved working with non-violent addicted offenders in diverting them from expensive incarceration to rehabilitative programs and reintegrating them to society as working, productive members. Served as President of the El Paso Criminal Law Group, Inc. for the last 15 years organizing legal seminars for local attorneys and dispersing proceeds in excess of \$20,000.00 as scholarships for local high school seniors attending higher education.
14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No.
15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations yes _____
Legal licensing requirements yes _____

8th Court of Appeals, Judge Place 3: Guadalupe “Lupe” Rivera



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Guadalupe “Lupe” Rivera

Age: 59

Education: University of Texas School of Law J.D.(1981), University of Texas at El Paso BBA (1971), Loretto Academy (1966)

Employment: State of Texas District Court Judge- 168th

Civic Engagement: Public speaker at community based organizations on social and legal issues.

Founding Chair El Paso Commission for Women; Founding member of the El Paso Domestic Violence Task Force

Phone: 915- 433-3725

Email: judgerivera@aol.com

Website: www.electjudgerivera.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have over 23 years of judicial experience and have presided over thousands of cases in all areas of the law including family, personal injury, employment, commercial, and felony criminal law cases including capital murder. My record reflects integrity and competence. I have been recognized as outstanding jurist both statewide and locally

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

Texas Supreme Court (1981)

U. S. District Court, Western District of Texas (1984)

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

University of Texas School of Law - Juris Doctorate 1981; Order of the Coif; Member of the Texas Bar Association and all local Bar Associations; Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation; Chair of the Women and the Law Section of the State Bar of Texas 1995; Chair of the Litigation Section of the State Bar of Texas 1997*

3. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

I was in private practice for two years. I served as an assistant district attorney for two years and I prosecuted major felony cases such as murder, robbery and drugs. In 1985 I was unanimously appointed by the EL Paso Council of Judges to serve as an associate judge in family law for six years.*

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

I was certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in the area of family law in 1986

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

___% **Federal Court**

100 % **State Courts of Record**

___ % **Administrative Hearings**

___ % **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

30___% **Family Law**

30___% **General Civil**

40___% **Criminal**

___% **Personal injury**

___% **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

I have presided over 400 jury trials and thousands of non jury trials.

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

The 168th is a court of general jurisdiction. I preside over civil and criminal cases including capital murder. I am proud of a record that reflects competence, efficiency and integrity. The docket of the 168th has always had one of the lowest dockets with no back log.

Continued: 8th Court of Appeals, Judge Place 3: Guadalupe “Lupe” Rivera

- 11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No
- 12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
For the last 20 years I have been involved in the research and writing of legal articles that I have lectured on to the members of the Texas State Bar Association at continuing legal education seminars in the areas of evidence and legal procedure.
- 13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
I am a lay minister at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
- 14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No
- 15. Are you current in your:**
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Tax Obligations | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ |
| Legal licensing requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ |

Candidate Profiles

District Courts

The Candidate Profile section is designed to educate and provide you information that will help you make an informed decision at the polls in order to bring about pro-business public policy. To this end, this section offers candidate responses to the El Paso P2 Questionnaires, developed by a committee of volunteer Chamber members. The questionnaires seek candidates' background information and their various positions on issues that affect the business community in particular.

The team of the El Paso Prosperity Project— in cooperation with the volunteer Chamber members of the El Paso P2 Advisory Committee, the Government Relations Executive Committee, and the Chamber's Executive Committee — developed a questionnaire and sent it to all candidates running for Judgeships in the following District Courts:

34th District Court

65th District Court

383rd District Court

388th District Court

448th District Court

41st District Court

346th District Court

384th District Court

409th District Court

District Attorney

Each candidate received the same questionnaire. Each candidate was requested to observe a fifty-word limit per question. Candidates' responses comprises their candidate profile. The Guide also indicates when a candidate did not respond to the Questionnaire. Candidates are listed according to the office they are seeking, and then by alphabetical order (according to last name) for each race.

Each candidate's response was posted under the candidate's name exactly as the candidate submitted it to the Chamber. The Chamber did limit responses to fifty words and edited as such where indicated by an '*'.

Following are the candidates' responses to our questionnaires.

District Attorney: Theresa Caballero



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Theresa Caballero

Age: 41

Education: High School Graduate of Loretto Academy, Bachelor's Degree from Barnard College/Columbia University, Law Degree from UT Austin, also studied abroad at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City

Employment: Private practice

Civic Engagement: Public policy and taxpayer advocate for many years

Phone: 915-241-8418

Email: thcaballero@hotmail.com

Website: www.tc4da.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have fought publicly against corruption throughout my career. As a private citizen, and as an independent attorney in solo practice, I have devoted all my resources and energies to bring an end to the malfeasance we see in our courts and in the district attorney's office, in the arrest process, in the misappropriation of public funds on a city and county level, in rapacious taxes, and in dishonest public officials.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

Western District of Texas (Federal), Military Court (El Paso), all Texas State Courts, Admitted to the Maryland Bar and the Texas Bar.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

See above regarding my legal activities. I was also asked to help author the current County of El Paso Ethics Code.

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.** During law school, I had the honor of clerking at the highest criminal court in the state, the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas. I immediately after graduation from law school I took a position as a Democratic Texas congressional staffer in Washington, D.C. I also worked as a prosecutor in the El Paso District Attorney's Office and for three years I prosecuted felonies and misdemeanors.*

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

 10 % **Federal Court (Including Military Courts Marshall)**

 90 % **State Courts of Record**

 % **Administrative Hearings**

 % **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

 13 % **Family Law**

 2 % **General Civil**

 85 % **Criminal**

 0 % **Personal injury**

 % **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

Over 50.

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held. I have run my own business as an attorney in private practice.**

This is my first run at political office and I am very excited about bringing a small business owner's and taxpayer's perspective from the private sector into public office.

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

I have run my own private practice which includes managing a small staff, making payroll, paying employment taxes and other taxes for the past 9 years.

Continued: District Attorney: Theresa Caballero

11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.

No.

12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.

I have written numerous articles about abusive government actions and court cases on the El Paso Tribune, as well as on my website www.tc4da.com.

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

I have appeared before multiple government bodies including the Public Service Board, City Council, Commissioners Court, the Texas Task Force on Appraisal Reform seeking redress for the taxpayers of El Paso. I initiated a Court of Inquiry—a criminal investigation into public corruption. I have also rendered legal services free of charge for many indigent people in our community who otherwise would have been left without proper legal representation.

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

No.

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations YES

Legal licensing requirements YES

District Attorney: Jaime Esparza



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Jaime Esparza

Age: 50

Education: J. D., University of Houston Law Center, 1983
B.B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 1979
Burgess High School, 1975

Employment: District Attorney, 34th Judicial District, 1993-present

Civic Engagement:

Phone: (915) 546-2059

Email: esparza4@gmail.com

Website: jaimeesparza2008.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I am honored to serve as the District Attorney for the last 16 years. I am pleased to be part of the law enforcement team that helps make El Paso the safest large city in the State of Texas. I will continue to pursue truth, justice and those who violate the law.

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

All state courts in the State of Texas; All Federal courts in the Western District of the State of Texas

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

J.D., University of Houston Law Center, 1983; Prosecutor of the Year, State of Bar of Texas, 2005; Outstanding Lawyer of the Year, El Paso Bar Association, 2006; Prosecutor of the Year, Texas Narcotics Officers' Association, 1996 and 1999

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

I practice Criminal Law. District Attorney, 34th Judicial District 1993-present (El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson); Assistant County Attorney, 1992 El Paso County Attorney's Office; Assistant Public Defender, 1988-1991 El Paso County Public Defender's Office; Assistant District Attorney, 1987 District Attorney's Office, 34th Judicial District; Assistant District Attorney, 1983-1987 Harris County District Attorney's Office

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

Criminal Law, December 1990

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

_____% **Federal Court**

100_% **State Courts of Record**

_____% **Administrative Hearings**

_____% **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

_____% **Family Law**

_____% **General Civil**

100_% **Criminal**

_____% **Personal injury**

_____% **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

120

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

None

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

I direct the policy, management and operations of the District Attorney's Office with 166 employees and a 10 million dollar budget.

Continued: District Attorney: Jaime Esparza

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No
12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
None
13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
Volunteer of the Year, Americas High School 2007; Mock Trial Coach, Americas High School 2004-present; St. Patricks Cathedral ACTS Community 2002-present; Coca-Cola, National Selection Committee 2005-2007
14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No
15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations _____yes____
Legal licensing requirements _____yes____

34th District Court: William E. Moody

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**
 - Name:** William E. Moody
 - Age:** 57
 - Education:** B.A. UTEP 1972 with Honors, JD Texas Tech University 1975
 - Employment:** State District Judge 34th District 22 years
 - Civic Engagement:** Extensive
 - Phone:** 546-2101
 - Email:** we_moody@hotmail.com
 - Website:**
 - Other:**
- b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?**

Only candidate from 34th District court. Trial Judge 21 years, extensive trial and legal experiences.
2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

All State courts in Texas.
3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

Law Degree Texas Tech Univ 1975, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity
El Paso Legal Historic Committee
4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

Assit. DA 1975-1986, Judge 34th District Court 1986-present
5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

None available when I became Judge in 1986.
6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**
 - 0 % **Federal Court**
 - 100 % **State Courts of Record**
 - 0 % **Administrative Hearings**
 - 0 % **Arbitration**
7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**
 - 0 % **Family Law**
 - 5 % **General Civil**
 - 95 % **Criminal**
 - 0 % **Personal injury**
 - 0 % **Other**
8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

Jury trials over 600
9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

Member State Ethics Comm. 1983-1985; Vice Chairman State Ethics Comm 1985-86; State District Judge 34th District Court 1986 Present; Presiding Judge 6th Region Texas; Presiding Judge El Paso Council of Judges
10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

Judge Attorney for last 33 years
11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**

No

41st District Court: Jesus M. Olivas

1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Jesus M. Olivas

Age: 51

Education: Law Degree

Employment: Attorney at Law

Civic Engagement: Member El Paso Airport Board; Member Carlos Rivera Elementary PTA;
Member – Harvest Christian Center

Phone: (915) 533-4402

Email: olivasj@juno.com

Website: none

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have the temperament to be a Judge. Growing up in a lower income household I know the value of sacrifice and hard work. I have the cultural identity of the community. I believe in giving back to the community and will serve the public. Prior to law school I attended UTEP and EPCC and was in the U.S. Air Force.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

Western District of Texas and State of Texas.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

I received my Juris Doctorate from the University of Notre Dame – School of Law in 1991. I am also a member of the El Paso Airport Board. Former Member of the Mexican American Bar Association. Current member of the State Bar of Texas.

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

I have been in private practice going on 14 years I have served as a Hearing Officer for both the El Paso Housing Authority and the City of El Paso Civil Service Commission. IN addition, I have had several criminal and civil trials. I am well versed in criminal and civil law.*

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

None

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

20 % Federal Court

75 % State Courts of Record

5 % Administrative Hearings

0 % Arbitration

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

35 % Family Law

20 % General Civil

40 % Criminal

5 % Personal injury

0 % Other

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

None

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

It's all been limited to the practice of law.

Continued: 41st District Court: Jesus M. Olivas

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
None

12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
None

13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
Current Member of the El Paso Airport Board

14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No

15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations Yes
Legal licensing requirements Yes

65th District Court: Alfredo Chavez



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Alfredo Chavez

Age: 54

Education: Juris Doctorate, University of Texas School of Law, Austin, Texas December, 1985

Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas May, 1982

Employment: Judge, 65th Family District Court

Civic Engagement: Not applicable

Phone: (915) 546-2102

Email: achavez@epcounty.com

Website: www.judgechavez.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

In addition to the more than 14 years of judicial experience, I have received more than 200 hours of judicial education and training from organizations such as the National Judicial College, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Texas College for Judicial Studies and the Texas Center for the Judiciary.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

Federal Courts are not applicable. I have been admitted to practice in the State of Texas.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

Chairman, El Paso County Juvenile Board; Governance Team, El Paso Border Children's Mental Health Collaborative; Lead Judge, El Paso Model Dependency Court with National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; El Paso Model Juvenile Delinquency Court with National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; Founder and Lead Judge, El Paso Family Drug Court*

3. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

Administrative Hearings Officer for Texas Youth Commission

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

Not Applicable

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

___% **Federal Court**

100% **State Courts of Record**

___% **Administrative Hearings**

___% **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

As Judge of the 65th District Court

100% **Family Law**

___% **General Civil**

___% **Criminal**

___% **Personal injury**

___% **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

As Judge of the 65th District Court, I have presided over more than 200 Jury trials to verdict.

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

Judge, 65th Family District Court January 1, 1997 to Present; Juvenile Court Referee, 327th District Court September 1993 thru December 1996

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

Private Practice, July 1990 thru September 1993

Continued: 65th District Court: Alfredo Chavez

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No

12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
None

13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
None

14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
None

15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations Yes ____
Legal licensing requirements Yes ____

65th District Court: Yahara Lisa Guitierrez

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Yahara Lisa Gutierrez

Age: 45

Education: BBA University of Texas Permian Basin; JD Texas Tech School of Law

Employment: 1995 to 1999, Law firm of Gay & Gutierrez; 1999 to present, El Paso County Attorney's Office

Civic Engagement:

Phone: 203-0679

Email: ylgutierrez@yahoo.com

Website: www.votegutierrez.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have represented victims of family violence and prosecuted juvenile crime in the 65th District Court for the past 9 years. While in private practice, I also handled divorce cases. I am intimately familiar with the problems facing our youth and our families. I have a strong work ethic and believe that the court does not belong to the judge but to the people of El Paso.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

I am licensed to practice in Texas courts and in Federal courts.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

I received my JD from Texas Tech School of Law. I was involved with the Minority Law Student Association for three years. I was the vice-president for one year. I also helped organize the first Accepted Students' Chili Cook-off which has since been a yearly event.

3. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

Gay & Gutierrez: Primarily practiced insurance defense, premises liability defense, workers' compensation defense, personal injury and family law. El Paso County Attorney's Office: Represented victims of family violence in obtaining protective orders against their abusers for two years. I have been in the juvenile justice unit since 2001, wherein I prosecute juvenile offenders.

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

No certification

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

 % **Federal Court**

60% **State Courts of Record**

35% **Administrative Hearings**

5% **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

20% **Family Law**

60% **General Civil**

10% **Criminal**

10% **Personal injury**

 % **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

Approximately 20 jury trials Over 100 bench or non-jury trials

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

None

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

None

Continued: 65th District Court: Yahara Lisa Guitierrez

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No.
12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
None
13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
President of Board of Directors of People Skills (a non-profit organization)
14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No
15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations __Yes__
Legal licensing requirements __Yes__

65th District Court: Felix Saldivar, Jr.



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Felix Saldivar, Jr.

Age: 51

Education: Juris Doctor, Texas Tech School of Law; Bachelor of Arts, Austin College; Ysleta High School Graduate

Employment: Law Office of Felix Saldivar, Jr.

Civic Engagement:

Phone: (915) 590-9500

Email: fsaldivar33@hotmail.com

Website: www.vote4felix.com

Other: Fax: (915) 592-7010

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

The skills that I bring to the 65th Judicial District Court includes years of experience as a former prosecutor, Justice of the Peace, and private practitioner. In my opinion, there is no substitute for the wealth of knowledge, skills, and experience that the courtroom provides to an attorney and judge. *

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

Licensed to practice law by the State Bar of Texas in all state courts.

Previously licensed to practice in the United States District Court, Western District of Texas, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. (I no longer practice in federal courts. My practice is limited to State Courts)

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

Attended Texas Tech School of Law; Member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity; Member -Family Law Section, State Bar of Texas; Member-El Paso Family Law Bar Association

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

I engaged in the general practice of law with the Law Office of Patrick A. Abeyta (Deceased) following graduation from Texas Tech School of Law for approximately one (1) year. I became an Assistant County Attorney for El Paso County where I successfully prosecuted numerous misdemeanor cases. I also defended the County of El Paso in several civil suits. *

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

N/A

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

 0 % **Federal Court**

 100 % **State Courts of Record**

 0 % **Administrative Hearings**

 0 % **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

 80 % **Family Law**

 5 % **General Civil**

 15 % **Criminal**

 0 % **Personal injury**

 0 % **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

Between 150 and 200 cases

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

Justice of the Peace Precinct 4; Interim Justice of the Peace Precinct 1; Interim Justice of the Peace Precinct 2

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

See response to Number 4

Continued: 65th District Court: Felix Saldivar, Jr.

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No

12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
None

13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
My community involvement includes being elected as Vice-President to the Hanks Wrestling Booster Club since my middle child, Exiquio, still wrestles for the school. I was elected to serve a one-year term with the Stone Gate Homeowners Association from 2000-2001.

14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No

15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations Not yet. I will be fully in compliance with all Federal, State, and Municipal taxes by February 15, 2008.
Legal licensing requirements Yes _____

383rd District Court: Mike Herrera

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Mike Herrera

Age: 57

Education: Graduate Austin High School 1968; University of Texas at El Paso 1975

Employment: Currently Judge of the 383rd District Court

Civic Engagement:

Phone: prefer not to disclose

Email: prefer not to disclose

Website: see El Paso County, click on district courts, click 383rd District Court

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

My experience. 2 years as assistant district attorney; 12 years as a private attorney

Approximately 100 felony jury trials. Represented children and parents in court litigation.

Work ethic Everyday I am at work. Taxpayers expect public servants to earn their salary. I truly believe I earn mine. I am fair.

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

All State Distinct Courts and County Courts, including Justice of the Peace Courts; Western District of Texas Federal District Court

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

1982-1983 University of San Francisco Law School; Received American Jurisprudence Award; 1983- 1985 Texas Tech Law School; 1986 Law Clerk 341st District Court; 1986-1988 Assistant District Attorney El Paso; 1988-2000 Private practice; 1993-2000 Judge of Municipal Court Number 1; 2001 -present Judge 383rd District Court

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

law clerk for the 341st District Court, After 2 years as an Assistant District, went into private practice as a defense attorney and was defense counsel and represented children and parents in family law court litigation.

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

Not board certified

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

 less than .001 percent %

Federal Court

 100 %

State Courts of Record

 %

Administrative Hearings

 %

Arbitration

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

 50% **Family Law**

 % **General Civil**

 50% **Criminal**

 % **Personal injury**

 % **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

Approximately 100 Felony Jury Trials; Non jury trials Approximately 100

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

Elected Judge of Municipal Court no.1 1993. Resigned in 2000 to run for 383rd District Court

Elected 383rd District Judge 2000. Currently Judge of 383rd District Court

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

Ran a successful one man law firm for 13 years

Continued: 383rd District Court: Mike Herrera

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No

12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
None

13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
Have conducted free legal education seminars for school personnel at the 383rd District Court

14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
NO

15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations Yes ____
Legal licensing requirements Yes ____

384th District Court: Patrick Garcia

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Patrick M. Garcia

Age: 48

Education: Eastwood High 1978; Bachelor of Arts in Economics San Francisco State University 1982; Doctor of Jurisprudence, University of Texas 1985

Employment: Judge 384th District Court

Civic Engagement:

Phone: (915)546-2134

Email: pgarcia10@elp.rr.com

Website:

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have been the presiding Judge of the 384th District Court since 1 January 1997.

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

United States District Courts for the Western District of Texas and all state courts in the state of Texas.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

Administrative Judge for the El Paso County Council of Judges ; State Bar of Texas; El Paso Bar Association; American Bar Association

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

Criminal, Civil and family

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

N/A

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

 10 %

Federal Court

 90 %

State Courts of Record

 %

Administrative Hearings

 %

Arbitration

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

 10 %

Family Law

 10 %

General Civil

 70 %

Criminal

 10 %

Personal injury

 %

Other

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

As an attorney from 1985 until 1996 over a hundred ; As judge of the 384th District Court over 200

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

Judge 384th District Court

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

N/A

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**

Never

12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**

N/A

Continued: 384th District Court: Patrick Garcia

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

LULAC Council 132

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

None whatsoever

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations ___yes___

Legal licensing requirements ___yes___

388th District Court: Lyda N. Garcia



1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Lyda N. Garcia
Age: 36
Education: Juris Doctorate in Law
Employment: Law Offices of Lyda Ness Garcia P.C.
Civic Engagement:
Phone: 915-351-2171
Email: lyda@nessgarcialaw.com/garcia4judge@gmail.com
Website: www. Votegarcia4judge.com
Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I'm an experienced trial attorney for ten years having litigated thousands of cases. I was a prosecutor and currently represent children, parents, and relatives in protecting the best interest of children. I have a commitment over my career to public service. My vision is to restore fairness to the Court.

2. List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.

State Bar of Texas; Western District of Texas; State Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Member of the State Bar of Washington

3. Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.

Facilitator, Organizer and Speaker at "The Alphabet Soup of Child Representation: Kids in Court- Representing Children." September 22nd, 2006; Member of the Advisory Council, Children Cope with Divorce September 2006 – present; Secretary, Executive Committee El Paso Family Bar Association January 2006 – January 2008; Model Court Advisory Committee, County Attorney Representative 1999-2001

4. Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.

Law Office of Lyda A. Ness Garcia, PC *November, 2002 – Present*
Family Law, Child Protective Services cases, Criminal Law and Immigration Law.
El Paso County Attorney's Office *April, 1998 – February, 2002*
Assistant County Attorney
Represented the Texas Department of Protective And Regulatory Services in child abuse and neglect cases.*

5. If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.

NA

6. While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:

 0 % **Federal Court**
100 % **State Courts of Record**
 % **Administrative Hearings**
 % **Arbitration**

7. What percentage of your litigation consisted of:

 90 % **Family Law**
 % **General Civil**
 10 % **Criminal**
 % **Personal injury**
 % **Other**

8. State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.

- a. **Jury Trials** – 12
- b. **Bench Trials** – over a thousand. Too many to list.

9. List all elective and political offices previously held.

See above

10. Please describe your current business experience or background.

I have been in private practice since 2002 running my own business with a staff of up to five employees.

Continued: 388th District Court: Lyda N. Garcia

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No
12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
Supporter of Southwestern Livestock Show and Rodeo 2006 – Present; Charitable supporter of Ft Hancock Elementary School 2006- Present; Charitable supporter of L.B. Johnson Elementary School PTA & Students 2008
14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No
15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations _Y_____
Legal licensing requirements __Y_____

388th District Court: Marlene Gonzalez



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Marlene Gonzalez

Age: 53 years old

Education: November 1988 Admitted, State Bar of Texas; May 1980 InterAmerican University, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, Master of Arts (Labor Relations); November 1978 Admitted to Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Bar Association; May 1978 Inter-American University Law School, San Juan, Puerto Rico Doctor of Jurisprudence; June 1975 University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus Bachelor of Arts Degree*

Employment: Attorney at Law, Sole Practitioner Law Office of Marlene Gonzalez P.C.

Civic Engagement: Associate Municipal Court Judge for the City of El Paso, Texas. The duties of a municipal court judge include: Municipal Court Judges have jurisdiction and oversee cases within the Municipal Court, including a municipal court of record. We have jurisdiction within the territorial limits of the municipality of El Paso, Tex as in all criminal cases that: arise under the ordinances of the municipality;*

Phone: 915-544-3388 Office

Email: lawofficeofmgr@yahoo.com or judgemarlenefor388districtcourt@yahoo.com

Website: votejudgemarlenegonzalez08.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

The vision and commitment I bring to this position is to provide equal access to a fair and effective system of justice for all. I will offer complementary methods of dispute resolution while still preserving the constitutional right to trial by an impartial judge. I will bring to the position of the 388th Judicial District Court a vast array of diversity.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

The Courts I have been admitted to practice, are as follows: United States of America Supreme Court; United States Western District of Texas; United States of America Supreme Court of Texas; United States of America Court of Appeals for the First Circuit; United States of America District Court of Puerto Rico; Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Management

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

After my graduation from Law School, I has the following employment oportunities September 1978 to June 1979, **Legal Advisor**, Municipality San Juan, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Duties Performed: Advised management and labor relations director; June 1979 to October 1979 **Lawyer I**, Department of Consumer Affairs, Santurce, Puerto Rico (DACO), Duties Performed: Responsible for advising consumers about matters such as tenancy, breach of contract, and defects of construction; presiding in hearings and resolved cases according to the applicable facts of law.

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

N/A

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of :**

 40 % **Federal Court**

 60 % **State Courts of Record**

 % **Administrative Hearings**

 % **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

 60 % **Family Law**

 % **General Civil**

 % **Criminal**

 % **Personal injury**

 % **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

Continued: 388th District Court: Marlene Gonzalez

- 11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
Never, Thank God!
- 12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
- 13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
-For the Domestic Violence Task Force I was very involved. I served on committees within the organization and spent more that 20 hours a month on organization matters.
-The Companeras- I was a community representative and I assisted in organizing special projects and special events.
-La Mujer Obrera I was a committee member, advised on organizational matters and assisted on special events.*
- 14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
None
- 15. Are you current in your:**
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Tax Obligations | Yes, I am |
| Legal licensing requirements | Yes, I am |

388th District Court: Patricia M. Macias



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Patricia A. Macias

Age: 56

Education: ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, San Antonio, Texas *Juris Doctor, 1989*; UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Oregon *Doctoral Course work (36 hours) with emphasis in Child and Family Therapy, 1976 –1978; M.S. in Early Childhood Development, 1975*;

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO, El Paso, Texas *B.A. Psychology and English, 1973*.

Employment: District Judge

Civic Engagement:

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 2000 – present, President-Elect, 2007-2008, Vice-President, 2006-2007, Treasurer, 2005-6, Secretary, 2005, Co-Chair, Ethics Committee, 2002-2003, Co-Chair, Diversity Committee, 2001-

Phone: 204.0388

Email: macias2008@elp.rr.com

Website: judgemacias.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

Experience, judicial leadership and commitment to the El Paso community makes me the best candidate. I have served on the bench for over 13 years, presiding over cases of child abuse and neglect, divorce and custody, domestic violence, child support, and terminations and adoptions. My docket is run efficiently, my judicial practice is respectful and impartial. The focus is children and what is in their best interests.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

STATE BAR OF TEXAS; WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, San Antonio, Texas *Juris Doctor, 1989*.

Elective Courses: Administrative Law, Legislation, Employment Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Employment Discrimination,

Continuing Legal Education: Domestic Violence & Firearms Summit, Los Angeles, California September 2006.

Texas Center for the Judiciary 2006 Winter Regional Conference, San Antonio, Texas, February 2006.*

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

388th Judicial District Court, El Paso, Texas, *District Judge*, 2001- present. Elected Presiding Judge for 388th Judicial District Court. Instituted and implemented differentiated unified court case management system and “one judge, one family

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization,

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

___0___% **Federal Court**
___95___% **State Courts of Record**
___5___% **Administrative Hearings**
___% **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

___25___% **Family Law**
___75___% **General Civil**
___% **Criminal**
___% **Personal injury**
___% **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

As a judge in the 388th Family Court, I have presided over 14,000 cases within the past 7 years. As an Associate Judge from 1995-2000, I presided over approximately 1200 cases of child abuse and neglect.

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

Current office – Judge, 388th Judicial District Court

Continued: 388th District Court: Patricia M. Macias

10. Please describe your current business experience or background.

Strong supporter and consumer of El Paso businesses.

11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.

NO.

12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.

“Reflections of a Former Child Abuse Judge”, American Bar Association, Litigation Section, Children and the Law Publication, 2001.

“The El Paso Children’s Court: A Model in Providing Permanency for Abused and Neglected Children”, In Chambers, the Official Publication of the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Winter 1999.

“Education and Poverty”, Pride and Poverty: Report on San Antonio, 1992*

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

In addition to those cited above, I have chaired the project, Do the Write Thing, El Paso. This project involves 7th and 8th grade students from all school districts in El Paso County. This project challenges students to think critically about violence in their lives and then write about it.*

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

NO.

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations	yes
Legal licensing requirements	yes

409th District Court: Sam Medrano

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Sam Medrano Jr
Age: 45
Education: Juris Doctorate 1989 Texas Tech University School of Law
Employment: Judge 409th District Court ,El Paso County, Texas.
Civic Engagement: Volunteer, El Paso Special Olympics
Phone: (915) 834-8209
Email: smedrano@epcounty.com

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have been on the bench since 1997, first as a Juvenile Court Referee for the 327th District Court and then as Judge of the 409th District Court since 2001 having presided over 150 jury trials as a judge. I tried at least 50 felony jury trials as a prosecutor and as an attorney in private practice before taking the bench.

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

License to practice in Texas and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

Member El Paso Bar Association, Member State Bar of Texas, Member, National Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Member, El Paso County Juvenile Board, Speaker on Juvenile Drug Courts for the Texas Center for the Judiciary and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school .**

Was an Assistant D.A. from 1990-92 . In private practice handled primarily criminal and juvenile cases from 1993-96.

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

 5 % **Federal Court**
 95 % **State Courts of Record**
 % **Administrative Hearings**
 % **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

 5 % **Family Law**
 5 % **General Civil**
 85 % **Criminal**
 % **Personal injury**
 % **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

As an Assistant D.A. , 40 felony jury trials to verdict. In private practice, over 15 -25 cases to verdict. As judge, I've presided over 150 jury trials from 1997 to the present.

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

Elected Judge 409th District Court in 2000 to the present.

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

N/A

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**

Never

12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**

None

Continued: 409th District Court: Sam Medrano

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

Volunteer El Paso Special Olympics ; Created the El Paso County Juvenile Drug Court in 2004 to fight substance abuse among our youth.

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

No

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations ___yes___

Legal licensing requirements _yes_____

409th District Court: Luz E. Sandoval

1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Luz E. Sandoval

Age: 52

Education: B.S. Criminal Justice, University of Texas at El Paso; J.D. Washburn University, School of Law

Employment: Private practice

Civic Engagement:

Phone: (915) 542-1877

Email:

Website:None

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have seventeen years experience in criminal and civil law. In the past I have worked for El Paso Legal Assistance, County Attorney's Office and for the City of El Paso. I am presently in private practice. My practice consists of criminal law, family law and personal injury.

2. List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice .

United District Court, Western District; United District Court, New Mexico

3. Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in profession societies.

I graduated from Washburn University School of Law. I have been a member of several bar associations.

4. Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.

My practice consists of criminal law, family law and personal injury.

5. If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.

I am not certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

6. While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:

<u> 5 </u> %	Federal Court
<u> 90 </u> %	States Courts of Record
<u> </u> %	Administrative Hearings
<u> 5 </u> %	Arbitration

7. What percentage of your litigation consisted of:

<u> 60 </u> %	Family Law
<u> </u> %	General Civil
<u> 30 </u> %	Criminal
<u> 10 </u> %	Personal Injury
<u> </u> %	Other

8. State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.

Six.

9. List all elective and political offices previously held.

None.

10. Please describe your current business experience or background.

Continued: 409th District Court: Luz E. Sandoval

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
I have not been disciplined by either a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group.
12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
None.
13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
I have participated in the Teen Court as a judge. I have been a member of the State of Texas Bar, Grievance Committee.
14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No.
15. **Are you current in your:**
a) **Tax Obligations** Yes
b) **Legal licensing requirements** Yes

448th District Court Christopher A. Antcliff



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Chris Antcliff

Age: 44

Education: Juris Doctor from Texas Tech University

Employment: Judge, 448th Judicial District Court

Civic Engagement: Multiple Bar and Church related.

Phone: (915) 543-3893

Email: Cantcliff@epcounty.com

Website:

Other:

b. **What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?**

I am a former law clerk to Judge David Briones of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas. Subsequent to that, I opened a solo law practice where I handled a variety of civil and criminal cases in both the state and federal courts.

I have handled civil rights cases, labor and employment cases, school district cases, First and Fourth Amendment cases, and many other types of cases.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

I am admitted to practice before all of the courts in the State of Texas. I am also admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. Over the course of my practice, I have also been admitted *pro hac vice* (for the case) to numerous jurisdictions to handle specific cases.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

I graduated from Texas Tech University School of Law in 1995. While there, I participated in the Mock Trial and Moot Court Programs. I was a member of the Law School's National Mock Trial Team in my third year as an evidence specialist. I was the Vice Chair of Appellate Advocacy for the Board of Barristers that same year.*

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

As noted, following graduation from law school, I became a law clerk to United States District Judge David Briones of the Western District of Texas in El Paso. At the conclusion of my two year clerkship, I opened a solo practice in El Paso handling both criminal and civil cases in federal and state courts.*

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

N/A

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

<u>60</u> %	Federal Court
<u>40</u> %	State Courts of Record
_____ %	Administrative Hearings
_____ %	Arbitration

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

___ %	Family Law
<u>15</u> %	General Civil
<u>65</u> %	Criminal
_____ %	Personal injury
<u>20</u> %	Other

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

15 – 20

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

N/A

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

As an attorney in private practice and as the managing partner of a small law firm, I have substantial administrative experience as well as experience in personnel and payroll matters. In addition, I was the project coordinator for the Department of Housing and Dining at Texas Tech University for a number of years.

Continued: 448th District Court: Christopher A. Antcliff

11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.

No.

12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.

N/A

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

The vast majority of my volunteerism within the community during the past three years has been focused on my church (I am a member of St. Luke Parish) and various bar and legal community engagements as described above.

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

No.

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations Yes

Legal licensing requirements Yes



1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Regina B. Arditti

Age:50

Education: -Texas Tech University School of Law. Lubbock, Texas Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) 1988.
-Southwestern Paralegal Institute. Houston, Texas Certificate, 1981.
-University of Texas at El Paso. El Paso, Texas. Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, 1980.
-Loretto Academy. El Paso, Texas, 1975.
-St. Patrick’s Elementary School, 1971.

Employment: - Regina Arditti, Attorney and Counselor at Law.
-Supervising Attorney. Mental Health Unit, El Paso County Public Defender’s Office.
-Attorney-Advisor. United States Department of Defense, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate General,
-Associate Attorney. Du dley, Dudley, Windle and Stevens Law Firm.
-Assistant City Prosecutor. City of El Paso, Texas.*

Civic Engagement: Please reference answer to question No. 13

Phone: (915) 351-7037

Email: Regina@VoteArditti.com

Website: www.VoteArditti.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have served you as Municipal Judge for 12 years in El Paso and Clint—and I thank you for your continued vote of confidence. As an advocate in the courtroom for 20 years, I have gained extensive experience in both civil and criminal law, on both the defense and prosecution sides bringing a fair and balanced perspective you can continue to trust.*

2. List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.

- United States Supreme Court, 1992
• United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1990
• United States District Court, Western District of Texas, 1989
• The State of Texas, 1988

3. Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.

-Texas Tech University School of Law. Lubbock, Texas Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) 1988, Who’s Who in American Law Schools, 1987 and 1988; Published article: “U. S. Constitution” (in collaboration with the Law Professors) 1987; Phi Delta Phi Law Fraternity
-Texas State Bar Association
-Texas State Bar College*

3. Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.

Please reference answer to question No. 1, Experience and attached resume.

5. If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.

No

6. While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:

30 % Federal Court
65 % State Courts of Record
4 % Administrative Hearings
1 % Arbitration

7. What percentage of your litigation consisted of:

20 % Family Law
50 % General Civil
50 % Criminal
20 % Personal injury
25 % Other

Continued: 448th District Court: Regina B. Arditti

8. State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.

I have 20 years experience as a litigator trying cases to verdict.

9. List all elective and political offices previously held.

- Presiding Judge. City of El Paso Municipal Courts. El Paso, Texas. (September 2003 – January 2, 2008)
- Judge, Municipal Court No. 4. El Paso, Texas (November 2001 –January 2, 2008)
- Judge, Clint Municipal Court. Clint, Texas. (May 1998 to May 2003)
- Associate Judge, Municipal Court, MC4B. El Paso, Texas. (March 1996 - November 2001)

10. Please describe your current business experience or background.

Please reference answer to question No. 1, Experience and attached resume.

11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.

No

12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.

- Texas Tech University School of Law. Lubbock, Texas Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) 1988. Who’s Who in American Law Schools, 1987 and 1988; Published article: “U. S. Constitution” (in collaboration with the Law Professors) 1987; Phi Delta Phi Law Fraternity.
- THE MONITOR, Department of Defense, JAG, Fort Bliss, TX Articles Published*

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

- El Paso League of Women Voters
- El Paso County Juvenile Administration (Board of Directors, 2003 - 2008)
- County of El Paso Bail Bonds Administration (Board of Directors, 2003 - 2008)
- El Paso Central Business Association (Board of Directors, 2005 - present)
- DWI Reduction Task Force, El Paso, Texas*

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

No.

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations Yes

Legal licensing requirements Yes

448th District Court: James M. Callan



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: James M. Callan

Age: 48 y.o.a.

Education: Juris Doctorate (J.D.) 1986 St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, Texas; Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) 1982 Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Employment: Assistant District Attorney
December 1993 – April 2001, March 2002 to the present
Jaime Esparza, District Attorney
34th Judicial District
El Paso County, Texas
(Currently, Trial Team Chief for the 171st and 409th Judicial District Courts of El Paso County, Texas)

Civic Engagement: I am invested in the El Paso County community and have worked to make a difference for El Paso in a number of ways. First and foremost, for thirteen out of the last fourteen years, I have been employed as an assistant district attorney and, together with law enforcement, have worked to make El Paso the third safest city in the United States with a population of over 500,000 people.*

Phone: (915) 241-3898

Email: jcallan@elp.rr.com or jimcallan@callanforjudge.com

Website: callanforjudge.com

Other: -N/A-

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I grew up in El Paso and graduated from Eastwood High School in 1977. In 1982, I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Chemistry from Texas A&M University, and in 1986, my Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law. While receiving my formal education, I learned to appreciate the value of hard work.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

Admitted State of Texas, 1986; Admitted State of Colorado, 1989; United States Supreme Court, 1991;
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, 1989; U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, 1993

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

I attended and graduated St. Mary's School of Law in 1986. While attending St. Mary's University School of Law, I was on the Dean's List for the Spring Semester of 1986; I received the American Jurisprudence Award for Torts for the Spring semester of 1984; and I participated in various competitions, including Moot Court, Spring 1984, Walker Moot Court, Fall 1984, and Novice Mock Trial, Fall 1984.*

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

From November 1986 until December 1993, and from April 2001 to March 2002, I was in private practice and worked for various law firms or for myself in the Texas Hill Country, San Antonio, and El Paso. During this period of time, I was primarily (almost exclusively) a trial lawyer or litigator.*

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

I am not board certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

<u>3 %</u>	Federal Court
<u>96 %</u>	State Courts of Record
<u>0 %</u>	Administrative Hearings
<u>1%</u>	Arbitration

Continued: 448th District Court: James M. Callan

7. What percentage of your litigation consisted of:

2 % **Family Law**
80 % **General Civil**
5 % **Criminal**
12 % **Personal injury**
2 % **Other**

The above percentages pertain to my legal career as a trial attorney or litigator while I was in private practice from November 1986 to December 1993 and from April 2001 to March 2002.

From late December 1993 to late March 2001, and from March 2002 until the present, I have worked as an assistant district attorney

(currently the trial team chief of the prosecutors in the 171st and 409th Judicial District Courts) and all my trial work has been in criminal cases.

8. State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.

I have tried approximately 70 cases to verdict in courts of record (district courts and statutory county courts at law).

9. List all elective and political offices previously held.

I have not held any elected or political office. I do not consider my current employment as an assistant district attorney to be a political office.

10. Please describe your current business experience or background.

I have been working since I was approximately twelve years of age. By and large, I have worked as an employee for various businesses or the government. During high school and college, I worked for a jewelry manufacturer, a lumber and building supplies company, and several building contractors and subcontractors.*

11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.

In twenty-one years as a lawyer, I have never been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group.

12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.

I have not authored any legal articles, books or other published legal writings.

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

For several years, I have been involved in youth sports. I have coached soccer at the Westside Recreation Center, t-ball at other city parks, and basketball and flag football at the YMCA on the Westside of town; and have also helped out with little league baseball at the Frank Manning Baseball League.*

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

No. I am not aware of anything that would represent a conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety if elected to the position.

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations Yes
Legal licensing requirements Yes

448th District Court: Rick Olivo



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Richard A. "Rick" Olivo

Age: 41

Education: BA in 1988 and JD in 1997

Employment: Olivo Law Firm and Associate Municipal Judge

Civic Engagement:

- Member – Board of Directors of El Paso Zoological Society, 2002-present; Vice-President and President-Elect, 2003; President, 2004; Nominating Chair, 2005; Gala Chair, 2006.
- Member – Board of Directors of International Hispanic Cultural Institute, Inc., 2006 -2007
- Member – Board of Directors and Officer of MobilServ Technologies, Inc., f/k/a Dial4snax, Inc., a Nevada corporation based in San Diego, California, 2000-present.*

Phone: (915) 544-6200

Email: rick@olivolaw.com

Website: www.rickolivo.com & www.olivolaw.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

This court needs a judge that can immediately assume the bench and do a great job. I am the only sitting judge in this race and am uniquely qualified to preside over this court because I also bring with me the respect of the legal and law enforcement communities based on my knowledge of the law, efficiency and my record on the bench.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice .**

All state courts in Texas and Northern and Western Districts of Texas.

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

- JD, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, 1997.
- Student Bar Association (TSU School of Law) - President, voting member of the Faculty and Faculty Rank & Tenure Committee, 1996 - 1997.
- State Bar of Texas - Law Student Division Board of Directors, 1996 - 1997.
- Dean's List - Fall 1994, Spring 1995, Fall 1996 and Spring 1997.*

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch, LLP, San Diego, CA. 1996, 1997 - 1998

Associate, Summer Clerk - Business & Technology Team, represented emerging and operating companies with domestic and international commercial transactions, corporate, securities, limited liability company, and partnership matters, intellectual property issues, and other business matters, including business planning.*

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

N/A

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

<u>20</u> %	Federal Court
<u>80</u> %	State Courts of Record
<u>0</u> %	Administrative Hearings
<u>0</u> %	Arbitration

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

<u>15</u> %	Family Law
<u>50</u> %	General Civil
<u>30</u> %	Criminal
<u>5</u> %	Personal injury
<u>0</u> %	Other

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

About two dozen cases, plus presided over another two dozen jury trials and several hundred non-jury trial cases in Municipal Court.

Continued: 448th District Court: Rick Olivo

9. List all elective and political offices previously held.

Appointed in 2001 as an Associate Municipal Judge.

10. Please describe your current business experience or background.

Besides my response to Question 4 where the focus of my practice is business law, I worked as a diamond buyer and part of the management team for a large jewelry manufacturing company for eight years where I managed a multi-million dollar budget.

11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group?

If yes, provide details. I have never had a complaint or grievance filed against me as an attorney or judge.

12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.

N/A

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

See response to Question 1.a. above.

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

No.

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations Yes

Legal licensing requirements Yes

The following candidates did not respond to the questionnaire:

- **41st District Court: Mary Ann Bramblett**
- **346th District Court: Angie Juarez Barill**
- **448th District Court: Edward Hernandez**

Candidate Profiles

County

The Candidate Profile section is designed to educate and provide you information that will help you make an informed decision at the polls in order to bring about pro-business public policy. To this end, this section offers candidate responses to the El Paso P2 Questionnaires, developed by a committee of volunteer Chamber members. The questionnaires seek candidates' background information and their various positions on issues that affect the business community in particular.

The team of the El Paso Prosperity Project— in cooperation with the volunteer Chamber members of the El Paso P2 Advisory Committee, the Government Relations Executive Committee, and the Chamber's Executive Committee — developed a questionnaire and sent it to all candidates running for the following County of El Paso positions:

Criminal District Court #1
Criminal Court at Law #4
County Commissioner #3

Criminal Court at Law #3
County Commissioner #1
County Attorney

County Sheriff

Each candidate received the same questionnaire. Each candidate was requested to observe a fifty-word limit per question. Candidates' responses comprises their candidate profile. The Guide also indicates when a candidate did not respond to the Questionnaire. Candidates are listed according to the office they are seeking, and then by alphabetical order (according to last name) for each race.

Each candidate's response was posted under the candidate's name exactly as the candidate submitted it to the Chamber. The Chamber did limit responses to fifty words and edited as such where indicated by an '*'.

Following are the candidates' responses to our questionnaires.

Criminal District Court #1: Manuel Barraza

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Manuel J. Barraza

Age: 52

Education: Doctor of Jurisprudence- University of Texas School of Law; BA in Journalism- University of Texas at El Paso; Riverside High School

Employment: Self-employed Attorney at Law

Civic Engagement: Member El Paso Bar Association Fee Dispute Committee, Charter member Ysleta Education Foundation, Former President Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC), Former President of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School Board, Former President of Our Lady of the Valley School Board, Sponsor of several youth sports teams in El Paso area

Phone: 915-999-1234

Email: Barrazaforjudge@yahoo.com

Website:

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have served as a prosecutor. I have served as an Associate Municipal Judge in El Paso TX. I have practiced law for 29 years. I am admitted by federal court in Texas, Michigan and Nebraska.

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

Texas Supreme Court, United States District Court Western District of Texas, United States District Court District of Nebraska, United States District Court Eastern District of Michigan, United States Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

2001- Named Criminal Defense Lawyer of the Year by the El Paso Criminal Law Group, member El Paso Bar Association, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, member Fee Dispute Committee El Paso Bar Association

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

I served one year as an Assistant County Attorney in El Paso County. I have spent the rest of my practice as a criminal defense lawyer. On occasion, I have litigated cases in family law, civil law and immigration law.

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

I am not certified by the Texas Law of Legal Specialization.

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

60 % **Federal Court**

40 % **State Courts of Record**

 % **Administrative Hearings**

 % **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

10 % **Family Law**

10 % **General Civil**

70 % **Criminal**

10 % **Personal injury**

 % **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

300

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

None

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

28 years solo practitioner

Continued: Criminal District Court #1: Manuel Barraza

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No
12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
None
13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
Legal Counsel Eagle Association of South El Paso. I have provided free legal services to El Pasoans who could not afford a lawyer. In addition when appointed by the various courts, I have not submitted a voucher to the County of El Paso.
14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No
15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations Yes _____
Legal licensing requirements Yes _____

Criminal District Court #1: Jose Castillo

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Jose Castillo

Age: 43

Education: Southwest University in Georgetown, Texas; St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio, Texas

Employment: El Paso County District Attorney's Office

Civic Engagement:

Phone: 915-585-2207

Email: info@CastilloForJudge.com

Website: www.CastilloForJudge.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

For the past seven years I have been assigned to the Narcotics Task Force and have dealt exclusively with exactly the types of cases that will come before the El Paso County Criminal District Court No. 1. I have never wavered in my commitment to serve the public and feel that my background and expertise make me the singular candidate for this bench.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

September 1993 - Western District of Texas License

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

Member El Paso Bar Association; Member Texas Bar Association; Member Texas District and County Attorney's Association; Former Member Texas Narcotic's Officers Association

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

I began my legal experience with the District Attorney's Office in San Antonio, Texas. After that, I was in private practice for several years before returning to El Paso and continuing my public service with the District Attorneys Office. For the last seven years I have been prosecuting drug offenders and seizing cash and other assets.

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

N/A

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

 0 % Federal Court

100 % State Courts of Record

 0 % Administrative Hearings

 0 % Arbitration

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

 5 % Family Law

 5 % General Civil

90 % Criminal

 0 % Personal injury

 0 % Other

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

50

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

N/A

Continued: Criminal District Court #1: Jose Castillo

10. Please describe your current business experience or background.

Assistant District Attorney for the 34th Judicial District.

11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.

No.

12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.

N/A

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

Active member of Helping One Student at a Time (HOST) and the St. Matthew's Hospitality Ministry

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

No.

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations X _yes____

Legal licensing requirements X _yes____

Criminal District Court #1: Don W. Minton



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Judge Don W. Minton

Age: 40

Education: UT Law School, Graduated with Honors Class of 1996; United States Military Academy at West Point. Graduated top Ten Percent of Class of 1990; Intern U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee; Fellow, Center of the Study of the Presidency; Battalion Commander, United States Corps of Cadets.

Employment:

Judge, Criminal District Court No. 1 (Incumbent)	2007 to Present;
Judge, Title IV-D Child Support for El Paso	2003 to 2007;
President, Minton Law Firm, P.C.	2000 to 2003;
Associate, James, Goldman & Haugland, P.C.	1997 to 2000;
Associate, Klinedinst Law Firm, (San Diego, CA)	1997
Stock Broker, Edward Jones & Co.	1993 to 1994;
Tank Platoon Ldr/Ass't Ops. Officer, 3d ACR	1990 to 1993

Civic Engagement: Member, EPISD Bond Accountability Committee; Member, Knights of Columbus; Judge, Court School for Kids; Friar's Society of University of Texas; Polk Elementary PTA; Cub Scouts of America; West Point Association of Graduates

Phone: (915) 317-8447

Email: don@judgeminton.com

Website: www.judgeminton.com

Other: Licensed in California

b. **What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?**

Criminal District Court No. 1 must bring to trial all felony drug cases in El Paso County which are indicted by the special task forces of local, state and federal authorities. Because El Paso is a high intensity drug trafficking area, the number of cases is immense. I am the best candidate for this Court because in the past four years, no other state judge in Texas has tried and disposed as many cases as I have.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit;
United States District Court for the Western District of Texas;
United States District Court for the Southern District of California;
United States District Court for the Central District of California;
State of Texas: Supreme Court, El Paso Court of Appeals, all District Courts;
State of California: San Diego County Superior Courts, Orange County Superior Courts and Los Angeles County Superior Courts

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

Graduated with Honors from Class of 1996, UT Law School;
Selected to be a Member, American Criminal Law Journal during middle of first year in Law School;
Best Advocate Award, Carl Wilson Mock Trial Competition (128 participants)
Selected to prestigious Friars Society at University of Texas for my work in enlarging veterans' benefits under the Hazelwood Act;*

4. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

Upon graduation from law school, I moved to California and was an associate in complex litigation practice supervised by the managing partner, John Klinedinst. I remained in San Diego for only six months, opting to return back to Texas in 1997 where I practiced commercial litigation in the El Paso firm of James, Goldman & Haugland. I was supervised by Corey Haugland. *

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

N/A.

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

10%	Federal Court
89%	State Courts of Record
1%	Administrative Hearings
0%	Arbitration

Continued: Criminal District Court #1: Don W. Minton

7. What percentage of your litigation consisted of:

50% **Family Law**
25% **General Civil**
10% **Criminal**
10% **Personal injury**
5% **Other**

8. State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.
300.

9. List all elective and political offices previously held.

Judge, Title IV-D Court for El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson Counties, 2003 to 2007.

10. Please describe your current business experience or background.

From 1993 to 1994, I had a brief career as a stock broker with Edward Jones & Co. Since that time, I have engaged in substantial trades on the stock market on my own account.

From 2000 to 2003, I ran the Minton Law Firm. As such, I became intimately familiar with all the challenges of setting up and successfully running a business, including maintaining cash flow, creating good will and generally following the business plan I had created for each year in business.*

11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.

No.

12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.

CLE (PUBLICATION & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS)

National Child Support Enforcement Association Conference, Dallas Aug. 2006

Family Law on the Border, San Antonio Mar. 2006

Family Law on the Border, El Paso Feb. 2006

El Paso Civil Trial Law Seminar, Las Vegas Jan. 2006

Family Law on the Border, El Paso Feb. 2005*

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

In the past three years, the majority of my time has been spent at the Courthouse, working as a Judge. However, I have managed to spend some time volunteering in the community, including participation at events at Polk Elementary in conjunction with the PTA. I have also had involvement with both the Cub Scouts and Brownies in the past three years, assisting with the Pinewood Derby and Girl Scout cookie sales.*

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

Nothing at all.

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations Yes

Legal licensing requirements Yes



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Carlos Carrasco

Age: 48

Education: JD Univ. Of Texas at Austin (1984); BA Psychology (Honors) at UTEP (1977 -1981)

Employment: Self i.e., Sole Practitioner Attorney at Law

Civic Engagement: Numerous

Phone: 533-1010

Email: carrascolaw@sbcglobal.net

Website:

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

Twenty-two years of practice, primarily in the Criminal arena; former Bexar County Assistant District Attorney; Former Felony Chief Prosecutor (EP District Attorneys Office) three years, former Assistant County Attorney, EP County; 18 years private practice primarily Criminal Defense.

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas (9/8/89)

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

Criminal Law Journal (UT at Austin in School of Law) Staff Member (1982 -1984); Member of the following: American Bar Assoc.; El Paso Bar Assoc.; Tejano Democrats, Westside Tejano Democrats; Black El Paso Democrats, Northeast El Paso Democrats; and Camino Real Mexican/American Democrats

3. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

El Paso Legal Assistance Society (1984); Assistant El Paso County Attorney (1984-85); Assistant Bexar County District Attorney (1985-86); Assistant El Paso District Attorney (1986 - 1989); Assigned as Felony Chief Prosecutor 1986 - 1989); Private Practice (1989 - Present). Have handled all degrees of felony cases, including Capital Murders as both prosecutor and defense counsel as well as all misdemeanors (again, in both capacities)*

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

Not applicable

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

10__%	Federal Court
_90__%	State Courts of Record
____%	Administrative Hearings
____%	Arbitration

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

_10__%	Family Law
_85__%	General Civil
_5__%	Criminal
____%	Personal injury
____%	Other

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

Well over 300 (includes Bexar County cases and none jury trials)

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

None (with the exception of Mortar Bd Vice-Pres @ UTEP and President of the Deacons at my church)

10. **Please describe your current business experience or background.**

Have had a successful private practice since 1989.

Continued: Criminal Court at Law #3: Carlos Carrasco

11. **Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.**
No.

12. **Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.**
None

13. **Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.**
Pastoral Counseling Center Board Member; Youth Counselor (Canutillo First Baptist Hispanic Church); Sunday School Teacher (men) at my church; member of the Canutillo I.S.D. athletic facility naming committee, etc.

14. **Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest of the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?**
No.

15. **Are you current in your:**
Tax Obligations Yes _____
Legal licensing requirements Yes _____

Criminal Court at Law #4: Israel "Issy" Parra

1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Israel "Izzy" Parra

Age: 47

Education: J.D. University of Iowa College of Law

Employment: Attorney

Civic Engagement:

Phone: (915) 533-3555

Email: sillyedward@aol.com

Website: www.IsraelParra.com

Other:

b. What experience/result in your background makes you the best candidate?

I have extensive criminal trial experience which includes two years with the El Paso District Attorney's Office. I tried approximately 40 criminal trials from murder to indecency with a child. This experience gave me a sound understanding of what a victim experiences when under going a traumatic event. As a former hearing officer I issued over 1500 decision involving worker's compensation cases.* I have extensive criminal trial experience which includes two years with the El Paso District Attorney's Office. I tried approximately 40 criminal trials from murder to indecency with a child. This experience gave me a sound understanding of what a victim experiences when undergoing a traumatic event. As a former hearing officer I issued over 1500 decision involving worker's compensation cases.*

2. **List all federal or state courts in which you have been admitted to practice.**

I am license to practice law in the State of Texas

3. **Describe your legal education, including activities, honors received, chairmanships, committees in the bar association and memberships in professional societies.**

I attended the University of Iowa College of Law and received my degree in December 1989. In law school I reviewed and edited several legal articles for publication. I was also president of the Chicano Hispanic Association for Legal Education where I was able to recruit minority students to the University of Iowa.*

3. **Describe the nature of your law practice experience after your graduation from law school.**

I worked at Texas Rural Legal Aide, the El Paso District Attorney's Office, Zavaleta and Reyes Legal Clinic, the Texas Worker's Compensation Commission and I have been self-employed for the past 9 years. Each one of these jobs has given me an opportunity to help or serve people one way or another.*

5. **If you were certified as a specialist by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, indicate the specialty and date of your certification.**

None

6. **While in private practice, what percentage of these appearances consisted of:**

___% **Federal Court**
100 % **State Courts of Record**
___% **Administrative Hearings**
___% **Arbitration**

7. **What percentage of your litigation consisted of:**

1% **Family Law**
___% **General Civil**
_98% **Criminal**
1% **Personal injury**
___% **Other**

8. **State the approximate number of cases in courts of record you have tried to verdict.**

65

9. **List all elective and political offices previously held.**

None

Continued: Criminal Court at Law #4: Israel “Issy” Parra

10. Please describe your current business experience or background.

I do not have much business experience other than running my own private practice.

11. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or cited for a breach of ethics or for unprofessional conduct by a court, administrative agency, bar association, disciplinary or grievance committee or other professional group? If yes, provide details.

No

12. Cite any legal articles, books or other published legal writings you have authored.

None

13. Describe your volunteerism within the community during the past three years.

For the past twelve years my wife and I have taken care of my 92 year old grandmother. We have also volunteered at Father Yermo Elementary School for several years.

14. Is there anything in your background that would represent a conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety if elected to this position?

No

15. Are you current in your:

Tax Obligations Yes

Legal licensing requirements Yes

The following candidate did not respond to the questionnaire:

Criminal Court at Law #4: Jesus R. Herrera

County Commissioner #1: Annabell “Anna” Perez

1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Annabell “Anna” Perez

Age: 40

Education: University of Texas at El Paso, Bachelor of Science, Texas Tech School of Law, Doctorate of Jurisprudence

Employment: Assistant County Attorney, El Paso County

Civic Engagement: Includes-- City of El Paso Committee on Border Relations, Mental Health Life Management Center Task Force, City of El Paso Public Utilities Regulation Board; El Paso Airport Advisory Board; Texas District & County Attorneys Association; Mexican American Bar Association of El Paso; El Paso bar Association; Democratic Precinct Chair #108;*

Phone: (915) 274-2491

Email: Anna@AnnaPerez2008.com

Website: www.AnnaPerez2008.com

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

My experience with County government and my education make me the best candidate for County government. As an assistant county attorney, I have performed duties and spearheaded projects that bring necessary experience to Commissioners Court. They include the following:

-Chief litigator for the county protecting the tax payer dollar and ensuring the County give appropriate consideration to its legal liabilities.*

2. What are your top priorities in seeking office in respect to:

a. Transportation – Currently, there are portions of the County that still do not have paved roads or appropriate infrastructure. These areas are primarily in Precinct 3. I will work with the commissioner representing that district to improve this region of the county. The County also needs additional transportation dollars from the state.*

b. Healthcare - I have worked diligently after the past 10 years in a variety of issues affecting healthcare. Access to quality health care is one of my priorities in this campaign. Currently, 1 of 3 people in El Paso County is uninsured. Nearly 30 percent of the County’s population is living at poverty level.*

c. Economic Development – As explained below, Texas counties are becoming more involved in economic development initiatives outside of the mandates of state law. I would help develop a conscious planned and qualitative effort. This includes efforts to stimulate growth, both of companies doing business in this region and of jobs entering the workforce.*

3. Are there any county departments which you would consolidate?

Yes. In my experience in working with the County, I have learned of all operational and service efficiencies, as well as deficiencies and needs. I want to use your tax dollar in an accountable, honest and efficient manner. This includes encouraging consolidation and cooperative agreements with other government entities, creating an internal construction and project manager, and creating a grant manager that monitors proper use of grant funds and compliance with grant terms.*

4. Do you support using tax incentives as a strategy for economic development in El Paso? Why (not)?

Yes I do support using tax incentives as a tool for economic development. Decisions to use this tool, however, must be based on smart analysis and the viability of the business proposals. What has occurred in the past is that the County will typically vote to grant tax incentives but there is rarely, if ever, follow-up on the progress of the projects and the terms required of the companies once building and operation have commenced.*

5. Do you believe that the County Government should expand beyond mandated programs? If yes, to what extent? If no, why?

Yes. Texas counties are becoming more involved with non-mandated initiatives, such as economic development. Without the County’s participation and investment in these types of initiatives, we will not be able to direct the County’s future. For example, the County should become involved with health care initiatives, economic development initiatives and social services such as the current nutrition program.*

6. What do you believe to be the role of a County Commissioner with respect to oversight of the Thomason Hospital District?

The role of commissioners court is solely to appoint qualified and involved individuals that have the integrity and ethics to provide the necessary support to Thomason. The commissioners also set and approve the tax rate for the hospital district. Other than those two required duties, the commissioners court must support the hospital to ensure it operates efficiently and provides the necessary health care the district is mandated to provide.*

7. What do you believe should be the minimum qualifications for someone to be appointed to the Thomason Hospital Board?

The appointees should be degreed professionals in the areas of healthcare or business. The appointees must have a demonstrated history of contributions to quality health care in this community. Cronyism must end, not only at this level but in all board and committee appointees of the County.

Continued: County Commissioner #1: Annabell “Anna” Perez

- 8. What will your role be as County Commissioner, if any role exists, with regard to the Children's Hospital and its governing board?**
The County commissioners court will make appointments to that board. The court must create a system where again, cronyism does not infect the board, as it has in the past with the hospital district. Beyond that appointment, the commissioners should monitor its progress and support smart initiatives.
- 9. Would you support the use of certificates of obligation, which do not require voter approval?**
Yes I would support certificates of obligation in public works projects. The County is in excellent financial state where C.O.s help its financial ratings. However, participation of the community should be encouraged through dialogue and committee reviews of the projects.
- 10. Are you current in your tax obligations?**
Yes I am current with all local, state and federal tax obligations.

County Commissioner #1: Luis G. Sarñana

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Luis Sarñana

Age: 49

Education: Associates: Accounting

Employment: County of El Paso

Civic Engagement: Church and Schools

Phone: (915) 595-0378

Email: bengispany@hotmail.com

Website: None

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

-10 years of public service

-Results during my 8 years as City Representative for District #7

-Renovation of (7) parks in my district totaling over 5 million dollars...

-Lower Valley Library 3 Million Dollars...

-Renovation of Carolina Recreational Center 4.5 million dollars...

-Carolina State Park 800,000 dollars...

-Street Resurfacing over 10 million dollars...*

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office in respect to:**

a. Transportation- will continue to support city/county cooperation for rural transit to serve colonias areas.

b. Healthcare- Promote Children's Hospital

c. Economic Development- Promote County Revolving Loan Fund

3. **Are there any county departments which you would consolidate?**

No

4. **Do you support using tax incentives as a strategy for economic development in El Paso? Why (not)?**

Yes. Tax abatement for renewable clean industry's are important.

5. **Do you believe that the County Government should expand beyond mandated programs? If yes, to what extent? If no, why?**

Yes. Sports Park, General Assistance is very important to lower income residents who are underserved.

6. **What do you believe to be the role of a County Commissioner with respect to oversight of the Thomason Hospital District?**

To ensure honesty, transparency and fiscally responsible policy.

7. **What do you believe should be the minimum qualifications for someone to be appointed to the Thomason Hospital Board?**

A history of Public Service.

8. **What will your role be as County Commissioner, if any role exists, with regard to the Children's Hospital and its governing board?**

Commissioners Court, appoints two commissioners to the board.

9. **Would you support the use of certificates of obligation, which do not require voter approval?**

Yes. For expansion of county and other programs that are mandated by the state.

10. **Are you current in your tax obligations? Yes.**



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Frank R. Lopez

Age: 46

Education: University of Texas at Austin, BBA in Accounting;
University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, Juris Doctor

Employment: Executive Director, Nonprofit Enterprise Center

Civic Engagement: Consistent voter; currently serving on TIRZ board

Phone: 490-1212

Email: lopezfrankr@gmail.com

Website: www.vote franklopez.com

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate ?

I am an accountant, an attorney (licensed in Texas and California), teacher, former professor and a grant writer. I have helped hundreds of people start their business; and have counseled hundreds of nonprofit organizations. I have extensive experience in accounting, law, business and in grant writing. It is possible to bring more resources to El Paso through grants.

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office in respect to:**

a. Transportation- Transportation is key to the economic vitality of a community. Precinct 3 needs assistance in improving mass transportation for people living outside the city of El Paso. There are also many congestion problems in many areas in the lower valley. I would like to be actively involved with the Metropolitan Planning Organization to review projects that could improve transportation in Precinct 3 and thus improve economic vitality in the region.

b. Healthcare- Access to healthcare. This would be accomplished by ensuring the success of the Children's Hospital and the sustainability of Thomason Hospital, coupled with looking at how healthcare can be accessible for people living throughout the County.

c. Economic Development- To increase the tax base in the lower valley and similar areas requires improved economic development. There are many tax and business incentives that the City of El Paso uses to attract commerce and business. The recent inter-local agreement between the City and the County allows the County to be more pro-active in providing incentives to business to enhance development in Precinct 3.*

3. **Are there any county departments which you would consolidate?**

I believe consolidation is good as long as the County first examines the economic and social impact of the particular program to be consolidated. For example, there may be areas where the sheriffs department and the police department could be consolidated. However, we must first look at the economic impact on both the county and city; and also the social impact on the community. *

4. **Do you support using tax incentives as a strategy for economic development in El Paso? Why (not)?**

Yes, I believe tax incentives work to encourage businesses to relocate and/or contribute to the community. A smart government, however, must be sure that tax incentives bring positive benefit to the community. Strategic tax incentives could be used in the Mission Trail to attract businesses and make Socorro road a tourist destination.

5. **Do you believe that the County Government should expand beyond mandated programs? If yes , to what extent? If no, why?**

Yes. In Precinct three which includes Socorro, Clint, Fabens, San Elizario, Tornillo and Montana Vista there is a tremendous need for parks, libraries and other venues of recreation and health. It is imperative that the County expand beyond its mandated programs. This can be accomplished through grants while holding down taxes.

6. **What do you believe to be the role of a County Commissioner with respect to oversight of the Thomason Hospital District?**

The role of a County Commissioner is to approve the budget and appoint qualified board members. It is also important that Commissioner oversee policy to make sure that the Hospital is fulfilling its mission – which includes access to healthcare.

7. **What do you believe should be the minimum qualifications for someone to be appointed to the Thomason Hospital Board?**

The Thomason Hospital Board oversees a budget of over \$400 million and is responsible for providing healthcare to thousands of people in our community. Minimum qualifications should include the following: (1) good understanding of financial statements, (2) knowledge of healthcare and the demographic make up of the El Paso community, (3) representation from all aspects of our community and (4) a passionate for serving the community.

8. **What will your role be as County Commissioner, if any role exists, with regard to the Children's Hospital and its governing board?**

The Children's Hospital is still in its infant stage. There is still much work to be done to ensure that the hospital is strong, vibrant and capable of serving the whole El Paso population. Once a board has been selected and the hospital has been staffed, we will need to ensure that people who live in remote parts of the county have access to this great institution. *

Continued: County Commissioner #3: Frank Lopez

9. Would you support the use of certificates of obligation, which do not require voter approval?

Yes, under certain circumstances. For major infrastructure repairs, I would support the use of certificates of obligation. For example, if the stairwell in the County building required repairs for safety purposes, I believe the County should incur the expenses and could use Certificates of obligation. If the county was considering an expense such as the building of an sports arena, I think the County should obtain public approval.

10. Are you current in your tax obligations?

Yes, I am current in all my tax obligations (including both income and real property taxes).

County Commissioner #3: Jose Alexandro Lozano

1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Jose Alexandro Lozano

Age: 59

Education: Graduate of El Paso Technical High School; Dallas Art Institute in Design & Graphics

Employment: Self Employed, EPJ Storm Water Solution, Image Group

Civic Engagement:

Phone: (915) 633-5942

Email: alexandrolozano@yahoo.com

Website:

Other:

b. **What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?**

35 years as a business owner; member of over 30 Boards and Commissions; worked with McLeandon Theaters as Assistant Advertising Director; Art Director for White & Shuffer/Marcom Advertising for 4 years, opened Alexandro's Restaurant in 1973 and by 1985 I owned six locations around the city, where I hosted thousands of patrons; and was honored as 2002 Restaurateur of the Year and President of El Paso Restaurant Association.*

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office in respect to:**

This County needs an international monorail system or in the least, a rapid transit system. The Medical Center of the Americas is on its way and I will be promoting this very important project to the County, in addition to keeping the tax rate flat and all Certificates of Obligation projects under budget.

a. Transportation

b. Healthcare

c. Economic Development

3. **Are there any county departments which you would consolidate?**

Consolidation and/or privatization is the future of El Paso County, Police, Fire, Transportation, Information Technology, and Water and Waist management. These are some, but we should start with consolidating Purchasing with the City and County. Another consolidation is with the school system on parks and libraries. All our schools have both parks and libraries, which could be opened to the public.*

4. **Do you support using tax incentives as a strategy for economic development in El Paso? Why (not)?**

I'm a big supporter of incentives. We need to be more aggressive in bringing new industry and invest more in incentives programs.

5. **Do you believe that the County Government should expand beyond mandated programs? If yes, to what extent? If no, why?**

County government should remain the same. The County Commissioners are the ones who should expand beyond the current programs and solicit state and federal funding to protect and defend our residents.

6. **What do you believe to be the role of a County Commissioner with respect to oversight of the Thomason Hospital District?**

Making sure we have the best Board members possible and allow them to do their work.

7. **What do you believe should be the minimum qualifications for someone to be appointed to the Thomason Hospital Board?**

Common sense, business experience, being a visionary, having a big heart and some higher education would be a plus.

8. **What will your role be as County Commissioner, if any role exists, with regard to the Children's Hospital and its governing board?**

I have always and will always totally support the Children's Hospital and will fight to fully staff it.

Continued: County Commissioner #3: Jose Alejandro Lozano

9. Would you support the use of certificates of obligation, which do not require voter approval?

Yes, I support Certificates of Obligations, but only for projects that are absolutely necessary and for emergencies, such as the floods of 2006.

10. Are you current in your tax obligations?

Yes, I am current. I will be entering into a contract with the City Tax Collector to pay 2007 and 2008 taxes. My 2008 taxes will be paid by February 1, 2009.

The following candidates did not respond to the questionnaire:

County Commissioner #1: Alex Mendoza

County Commissioner #1: Tomas Rey

County Commissioner #3: Willie Gandara, Jr.

County Commissioner #3: Irma S. Sanchez

County Commissioner #3: Rogelio Lozoya

County Attorney: Jose Rodriguez

Sheriff: Robert Almonte

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Robert Almonte

Age: 50

Education: BS Criminal Justice Administration

Employment: Executive Director Texas Narcotic Officers Association
Retired Deputy Chief, El Paso Police Department

Civic Engagement: Numerous Boards and Advisory Committees

Phone: (915) 588-4351

Email: info@AlmonteForSheriff.com

Website: www.AlmonteForSheriff.com

Other: www.narcoticstraining.com

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

I retired as a Deputy Chief after 25 years of service with the El Paso Police Department. I have a proven record of leadership, strategic/tactical planning, and operations management for a department that provides community policing for the 23rd largest city in the United States.*

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:**

a. Recruitment- Fortunately, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office does a good job in recruiting. The current level of pay is attractive and competitive when base-lined with other cities our size. However, our ever expanding federal and military base is beginning to make inroads in local recruitment efforts. As Sheriff, I would ensure that we continue to recruit the finest candidates possible not only locally but from other cities, leveraging our tourism and branding efforts in bringing in new recruits

b. Retention- All recruits begin as Detention Officers at the jail facilities, and, after two years, are eligible to apply as a Sheriff Deputy. If selected, the candidate then goes through a comprehensive training academy. I believe that the current system of requiring an officer to complete two years as a detention officer demonstrates that particular officer is highly committed to becoming a Deputy and therefore has a very low probability of leaving the department

c. Community Relations- The key to any successful department is community relations. The public must be made aware of major initiatives and conversely, the department has to be receptive to community input. I would expect all my deputies to consider themselves as spokespersons for the Sheriffs Department and be able to respond in a uniform and on-point manner to the citizens they serve.

3. **What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?**

I believe in smart consolidation - consolidating only the areas of the Police and Sheriffs Departments that are feasible and make fiscal sense. Any consolidation must be done in small increments to ensure we realize actual and measurable cost savings. First, an immediate area of consolidation is the Training Academies.*

4. **What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?**

The role of the Sheriff's Officer is to protect and serve the community, not to enforce Federal immigration law. I believe that anyone in El Paso County who is a victim of a crime should have trust and faith in the Sheriff's Office and feel comfortable reporting a crime regardless of their immigration status.

5. **Are you current in your tax obligations? Yes.**

1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Mary Lou Carrillo

Age: 46

Education: Bachelor of Science in Business Management ; Masters in Organizational Management

Employment: Sheriff's Candidate/Retired Police Sergeant

Civic Engagement: Centro De Mujeres Board member & Finance Committee, Jail Ministry, Gang Consultant, Director of All Saints Music Ministry, Directed & Facilitated numerous faith-based youth/teen Retreats and Adult Retreats, City Parks & Recreation Boys & Girls Basketball Coach, Gang Awareness presentations for parents and local churches

Phone: 478-8400

Email: maryloucarrillo@gmail.com

Website: www.carrillo4sheriff.com

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

Leading and managing teams in tactical and critical incident field operations has allowed me to successfully serve the needs of the community and our most valuable resource, our employees. I have conducted law enforcement training locally and throughout the country. I am nationally recognized as an expert in gang identification, trends, and prevention strategies.*

2. What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:

a. **Recruitment**-Focus on Recruitment and Retention by implementing programs that help develop strong leadership within the ranks, mentor our youth, and recognize our employees as our most valued asset. Important: there are over 100 employees within the Sheriff's Office that are currently eligible to retire.

b. **Retention**

c. **Community Relations**-Establish a stronger community presence and improve accessibility to the public. Reduce the cost of crime and recidivism by focusing on the root cause through implementation of prevention, education, and treatment of substance abuse, addiction, and the cycle of violence.

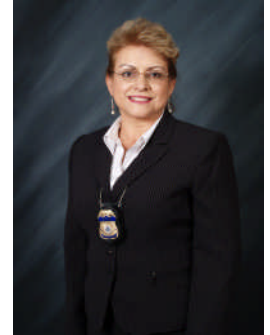
3. What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?

I support consolidating and sharing resources that are cost effective and maximize service and community safety. Initially the resources that should be considered for consolidation, include Purchasing, Communications, and the Academy.

4. What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?

Our primary role is to serve and protect this community and enforce state law. The Sheriff's Department does not have the resources nor will we sacrifice our service to this community to enforce immigration law; however, we will not hesitate to take action against anyone involved in criminal activity and make the referrals as necessary.

5. Are you current in your tax obligations? Yes



1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Maria Guadalupe Dempsey

Age: 54

Education: 1971 Graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School

Associate of Arts Degree - El Paso Community College

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice - UNLV

Master of Science Degree in Management – Webster Univ

Employment: Retired Supervisor & Assistant Special Agent in Charge

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement

Special Agent in Charge Office of Investigations

Civic Engagement: Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award by American Legion

Outstanding Citizen Award by Mayor of City of El Paso

U.S. Customs Hero of the Week Award for community service

El Paso Independent School District Volunteer of the Year Award

For Partners in Education Adopt-A -School Program

10 years as coordinator for Junior Special Agent Program

Phone: (915) 227-4497

Email: mariagd@mariaguadalupe4sheriff.com

Website: Mariaguadalupe4sheriff.com

Other: For 20 years, I placed my life on the line for the protection of our children and grandchildren. I also volunteered for overseas assignments in countries that have requested aid and assistance from the United States, including Honduras, Colombia, Perú and Mexico. I have experience in training foreign governments and private industry in other countries in the improvement of their security measures, in order to help expedite the flow of commerce into the United States.

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

I bring 32 years of federal law enforcement experience, with a Top Secret Clearance, 20 years as a U.S. Customs Criminal Investigator, with ten years in Management, first Hispanic female supervisor & Assistant Special Agent in Charge for Administration at ICE El Paso, experience in anti-terrorism, anti- drug smuggling, anti-human trafficking, international border security,*

2. What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:

- a. Recruitment
- b. Retention
- c. Community Relations
- d.

3. What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?

4. What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?

5. Are you current in your tax obligations?



1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Luis Garcia

Age: 60

Education: BS – Criminal Justice, UTEP

Employment: Retired – Former Director of Field Operations,
Customs and Border Protection, Department of
Homeland Security

Civic Engagement: Past Chair, Sun Country Combined Federal Campaign

Phone: (915) 313-1656

Email: lgarcia47@aol.com

Website: www.luisgarciaforsheriff.com

Other: Campaign Phone: (915) 850-3197

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

- Served in Vietnam, was wounded and was awarded a Purple Heart and Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service.
- In my first 20 years as a law enforcement officer, served as a Border Patrol Agent, Inspector, Adjudicator, Special Agent, and Officer in Charge with INS.
- In the last 17 years of my career, served as the INS Director in Mexico City and in El Paso. Served as the first Director for Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, in El Paso.*

2. What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:

- a. Recruitment-** Continue to recruit the best into an organization that is recognized nationally for its professionalism. I will seek new developmental programs with UTEP and EPCC to better equip our new cadre of officers. The attrition rate is lower than that of the Police Department. This is a tribute to the leadership and quality of life provided the officers. I will continue this.*
- b. Retention-** I am a believer that people are loyal and remain with an organization not necessarily because of the remuneration received, but rather because of caring leadership in the organization and the quality of life provided the employee. Money is not everything. Quality of life issues include developing a culture of family within the Sheriff's Office.*
- c. Community Relations-** I will create the position of Community Relations Officer. This is a must in any law enforcement organization. This position will serve as my eyes and ears in the community. The officer will meet regularly with community stakeholders, activists, and special-interest advocates. The primary role of this position is to serve as an advance warning system of concerns coming from these entities.*

3. What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?

Consolidation needs to be divided into two parts: partial and total. Partial consolidation can occur with the concurrence of City Council and Commissioners Court when both parties are assured that it will result in greater efficiency and effectiveness. The deciding factor should always be, will it save the taxpayer money.*

4. What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?

The Sheriff's Office has a very important role on maintaining border security. Border security has many faces. They include protecting the community against terrorists and their weapons of mass destruction, narcotics and human smuggling, weapons and bulk cash smuggling, and against criminals. All of the above examples may include the involvement of United States citizens, and documented or undocumented aliens.*

5. Are you current in your tax obligations? Yes.

Sheriff: Carlos Leon

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Carlos Leon

Age: 56

Education: Over 2,100 training hours continuing education with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement
Master Peace Officer Certification
Graduate National Executive Institute
Attended Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas
Attended the John F. Kennedy School of Business; Leadership 2001
54 credit hours UTEP/ El Paso Community College

Employment:

Civic Engagement: Consultant for The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Washington DC
Director of Support Services, University Behavioral Hospital of El Paso
Board Member-El Paso Community College Foundation Board
Board Member-Adult Protective Services

Phone: 915-999-4374

Email: cleon1@elp.rr.com

Website: www.leonforsheriff.com

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

As chief of the El Paso Police Department I think we changed the face of the department by establishing Community Policing. Five regional commands were made operational; citizen advisory boards were also established to give our citizens a voice in their police department. The El Paso Police Department was recognized as the best Community Policing Department in the country during my administration.

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:**

- a. Recruitment-**The El Paso Sheriff's Department has a very good reputation and should embark on a recruitment campaign throughout Texas and other southwestern states and focus on recruitment of female candidates. The Department should consider lateral transfers from other agencies to save on training costs. Deputies would only be required to attend a very abbreviated academy.
- b. Retention-**The Department currently has vehicles with over 300,000 miles, the sub-stations are in poor condition, and more technical modernization is very much needed. There are some areas in the county where a deputy's radio will not operate, creating a very dangerous situation. The Sheriff must make it a priority to properly equip deputies with the equipment they need to do their job.
- c. Community Relations-** As mentioned, I will establish citizen advisory boards throughout the county to give our community a voice in their Sheriff's Department. I will reestablish the citizen's police academy to "open" and make the department very transparent. I will include a civilian in all serious disciplinary issues to further reach out to our community.

3. **What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?**

The El Paso Police and Sheriff's Departments can unite in several areas, which are duplicated, such as training, communications, and records management. The most critical area is the lack of participation of the Sheriff's Department in the 911 Center. The Sheriff's Department is not housed within the same building. If a person calls in an emergency from the county, the call will go to the 911 Center then transferred to the Sheriff's Department Communications Office which loses valuable seconds during this transfer and the possibility of errors during the exchange.

Continued: Sheriff: Carlos Leon

4. What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?

There is no question the Sheriff's Department must be involved in border security with other local and federal law enforcement agencies. The Department will not conduct any stops/checks for the purpose of establishing a person's status in the United States. This is the responsibility of the federal government. We cannot have people hesitant to report that a crime has been committed for fear of deportation.

5. Are you current in your tax obligations?

I am current in my tax obligations.

Sheriff: Alejandro “Al” Patiño



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Alejandro “Al” Patiño

Age: 50

Education: Diploma/Jefferson High School (El Paso, TX)

BS – Criminal Justice/University of Chaminade (Honolulu, HI)

MS – Criminal Justice/Sul Ross State University (Alpine, TX)

MA – Political Science/Sul Ross State University (Alpine, TX)

MA – Management & Leadership/Webster University (enrolled/El Paso, TX)

Certificate – Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas/Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX)

Employment: Director of Special Projects

Emerald Correctional Management

April 2007 to Present

Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal (Retired)

United States Marshals Service

October 1983 to March 2007

Criminal Justice Adjunct Instructor

El Paso Community College

2003 to Present

Howard Payne University (El Paso campus)

2006 to Present

Metropolitan Police Officer

Honolulu Police Department

February 1982 to October 1983*

Civic Engagement: El Paso Community College Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (Chair)

Austin High School Criminal Justice/Public Service Magnet Academy Advisory Committee (Chair)

El Paso Police Department Training Academy Advisory Committee

El Paso Independent School District Budget Review Committee

El Paso Independent School District Bond Accountability Advisory Committee

Boys & Girls Club of El Paso (Board of Director) *

Phone: 915-587-6711

Email: al_patino@hotmail.com

Website: www.alpatinoforsheriff.com

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

Based on all my work history, I believe I am the most qualified candidate in that I have not only the law enforcement experience, but also the administrative experience, the corrections experience, the court security experience and the formal education. The United States Marshals Service is the “federal sheriff” and all the duties of a Marshal are directly related to a Sheriff.*

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:**

a. **Recruitment-** My top priority in regards to recruitment is to ensure that we hire a diverse workforce. In law enforcement, it is important to hire personnel that mirror the community along the lines of ethnic and racial backgrounds. This allows personnel of the same ethnic or race to be more culturally sensitive to members of the community of the same ethnic or race.

b. **Retention-** I would work with the county government to provide more employee assistant programs that will provide better incentives for both operational and administrative employees to stay with the agency.

c. **Community Relations-** There is no question that the current process of community relations is not working. At this point, it is my opinion that the community served by the department is afraid to not only approach law enforcement, but to report all crimes that are committed. I would establish office hours at sub-stations in which community members will be able to talk to a department representative and will be able to file a report.*

Continued: Sheriff: Alejandro “Al” Patino

- 3. What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?**

I am not in favor of a complete consolidation of agencies. There are constitutional and legislative issues involved in a complete consolidation in addition to difficulties in getting the city council and county commissioners to agree as to how a consolidated law enforcement agency will be funded. However, there are a few areas which should be considered. My first priority would be assess the feasibility of consolidating the “911” center.*

- 4. What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff’s Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?**

The role of the Sheriff’s Department is to protect and to serve the community it represents. The department does not have the resources to directly enforce immigration laws. If elected, I will establish a policy that will prohibit deputies from confronting individuals solely for the purposes of asking for immigration status.*

- 5. Are you current in your tax obligations? Yes**

1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Jose L. Ramirez

Age: 50

Education: M.S., Criminal Justice, Sul Ross State University,
M.A., Political Science/Public Administration, Sul Ross State University, Bachelor
of Science in Criminal Justice Administration, Park College,
Associates of Applied Science Degree in Law Enforcement, EPCC
FBI National Academy Graduate 207th Class.
Adjunct faculty member of the El Paso Community College, Criminal
Justice Curriculum*

Employment: Police Chief, Sunland Park

Civic Engagement: New Mexico Association of Chiefs of Police; Federal Bureau of
Investigation National Academy Associates; Tejano Democrats Paso Del Norte Chapter; LULAC Council 4888

Phone: HM: (915) 779-4608 Cell: (915) 412-3414

Email: kub990@yahoo.com

Website: joseramirezforsheriff.com

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

I bring 20 years of professional Law Enforcement experience at multiple levels of a large Organization and almost 2 years of being the Chief of Police for a Police Department that is very similar to the Police Departments of Horizon, Socorro, Anthony, and Clint. I can identify real well with the problems and concerns of these smaller agencies, and I understand the problems faced by the communities of these smaller agencies. I am the only candidate that is still in the Law Enforcement field as a top level administrator.*

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:**

a. Recruitment- In this area I will concentrate on recruiting qualified personnel for all positions within the Sheriff's Office. Sworn Law Enforcement Personnel are the most difficult to recruit, because of the extensive background check that is needed. However, civilian support personnel are also very important and just as important that they are of good moral character, and a clean criminal record.*

b. Retention- The most valuable asset of an organization is the employees that make up the organization. Therefore, retention of all personnel is very important. Here I will concentrate on fostering good employee relations and making an environment where people like to come to work. Of course I must not forget that pay and benefit packages for all personnel is a very important aspect and a reality that we all understand.*

c. Community Relations- In this area I like to establish regional advisory boards such as those in the police Department to improve the communications in the communities of Fabens, Vinton, Montana Vista and Canutillo.
I will establish satellite Internal Affairs offices on a rotational basis in order to facilitate the filing of complaints from all citizens.*

d. Technology and equipment- to facilitate the job of all Sheriff's office employees and improve the services to the community. This includes the Jail, the courts and the Patrol functions of the Sheriff's Office.

3. **What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?**

I am for "Controlled and Paced Consolidation." What I mean by this is that the first component that I will consolidate is the Training Academy, this is the component that will cost the least and have an immediate impact on the quality and quantity of Law Enforcement personnel for the county.*

Continued: Sheriff: Jose Ramirez

- 4. What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?**

The Sheriff's Office should focus on enforcing State Laws and Not Federal Immigration Laws. There are not enough resources available in the Sheriff's Office to handle Immigration cases and we should NOT allow the Federal Government to require State Law Enforcers to do their job.

My position is that as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the County of El Paso, my first obligation is to keep the County of El Paso Safe, the Nation and City regardless, of whether or not an individual is here legally or illegally.*

- 5. Are you current in your tax obligations? Yes**



1. **a. Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Marvin Carrasco Ryals

Age: 50

Education: attended UTEP, Graduate FBI National Academy (169th), Graduate DEA Drug Commanders Academy, Master Peace Officer, Certified Law Enforcement Instructor Texas Commission Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE).

Employment: Thirty year veteran of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. I am currently still employed with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. I hold the highest non-political appointment within the department as a Lieutenant. I have worked at the administrative level for thirteen years. Worked for the FBI for two years prior to my current job as a Fingerprint examiner.

Civic Engagement: past President of the El Paso County Sheriff's Officers Association, Regional Director and on the executive board of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT with over 14,000 member's state wide) chair the legislative and ethics committees. Franklin High School football booster.

Phone: 915-637-8742, 915-587-0316

Email: vote4ryals@sbcglobal.net

Website: vote4ryals.com

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

I am a current employee and a thirty year veteran of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. I started as a corrections officer and worked my way up to Deputy Sheriff, Detective, Sergeant and currently a Lieutenant over Homeland security. As a detective I investigated property crimes, Frauds, Forgeries, Homicides and Missing Persons.*

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:**

a. Recruitment- Our current attrition rate is not as high as the police department but it is something that has to be monitored due to other agencies recruiting our officers.

b. Retention- We must remain competitive in benefits and compensation to retain our officers.

c. Community Relations- I will be a full time Sheriff to the community. I will attempt to develop and deploy new and innovative techniques designed to prevent crimes before they occur as opposed to focusing all our efforts on solving crimes. I will reach out to community sponsors and address our communities' needs and not be a Sheriff that sits behind a desk 35 miles away.

3. **What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?**

Consolidation is a word that has been used since I first started with the department. In 2003, we saw our first consolidation of our training academies of the Sheriff's Office and the El Paso Police department. This did not last long. The police department under the direction of Chief Wiles found a reason that only a bureaucrat could understand.*

4. **What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?**

Super charged emotions on the topic of illegal immigration enforcement are putting public safety at risk and creating an environment where the civil liberties of US citizens and citizens of El Paso County may be compromised. Law enforcement must not be emotional and certainly not political. Under my administration, the Sheriff's Office will not assume the role of immigration law enforcer.*

5. **Are you current in your tax obligations? YES!**



1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: Gabriel Serna
Age: 56
Education: 72 Hours UTEP, 32 years Police Experience
Employment: Retired 32 years with El Paso Police Department
Civic Engagement: none
Phone: 269-4255
Email: gserna477@yahoo.com
Website: www.serna4sheriff.com
Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

The position requires a strong background in Patrol experience and an equally strong administrative background. I have 16 years working in Field Operations and 20 years as a Lieutenant working administrative positions. An example of my administrative work is as project manager for the existing police radio system.

2. What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:

- a. Recruitment-**Recruitment is currently not a problem with the Sheriff's Department as they are an agency that values its' employees. The Sheriff's Department deputies are promoted from the ranks of the Detention Officers who must first complete a year working in the jail.
- b. Retention-** Retention is also not a problem with the Sheriff's Department; they have a very low turnover rate which is 4%. The Sheriff must continue to focus on maintaining an employee centered organization so that the employees don't lose their high morale and seek employment elsewhere.
- c. Community Relations-** I would hold a press conference immediately to address the issue of immigration checkpoints and the Sheriff Departments role in the Community. The objective of the release would be to make sure that the Community understood that the Sheriff's Department would not be participating in Immigration checkpoints or roundups in the Community.

3. What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?

I am in support of limited consolidation and against total consolidation. Total consolidation would be costly to the tax payers, especially when you calculate salaries of Deputies and Police Officers.
I would consolidate radio communications under the Police Department within 6 months. I would consolidate the Academy only if the City agreed that it would be under the direction of the Sheriff.

4. What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?

I am in full support of border security and strongly believe Sheriff Deputies should participate but strictly along the border. I am opposed to immigration enforcement by local police officers in the Community as it will undoubtedly alienate the Community we are suppose to protect.

5. Are you current in your tax obligations? Yes.



1. a. Please provide the following background information:

Name: George Rodriguez Stoltz

Age: 41

Education: Graduate of Ysleta High School "once and Indian always an Indian"
Attended El Paso Community College, Sul Ross State University, currently enrolled
American Military University. Employment: 6 years service United States Marine
Corps Reserves, 18 years Service with the El Paso Police Department, currently
Contracted with the U.S. Department of State,*

Employment: International Police Advisor GS-13 OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE EAST RAMADI PRECINCTS IN AL
ANBAR PROVINCE IRAQ.

Civic Engagement: FORMER MEMBER OF THE LOWER VALLEY OPTIMIST CLUB, DESERT EAST OPTIMIST
CLUB, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE RIO BRAVO MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB, FORMER
PRESIDENT OF YSLETA HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL BOOSTER CLUB, YSLETA HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS
EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER, ADVISOR TO THE YSLETA HIGH SCHOOL DROP
OUT RECOVERY PROGRAM. FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE HEAT YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION,*

Phone: 915 859-4265 home, 915 539-4265 cell, 915 539-4266 cell

Email: ipastoltz@yahoo.com

Website: www.GeorgeStoltz.com --- www.myspace.com/ipastoltz4sheriff

Other:

b. What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?

What separates me from my challengers is my current occupation. Being an
INTERNATIONAL POLICE ADVISOR, proven leadership in a combat zone
Working in a dangerous environment. MY ability to problem solve, communicate
Motivate and change the hearts of minds of a completely different culture.
One example December 17th 2007.*

2. What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:

- a. Recruitment-** continuing the high standards of the selective process in place to produce the best candidates for Detention Officers and Deputies.
- b. Retention-** Affording the Men and Women of the Sheriff Office the best possible work environment. Implementing an exit survey finding out the reasons why the employees are leaving and then addressing the reasons.
- c. Community Relations-** I believe the current media relations director does a good job with the community. I would enhance Community Relations by personally patrolling the outlying Communities on a regular basis, being assessable to the public is a must. It creates the trust that is needed to form a bond between the Community and the Law Enforcement Officers that are sworn to protect them.

3. What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?

I do not believe in combining the Sheriff Office and El Paso Police Department into a Metro Police Department like some of the other candidates are attempting to do. What areas, if any, would you consolidate? From past experience and Officer safety I would say I would truly attempt to consolidate the 911 emergency system.

4. What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?

I believe the role of the Sheriff should be secondary. When the Federal Government fails at this task and once the border is compromised the Sheriff Office is ultimately responsible for the safety and security of the Citizens. While I empathize with the plight of the persons attempting to enter into this great Nation the Sheriff Office would be obligated to enforce Local, State and Federal laws.

5. Are you current in your tax obligations? yes



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Richard D. Wiles

Age: 46

Education: March 2005 **Federal Bureau of Investigation** Quantico, Virginia Graduate, National Executive Institute; May 2001 **Sul Ross State University** Alpine, Texas M.S., Criminal Justice GPA 3.9; April 2001 – Outstanding Criminal Justice Graduate Student; January 1996 **Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas** Sam Houston University, Huntsville, Texas Graduate, Management Institute; December 1995 **Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy** Quantico, Virginia Graduate, FBINA*

Employment:

January 2006 to Park University, Fort Bliss, Texas

Present **Adjunct Professor**

Instruct courses on organization and management in criminal justice. Upper-level undergraduate courses.

September 2004 to University of Texas At El Paso, El Paso, Texas

Present **Adjunct Professor**

Instruct a course on organization and management in criminal justice. An upper-level undergraduate course.*

Civic Engagement: Member, Associated Security Services and Investigators of the State of Texas, 2006 to present; Member, Texas Municipal League Committee on Hiring and Diversity for Public Safety, 2006 to 2007; Member, Immigration Committee, Major Cities Chiefs, 2005 to 2007; Member, National Governor’s Commission on Homeland Security, 2006 to 2007*

Phone: 351-0011

Email: elpasotxrichard@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.WilesForEPCounty.com

Other:

b. **What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?**

I have worked in public service for over 27 years, starting with the El Paso Fire Department in 1980. In 1982, I began my career with the El Paso Police Department having worked not only at each level within the organization, but working different jobs within each level. This allowed me to see the importance of each unit within the Department in helping to accomplish the overall mission of the organization.*

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:**

- a. **Recruitment-** To ensure high quality staff that represents the diversity of the community we serve. This is especially true in the area of female recruitment which is in need of improvement within the El Paso County Sheriff’s Department.
- b. **Retention-** The law enforcement function has a low attrition rate, however, the detention function can have a high turn-over from time-to-time. It is important to ensure that salary and benefits remain at a level appropriate for the important job our detention officers perform as well as ensuring that receive proper training and recognition for the excellent job they do for the community of El Paso.
- c. **Community Relations-** El Paso is a very diverse community rich in culture. As Chief of Police, both on and off-duty, I have made it a point to work with all segments of our community. I have always been very proud that the employees of the Police Department truly mirror the population it serves.*

3. **What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?**

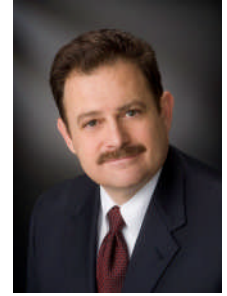
Property taxes being a major issue in El Paso, the Sheriff should look for each and every opportunity to be effective and efficient in the expenditure of tax monies. Consolidation of certain operations, i.e., communication, records, property office, training, etc., should begin immediately. Complete consolidation is a possibility in the future with support at the City and County levels as well as potential changes in state law.*

4. **What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff’s Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?**

As a Law Enforcement Professional, I believe that individuals who want to migrate to the United States need to follow the law as laid out by our government. My stance on the role of the Sheriff’s Department with immigration enforcement can be broken down into two areas:

- 1) Local and County Law Enforcement Agencies do not have the resources, training or experience to enforce immigration laws.*

5. **Are you current in your tax obligations? Yes**



1. a. **Please provide the following background information:**

Name: Larry G. Wilkins
Age: 50
Education: Some college, FBI National Academy, Leadership El Paso (XXIV), many law enforcement courses
Employment: Currently – Cielo Vista Church, Executive Pastor (treasurer and business director)
Civic Engagement: Leadership El Paso XXIV, Cielo Visa Church (deacon, elder, choir, praise team, missions), Director FBINAA – Texas, Director EPCSOA, founding member Anti-Graffiti Steering Committee, founding member Teen Court Advisory Board, Christmas in April, Opportunity Center, Casas Por Cristo – constructed home for poor family in Juarez, Developed Countywide graffiti wipe -out day 1997 & 1998,*
Phone: 217-3507
Email: lgwilkins@elp.rr.com
Website: www.wilkinsforsheriff.com

b. **What experience/results in your background makes you the best candidate?**

- > Run both County Jails including through accreditation
- > Saved over \$1,000,000 in 2005 – overtime (total budget = \$23,000,000).
- > Worked all ranks (including jailer) & divisions **in the Sheriff's Office.**
- > Sheriff's command staff eleven years.
- > Developed/implemented Courthouse Security
- > Implemented numerous innovative and effective programs reducing crime six consecutive years.
- > Endorsed by Sheriff Leo Samaniego.

2. **What are your top priorities in seeking office with respect to:**

- a. **Recruitment-** The reputation of the Sheriff's Office must be kept strong. I will retain the policy requiring all persons first work a minimum of one year as a jailer before being considered for our training academy. This process allows an increased level of maturity for the recruit and a thorough assessment by Sheriff's Office supervisory personnel.
- b. **Retention-** Sheriff's personnel are amongst the highest paid in the state which is one key to retention. However this is also true with the El Paso Police Department which has an attrition rate almost double that Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's personnel must have a sense of pride in their work that is a result of a trusting relationship between management and the line officers.
- c. **Community Relations-** I believe this is an area in need of improvement in the department and would be an area of focus early in my administration. I will appoint regional advisory boards and will personally meet with my constituents on a regular basis. Complaints from the public must be dealt with in a thorough but prompt manner.*
- d. Appointment of new Command Staff – My first priority will be to appoint a new command staff for this department. The Sheriff's Office is comprised of many qualified leaders, many of whom have not been afforded the opportunity to advance their careers. All candidates will be from within the organization. This will improve agency morale while retaining the institutional knowledge needed to keep the department on track.

3. **What is your position on consolidation of services with the El Paso Police Department? What areas, if any, would you consolidate?** Smart, limited and focused consolidation is wise and will improve the overall efficiencies and services of both agencies.

First, what has each candidate done to consolidate?

- > In 1985-1986 I represented the County and we consolidated our two Booking Sections.
- > In 2002, I lead the project that consolidated our Records Management Systems.*

4. **What do you believe should be the role of the Sheriff's Department with respect to border security and the enforcement of federal immigration laws?** The primary roles of local law enforcement are public safety and the effective flow of commerce. We do not have the resources to enforce immigration laws as a primary function. However in the course of policing, when deputies come in contact with illegal immigrants we will refer them to the Border Patrol.*

5. **Are you current in your tax obligations?** Yes, and I always have been.

El Paso Prosperity Project

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