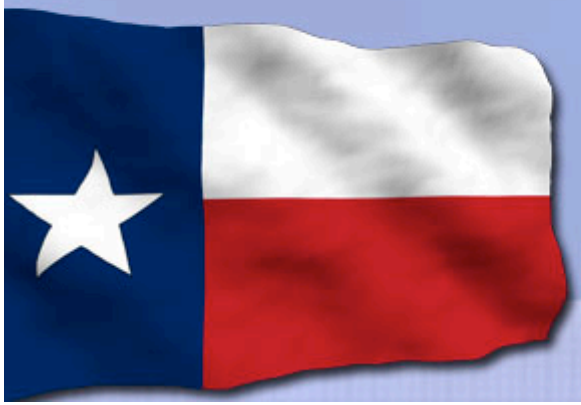
Montgomery County Tea Party

March 2016 Endorsements

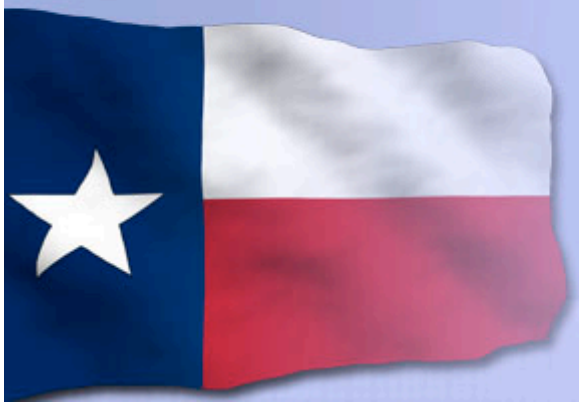
Proposals by Vetting Committee

4 January 2016



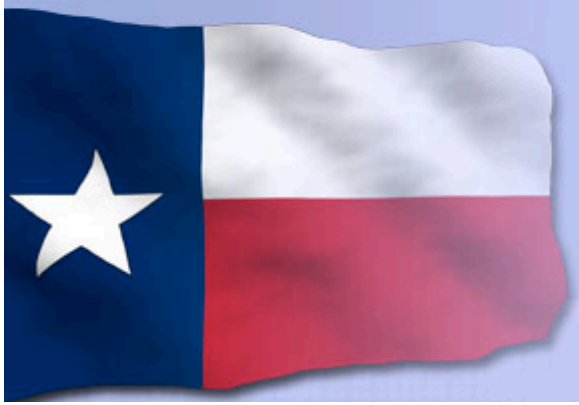
Vetting Committee

- John Wertz (Chair)
- Bob Bagley
- Brian Crumby
- Dale Fessenden
- Larry Rogers
- Pat Tibbs
- Dennis Tibbs
- Ken Vaughn



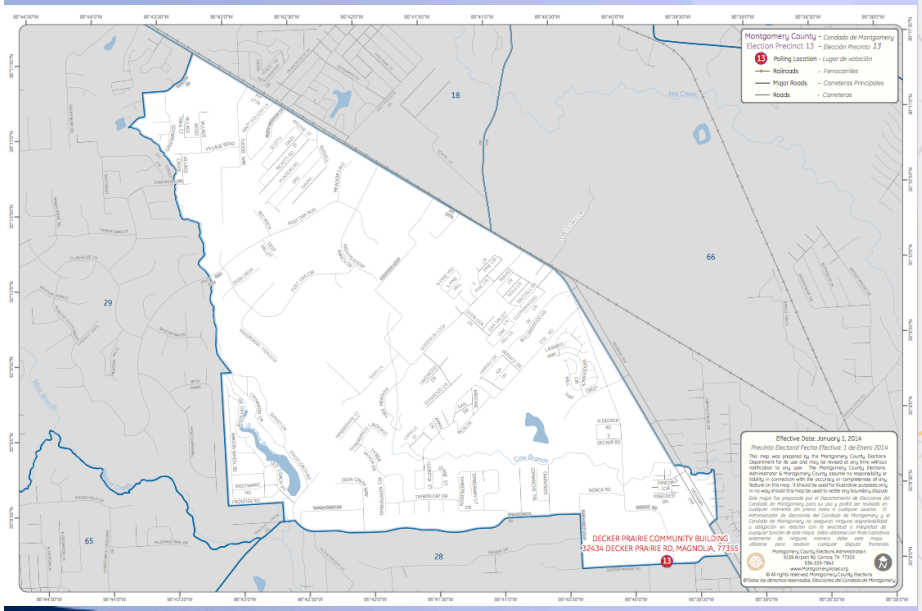
Republican Party Precinct Chairs (do not follow full vetting process)

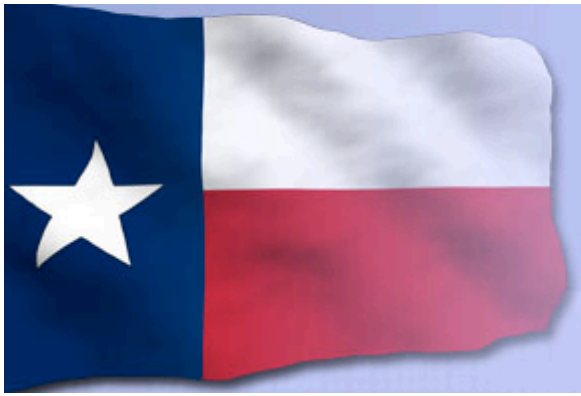
- 5 contested precinct chair races
  - 4 have MCTP members running

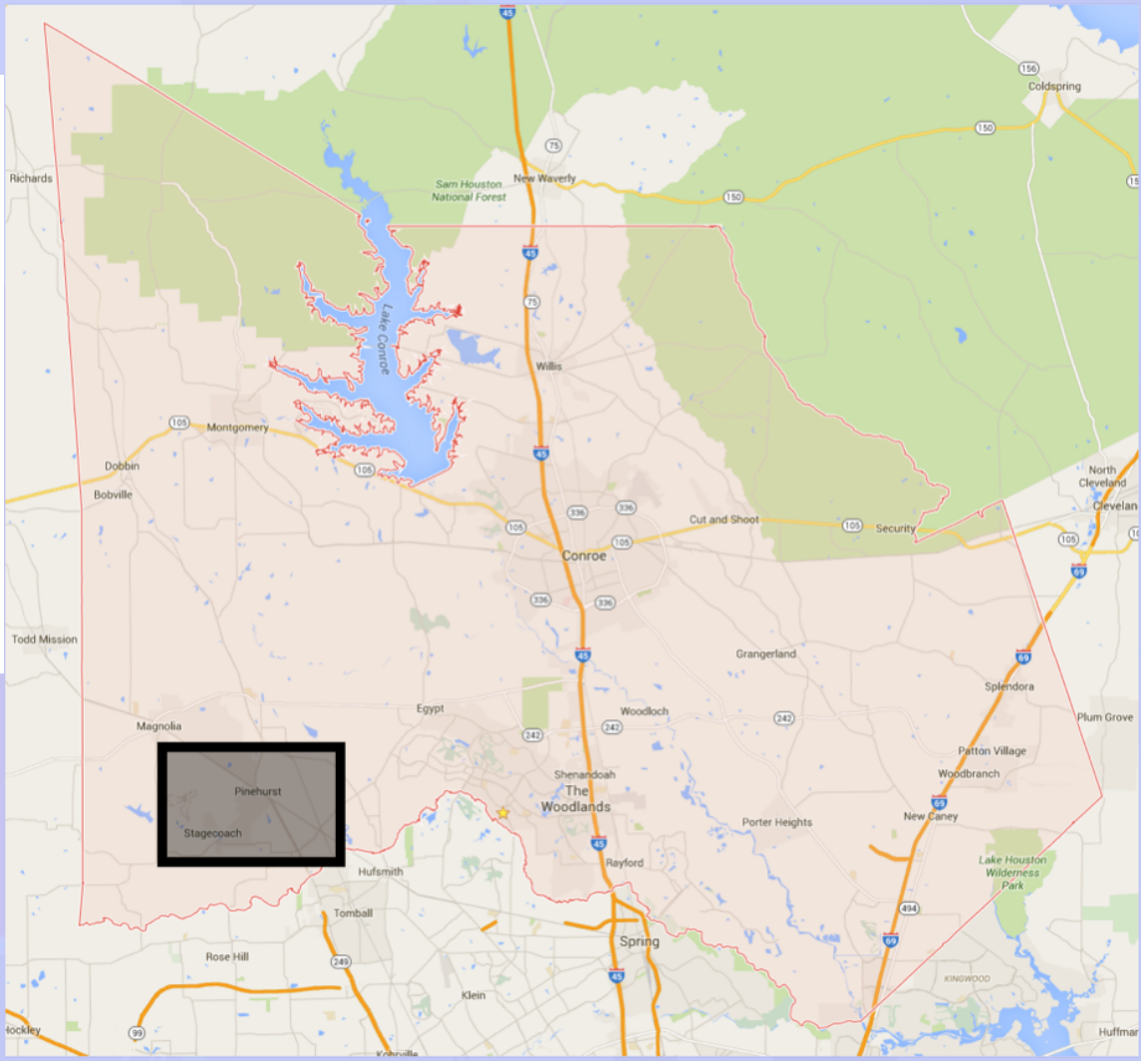


GOP Precinct Chair 13

- **Brian Crumby (MCTP Board member)**
- Bryan Christ

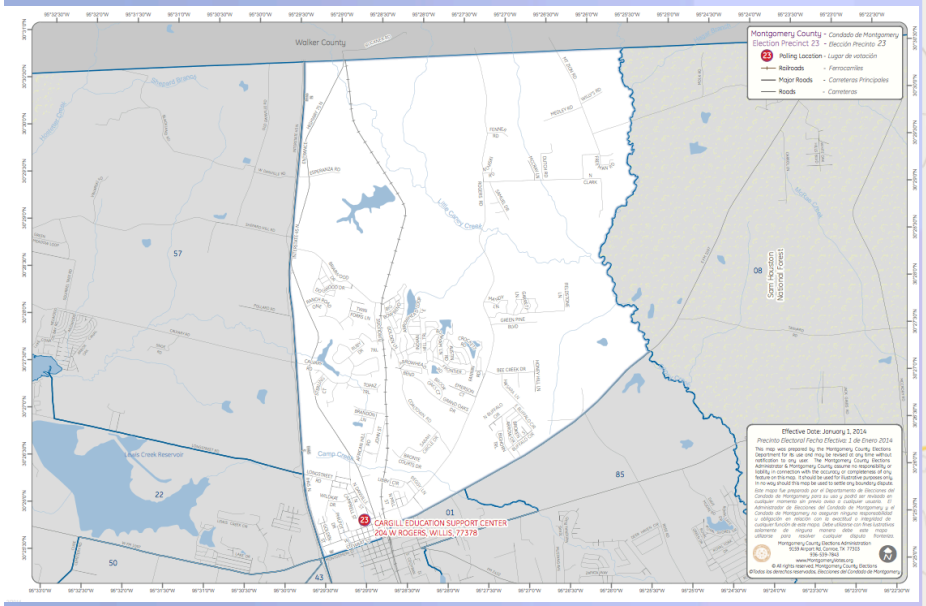


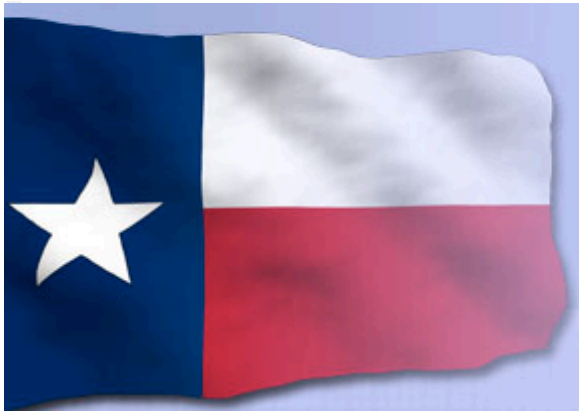


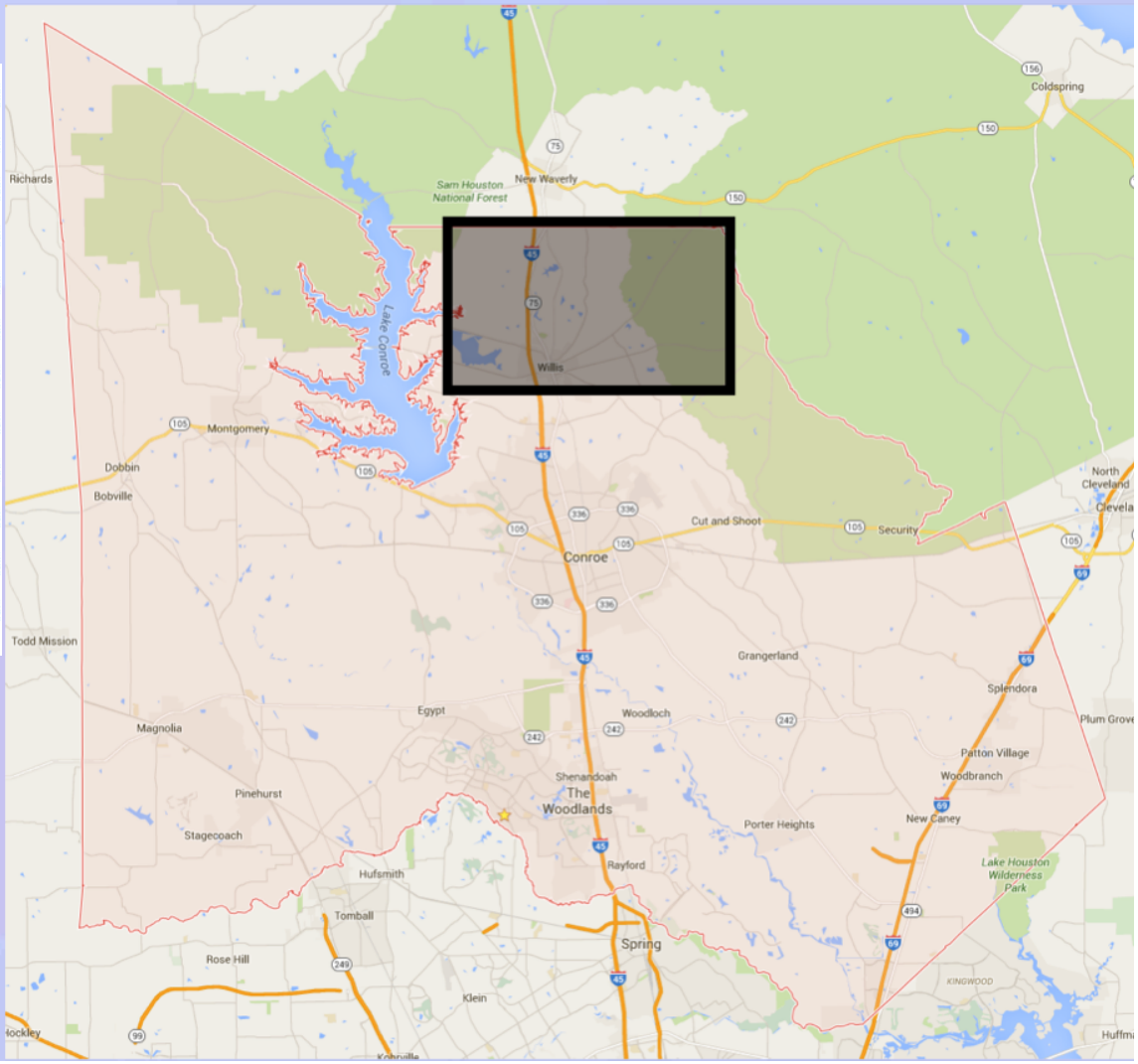


GOP Precinct Chair 23

- **Scott Baker**
- Doug Wrentz

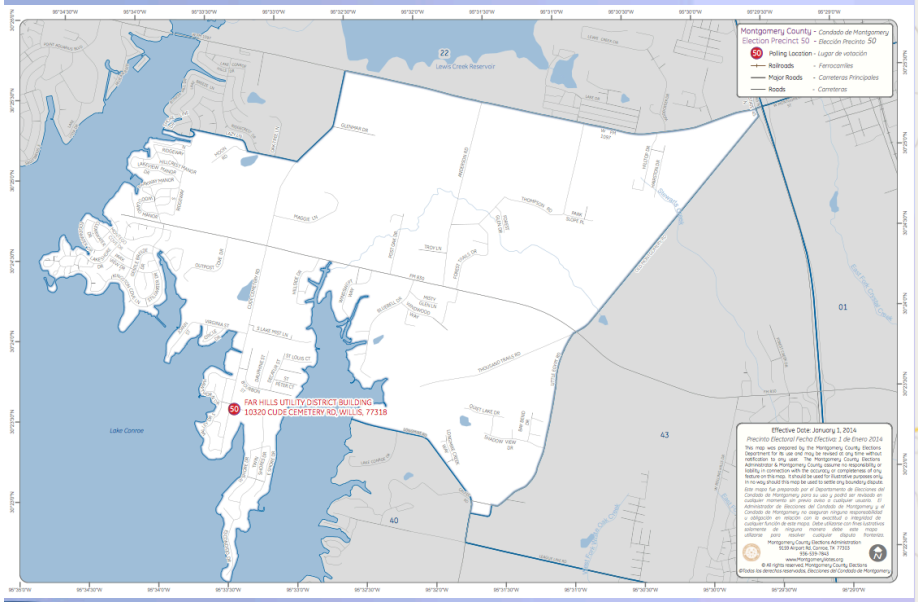


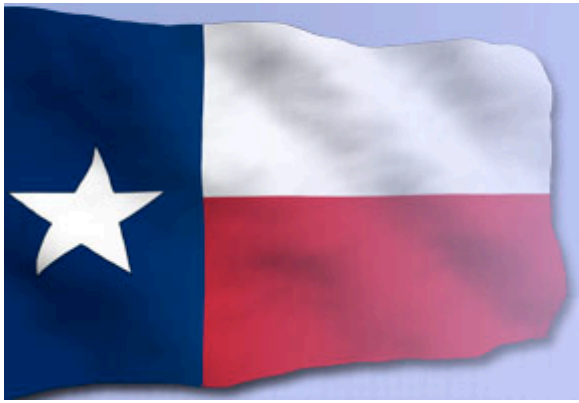


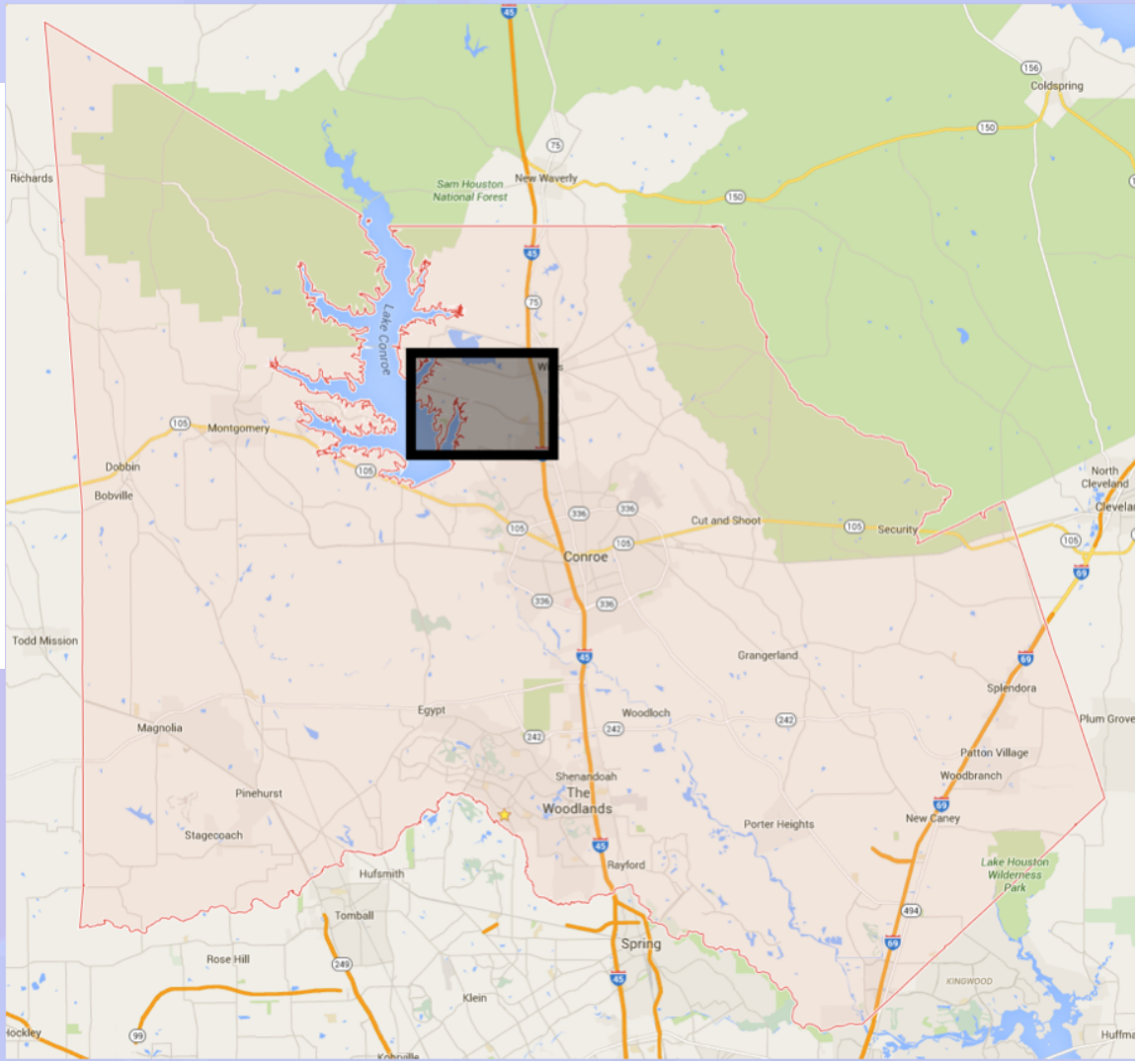


GOP Precinct Chair 50

- **Reagan Reed (MCTP Member)**
- Gary Henson

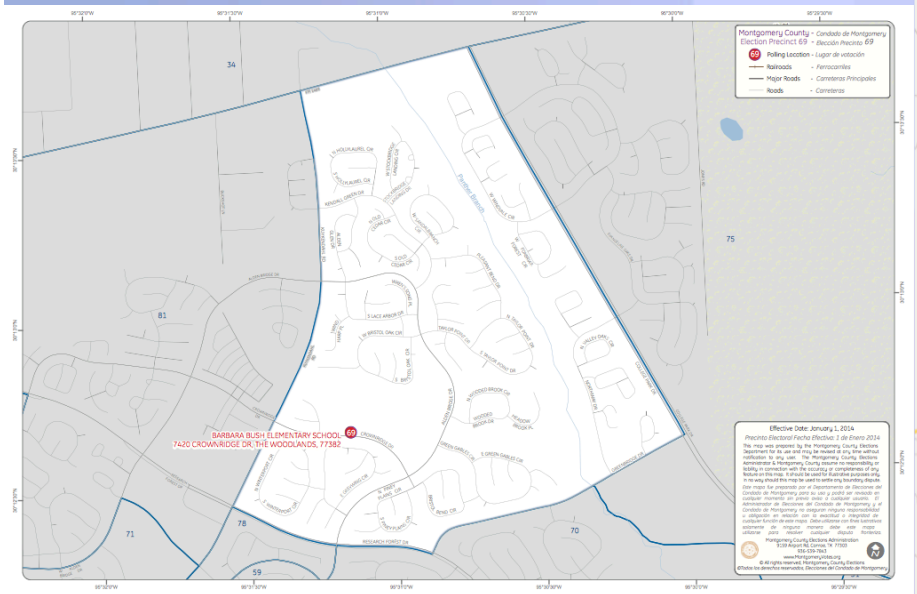


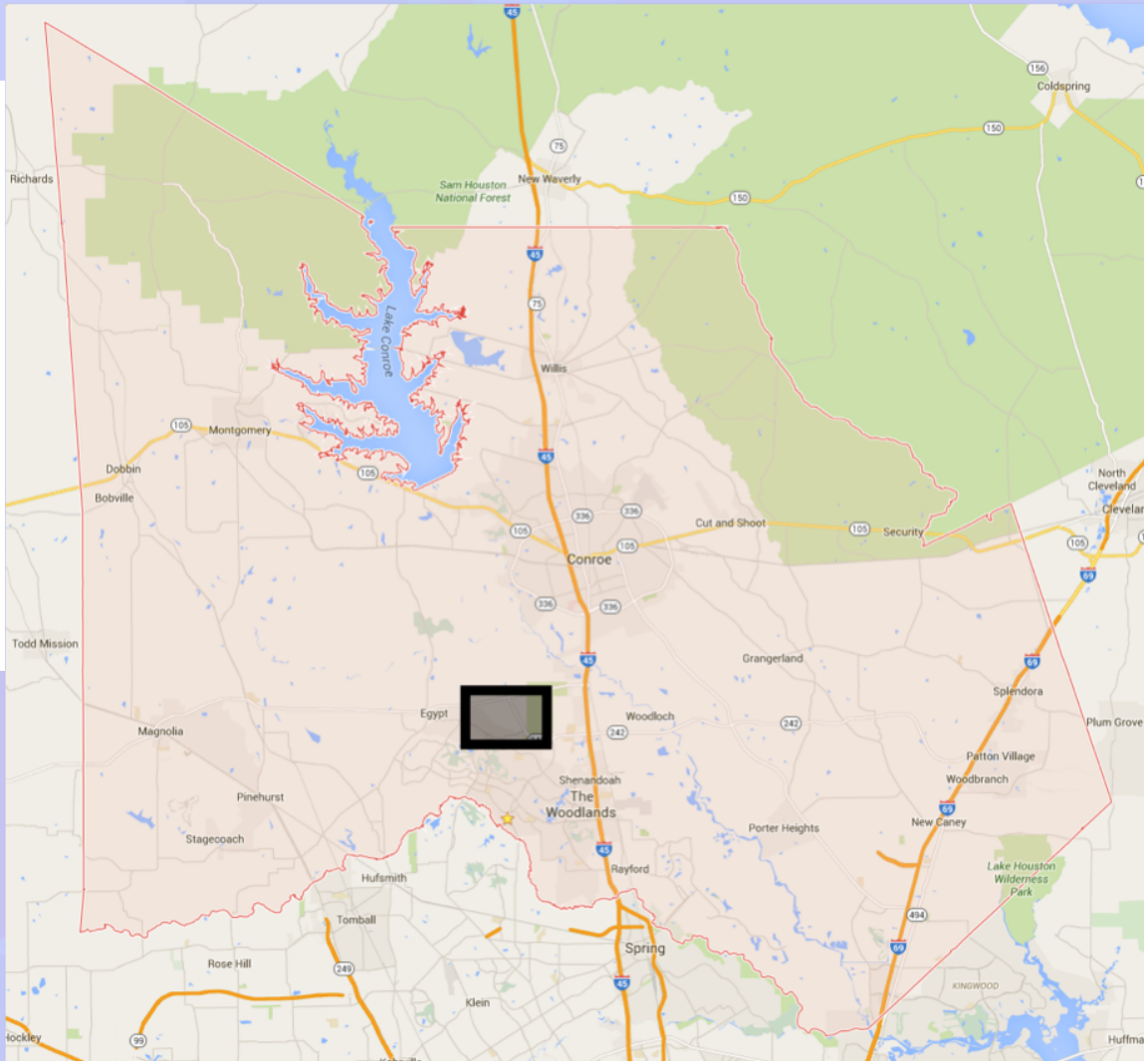




GOP Precinct Chair 69

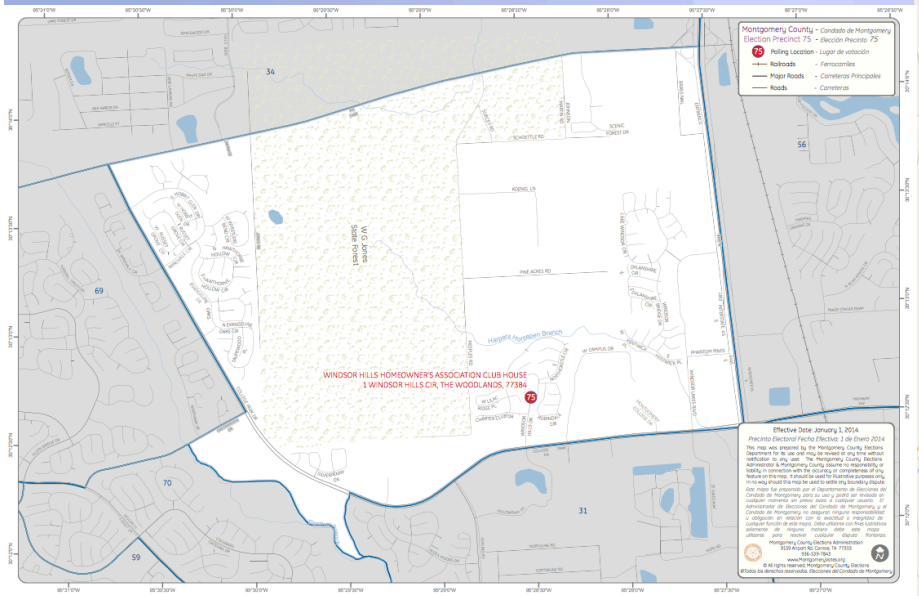
- **John Wertz**
  (MCTP Vetting Committee Chair)
- Patricia Truesdale

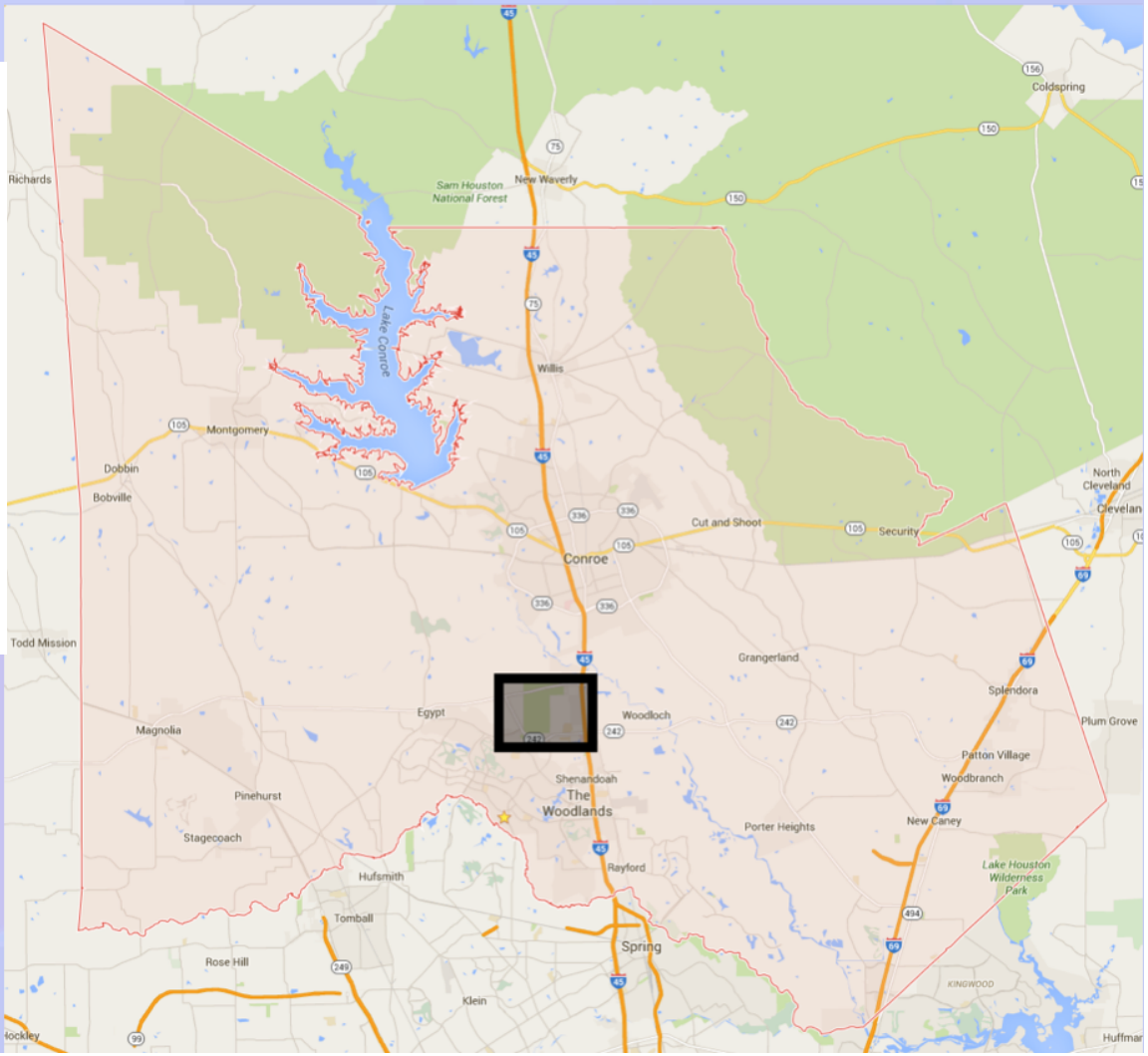




GOP Precinct Chair 75

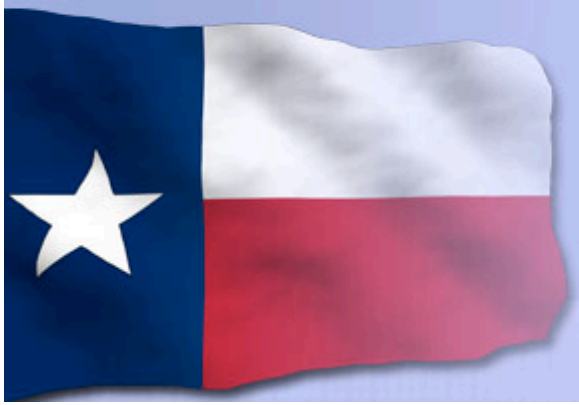
- **Larry Rogers (MCTP Board Member)**
- Derle Linder





Vetting Research

- Candidates
  - Send all candidates a questionnaire
  - Offer interview upon completion of questionnaire
  - Record a 1-hr interview
- Candidates and Other Ballot Items
  - Conduct independent research



2016 Vetting Scope

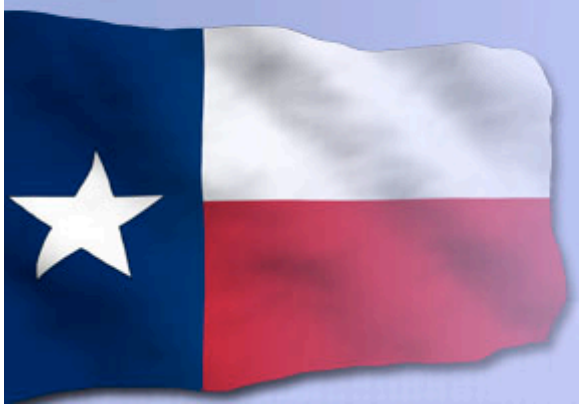
- 31 Republican races monitored
  - 19 contested races
  - 57 contested candidates monitored (plus 8 presidential)
  - 54 still active (plus 8 presidential)
    - 46 responded to questionnaire (1 pending)
    - 34 interviews (+ 2 presentations @ meetings)
- 9 Democrat races logged on website
  - 2 contested
- Revamped Website
  - Zip Code Filtering

Vetting Rating System

- Each candidate is scored
  - Scale of 0-100 with 100 being “best”
  - Final score represents average of scores from each vetting committee member
- “Endorsement” requires:
  - Average score of at least 80
  - 75% or more of Vetting Committee supporting label
    - Only one endorsement vote by member for each race

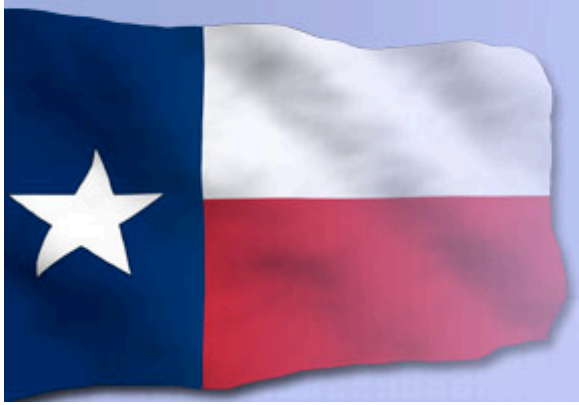
Vetting Process

- Results recommended to MCTP membership
- Results only become official if 60% or more of MCTP membership present at meeting approves



Vetting Documentation

- All data recorded on web (education first)
  - Questionnaire answers
  - Interview, presentation, and debate videos
  - Research “assertions”
- Available at
  - http://usvotesmart.com
    - Will be updated with results if they are approved
  - Link from mcteaparty.org



US Vote Smart

2016-03-01 » Republican primary

Texas will have an open primary on 1 March 2016.

Races

The list includes races associated with 77380 (edit). Some races may not apply to your specific address. If you think a race is missing, please notify us.

- Texas » Court of Criminal Appeals Justice Place 2
- Texas » Court of Criminal Appeals Justice Place 5
- Texas » Court of Criminal Appeals Justice Place 6
- Texas » Railroad Commissioner
- Texas » Supreme Court Justice Place 3
- Texas » Supreme Court Justice Place 5
- Texas » Supreme Court Justice Place 9
- Texas » US President
- Texas » Court of Appeals, District 9 » Judge, Place 2 - *uncontested*
- Texas » Montgomery County » County Attorney
- Texas » Montgomery County » District Attorney - *uncontested*
- Texas » Montgomery County » Judge, 410th District Court
- Texas » Montgomery County » Judge, 418th District Court - *uncontested*
- Texas » Montgomery County » Judge, 435th District Court
- Texas » Montgomery County » Judge, 9th District Court
- Texas » Montgomery County » Judge, Court-at-law No 5 - *uncontested*
- Texas » Montgomery County » Sheriff
- Texas » Montgomery County » Tax Assessor-Collector - *uncontested*
- Texas » Montgomery County » Justice Precinct 3 » Constable - *uncontested*
- Texas » Montgomery County » Precinct 3 » County Commissioner

US President

office

Republican presidential primary in Texas. The presidential primaries are staggered about the country; in 2016, Texas will have its primary on the first big joint primary date March 1, which will likely identify the top 1-3 candidates who will continue to other states.

The incumbent for the U.S President is Barack Obama, who was originally elected in 2008 and is now term limited from running in 2016.

Assertions

Trump Continues to Lead in Polls Source

Submitted by kenneth vaughn on 2015-12-07 20:03:00

7 December 2015: Donald Trump still leads in the polls with Carson, Cruz and Rubio all vying for second place:

- Trump: 29.5%
- Carson: 15.8%
- Cruz: 14.8%
- Rubio: 14.3%
- Bush: 4.0%
- Fiorina: 3.0%
- Christie: 2.8%

US President

Texas

Ted Cruz

declared

Led filibuster against Obamacare Source

Submitted by kenneth vaughn on

Ted Cruz led the fight against Obamacare with a 21-hour filibuster on Sept 24-25, 2013. As with most modern-day filibusters, his speech did little to change votes, but it did create a national discussion and clearly showed where he stood on the issue while many other Republicans supported the measure.

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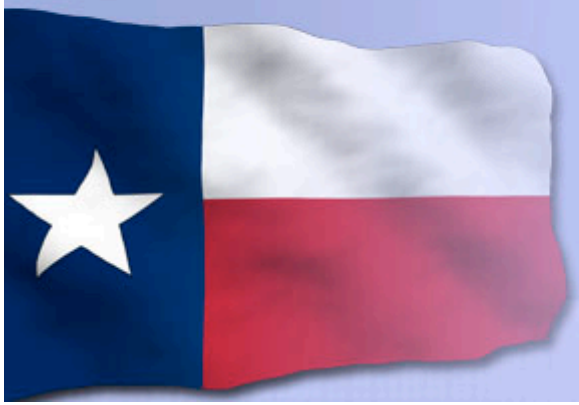
Ted Cruz

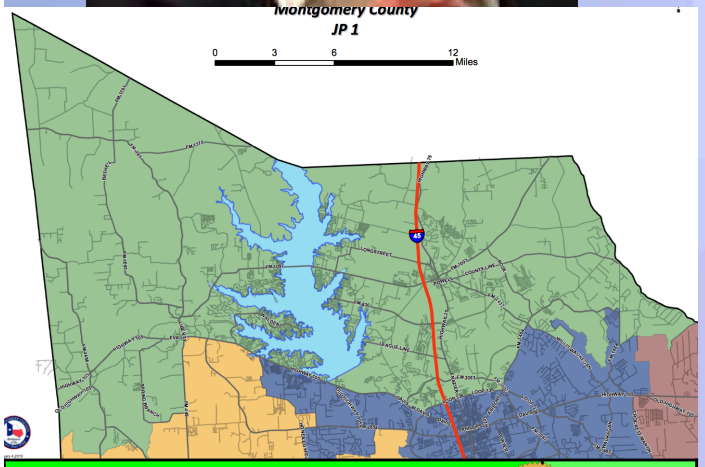
Party	Republican
Website	https://www.tedcruz.org
Born	1970
Education	Princeton University (A.B., 1992) Harvard Law School (J.D., 1995)
Occupation	Senator

Results

- Following slides identify
  - Jurisdiction for race
  - Proposed ratings for each candidate
  - Proposed recommendation
  - Brief explanation for recommendation

- USVoteSmart.com has complete details





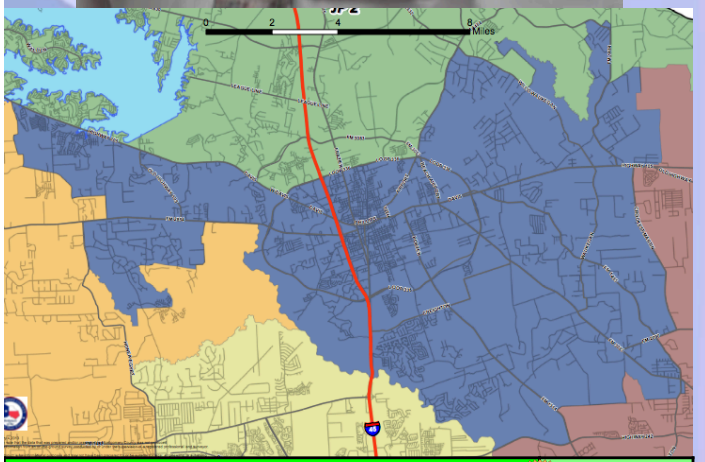
Ike Fluellen	91
Kim Franklin	81
Billy Ballard	77
Philip Cash	72
Sam Laird	74
Rusty Fincher	70

Constable, Precinct 1

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse Ike Fluellen

- Concerns about current operation
  - Backlog of papers to be served
  - Morale issues
- Two good candidates with ideas
- Fluellen advantages
  - Respects limited role of constable
  - Outsider
  - Recognizes problems
  - Promises to increase transparency
- Rusty
  - Promised continuation of status quo



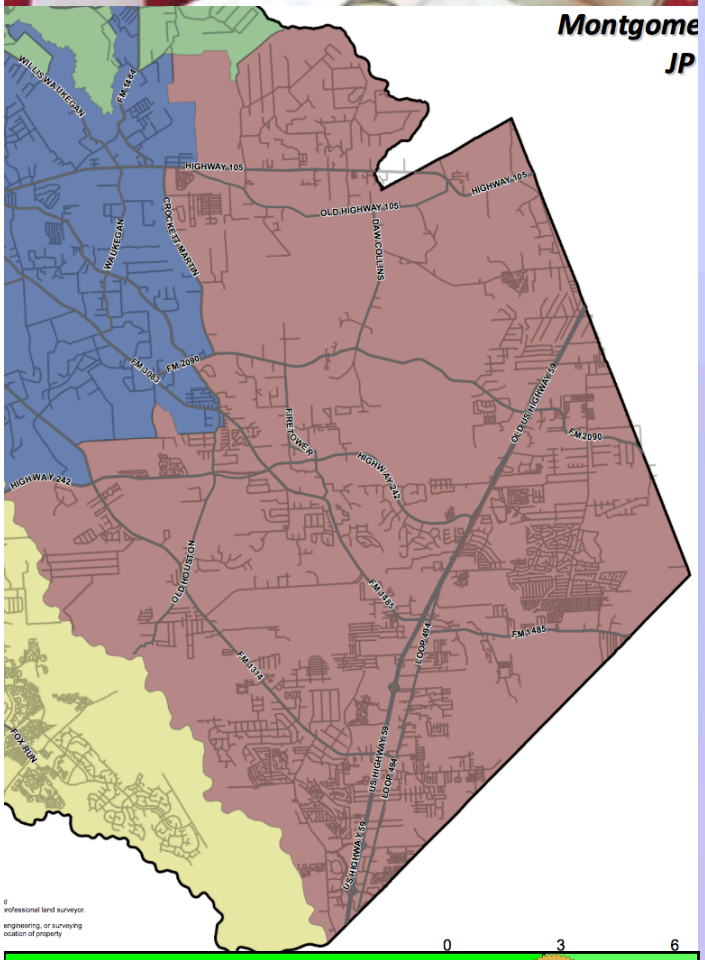
Gene DeForest	88
Billy Beavers	57
"Jimmy" Cox	47

Constable, Precinct 2

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse Gene DeForest

- 2 candidates did not complete our questionnaire
  - Research showed other concerns
- Gene Advantages
  - Respects limited role of constable
  - Proven to operate efficient department
  - Recognizes nepotism in county
  - Responsive
- Jimmy Cox dismissal
  - Incident in 2004
  - Discharged from Office in 2005
  - Removal upheld in 2006



"Rowdy" Hayden	91
Tim Hayes	85

Constable, Precinct 4

Vetting Committee Recommends to

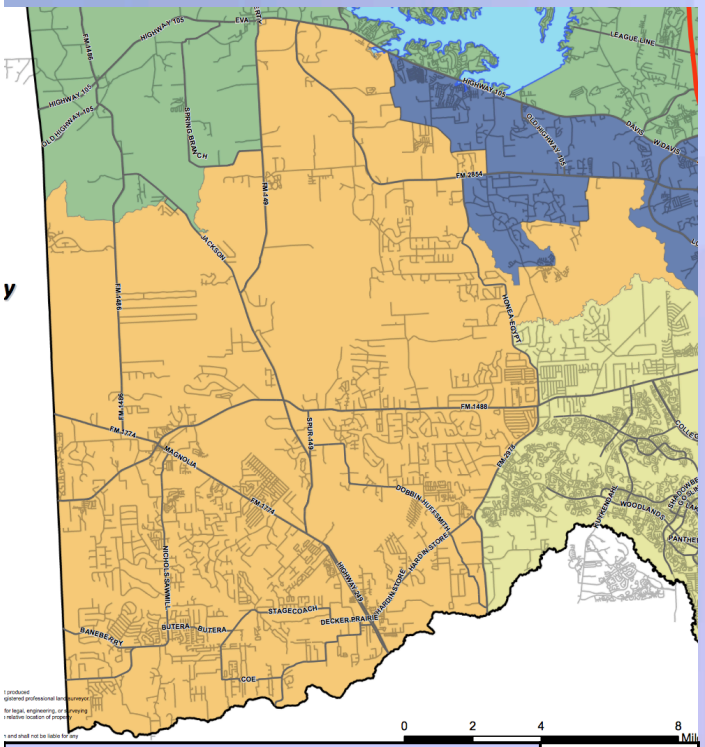
Endorse "Rowdy" Hayden

- Two really good candidates
- Hayden Advantages
  - Proven efficient operation
  - Only in office for 8 years
  - Testified for Steve Toth's HB 1076
  - Well respected

Constable, Precinct 5

Vetting Committee Recommends to Make no endorsement

- Two reasonable candidates
  - Clack wants to grow department
  - Gatewood mainly MP experience
- Hill problems
  - Slow to respond to horse abuse issue
  - Been in position for 34 years
  - Promised that 2012 would be his last election
  - Deep establishment connections



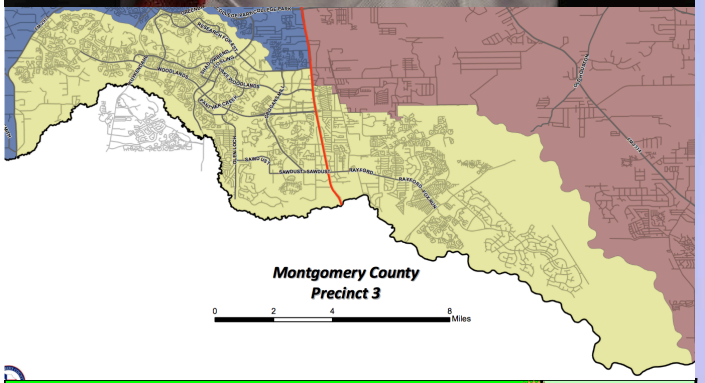
Brian Clack	**74.4**
Logan Gatewood	**74.4**
David Hill	**55**

Jim Napolitano	89
Rand Henderson	77

Montgomery County Sheriff

Vetting Committee Recommends to **Endorse Jim Napolitano**

- Napolitano Advantages
  - Outsider
  - Visionary, proposed:
    - Criminal Intelligence Group
    - Community town halls
  - Federal insights on terrorism
  - God-centric
- Concerns with each
  - Napolitano would yield to Feds
  - Henderson is part of establishment & we have concerns over current operations



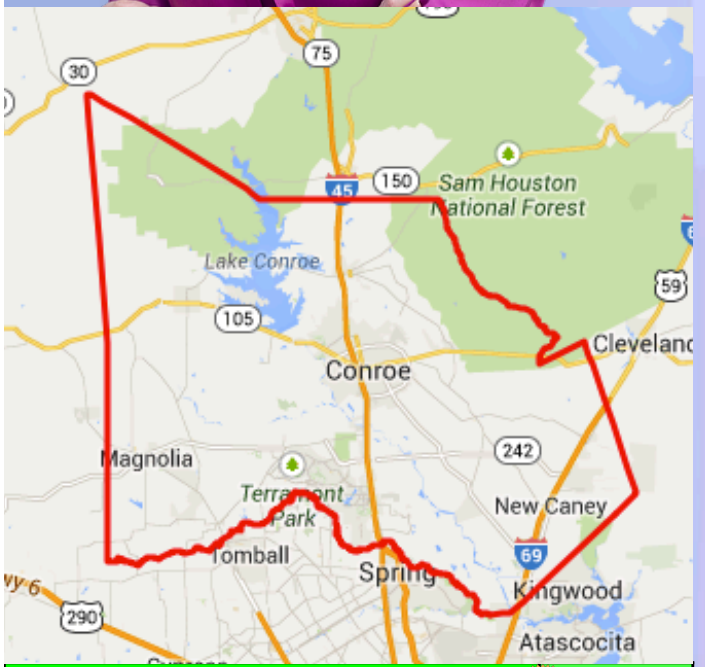
James Noack	82
Jay Mac Sanders	54

Commissioner, Precinct 3

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse James Noack

- Noack
  - Incumbent since 2012
  - Reasonably good record
    - Initiated S. Co. Mobility Plan
  - Voted for a raise
  - Lacked discretion at times
- Sanders
  - Did not respond to questionnaire
  - Appears to be establishment candidate



Kate Shipman Bihm	94
Eric Yollick	72
Phil Grant	70

9th District Court

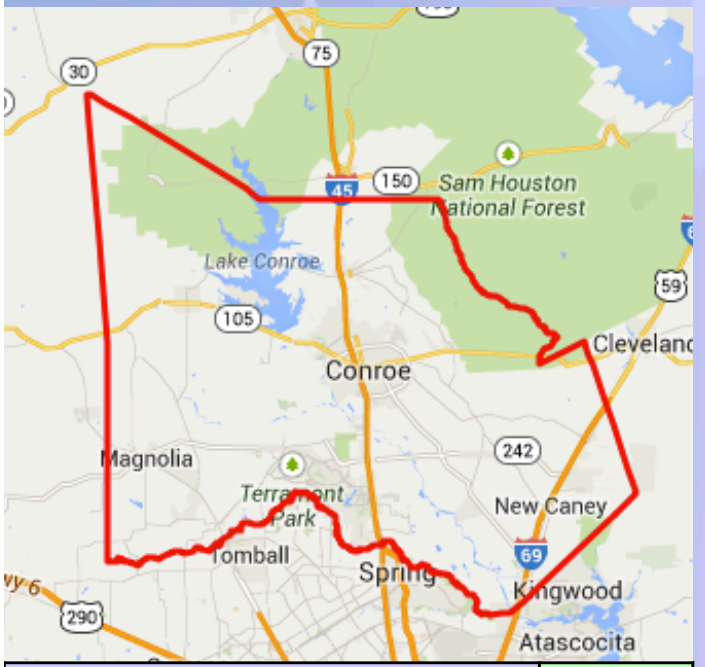
Vetting Committee Recommends to **Endorse Kate Shipman Bihm**

- Bihm Advantages
  - Passionate conservative
  - Experience as prosecutor and defender
  - Highly ranked by her peers
- Grant Concerns
  - Possible prosecutorial bias
    - Experience
    - Joint events with sheriff, constable, and judicial candidates
    - Serves on board of Safe Harbor

410th District Court

Vetting Committee Recommends to Make no endorsement

- All 3 somewhat light in areas
  - All 3 very intelligent
- Bays Advantages
  - Strongest advocate of Constitution
    - Against judicial activism
- Robin Concern
  - Wants to transition to family court when there is a criminal backlog
- Meyer Concern
  - Interpreted judicial ethics to not answer many of our questions



Kristin Bays	82
Jennifer Robin	78
Chuck Meyer	68

435th District Court

Vetting Committee Recommends to Make no endorsement

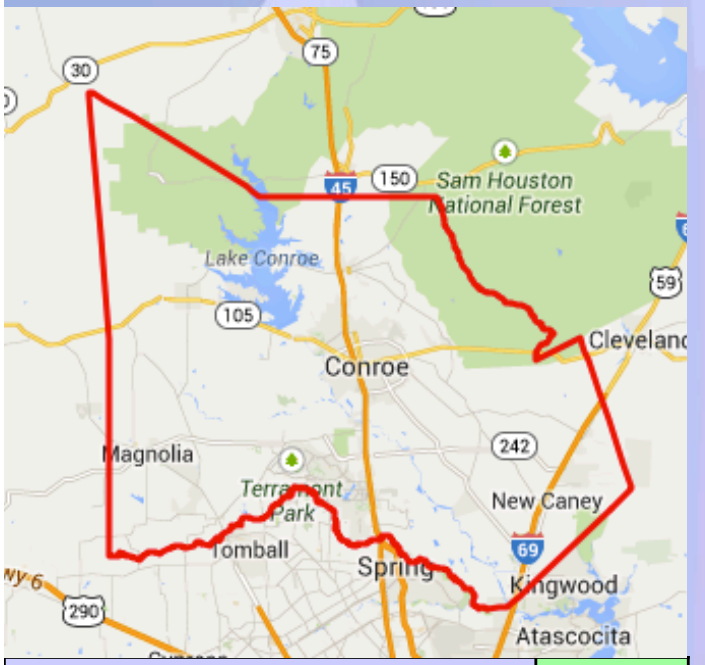
- Two good candidates; vote split
- Seiler
  - Efficient court
  - Experienced with difficult job
  - Reprimanded
- Maginnis
  - Generally conservative but some confusing answers
  - Running a negative campaign
- Brewer
  - Seems to view government as solution
  - Accepts living constitution standard
  - Prefers Roberts to Scalia

Michael Seiler	**85**
Patty Maginnis	**81**
Tom Brewer III	**64**

County Attorney

Vetting Committee Recommends to Make no endorsement

- Lambright
  - Incumbent (since 2012)
  - Best boss 2 years in a row
  - Active in community
  - Backed down during Joe Corley scandal
- Beauchamp
  - Litigating attorney
  - Believes CA should be litigating more
  - Concerned about Joe Corley Issue



JD Lambright	85
Gary Beauchamp	81

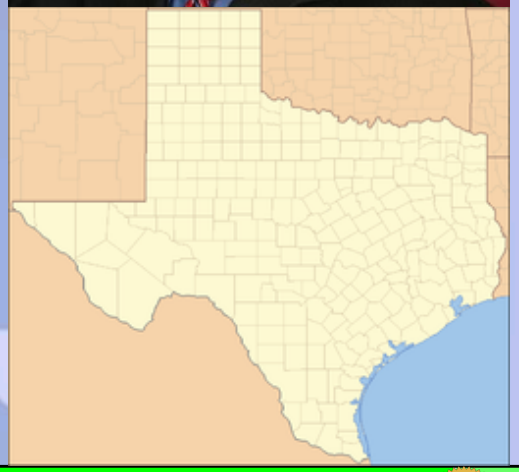
Steve Toth	95
Craig McMichael	85
Andre Dean	81
Kevin Brady	33

US House, TX District 8

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse Steve Toth

- Three good candidates
- Toth Advantages
  - Proven fighter for our values
  - Had the best answers in solving our nation's woes
- Brady's problems
  - Did not respond
  - Loyal to Boehner wing of party
  - Voted for TARP and CRs
  - Ways & Means chair w/ no plan
  - Refused to stand up to Obama



Weston Martinez	90
John Greytok	88
Wayne Christian	85
Ron Hale	81
Gary Gates	80
Lance Christian	78
Doug Jeffrey	51

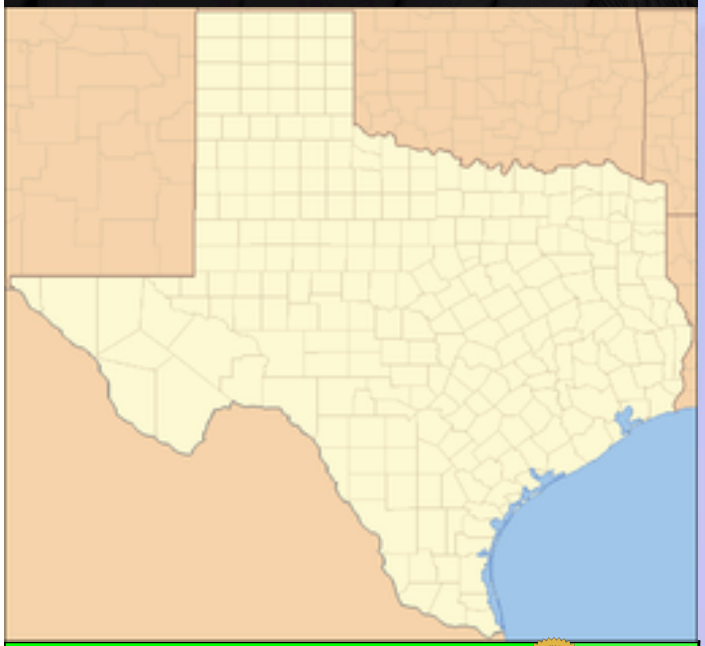
Railroad Commissioner

(Regulates Oil & Gas, not railroads)

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse Weston Martinez

- Several good candidates
- Martinez Advantages
  - Real Estate Commissioner
  - O&G Experience
  - Like-minded tea party principles
  - Understands fracking issues
- W Christian's campaign "suspended"
- Jeffery did not respond



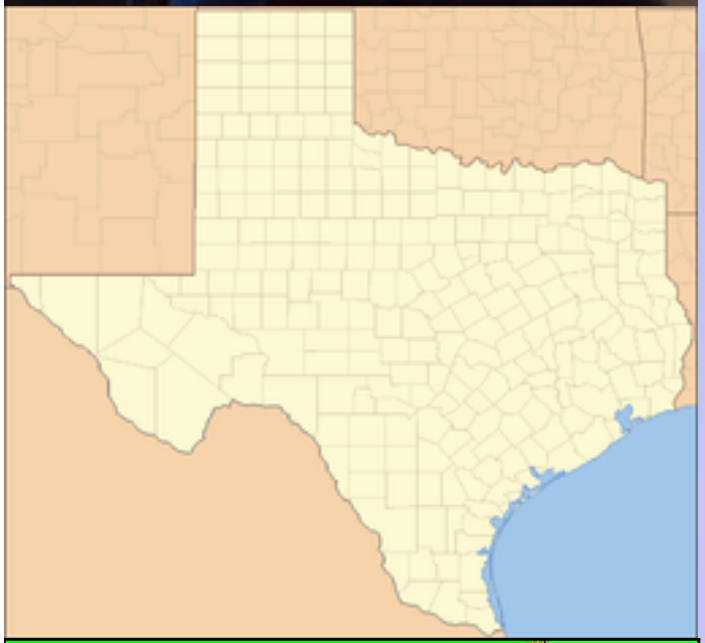
Michael Massengale	94
Debra Lehrmann	64

Texas Supreme Court, Pl 3

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse Michael Massengale

- Massengale Advantages
  - Believes in limited role of courts
  - Leader in Constitutional causes
  - God-centric
- Lehrmann
  - Did not respond
  - Recused herself in homosexual divorce case (with no reason given)



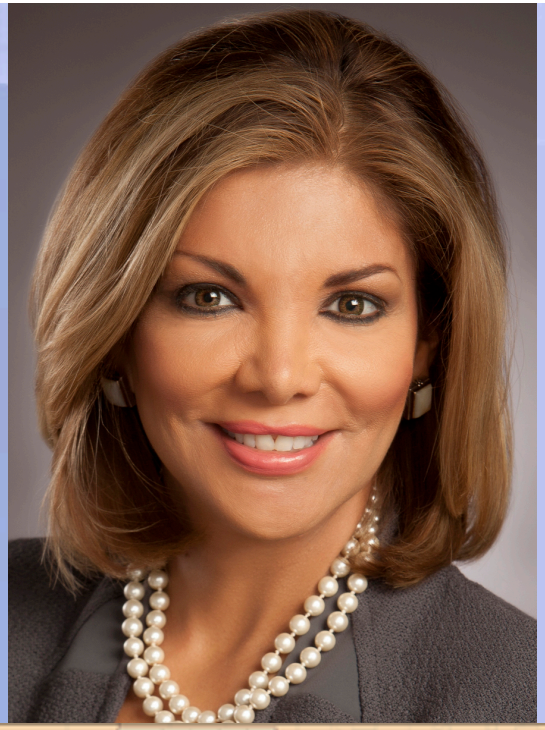
Rick Green	95
Paul Green	75

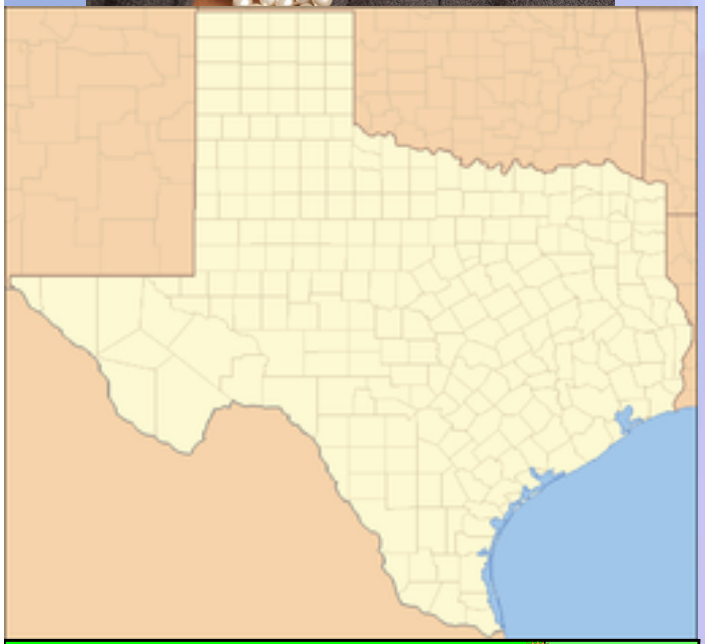
Texas Supreme Court, Pl 5

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse Rick Green

- Rick Green
  - Strict constitutionalist
  - Solid conservative
  - Reliance on God
  - No real judicial experience
- Paul Green
  - 12-year incumbent
  - Concerning response related to the supremacy of the Constitution
  - Supports state licensing





Eva Guzman	90
Joe Pool	70

Texas Supreme Court, Pl 6

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse Eva Guzman

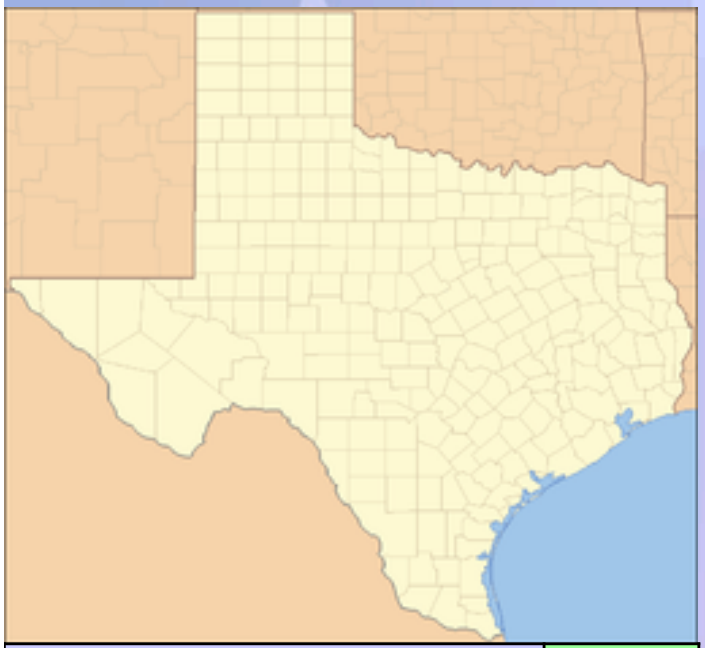
- Eva Guzman
  - 7-year incumbent
  - Extensive judicial experience
  - Proven conservative
- Joe Pool
  - Mildly concerning response related to parental rights

Court of Crim. Appeals, Pl 2

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Make no endorsement

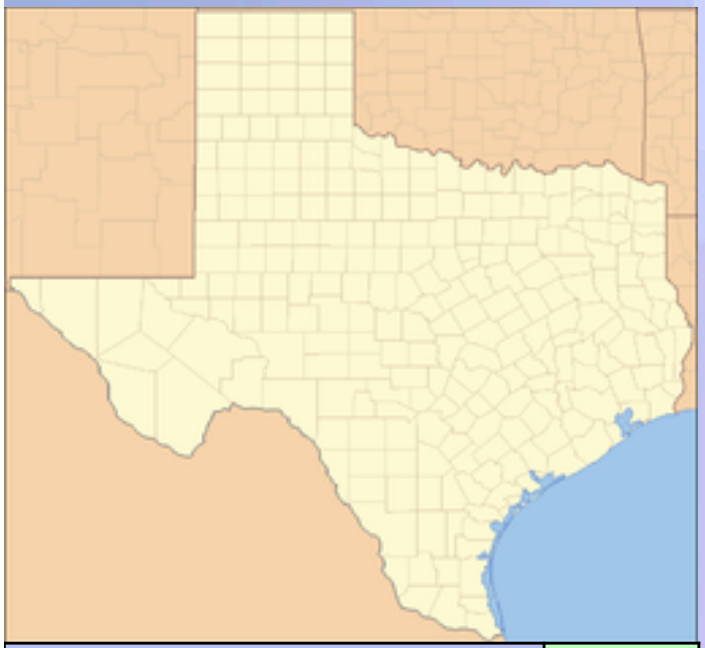
- 24-yr incumbent Meyers running as Democrat
- Wheless
  - Solid conservative/constitutionalist
  - Willing to take on status quo



Ray Wheless	**85**
Mary Lou Keel	**77**
Chris Oldner	**74**

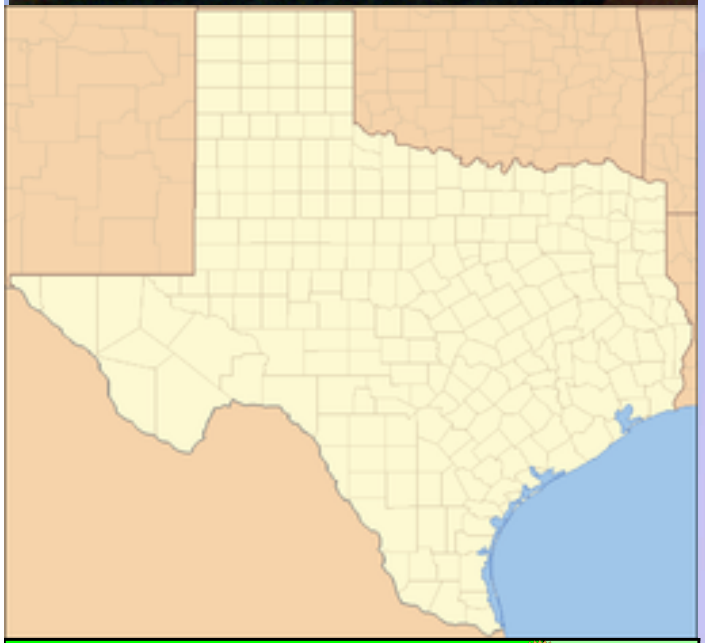
Court of Crim. Appeals, Pl 5

Vetting Committee Recommends to Make no endorsement



Sid Harle	81
Brent Webster	81
Steve Smith	76
Scott Walker	38

- Three candidates within 5 points
  - None truly stood out
- Harle
  - Solid constitutionalist
  - Supported by some Democrats
- Webster
  - Solid constitutionalist
  - Tends towards state government control (licensing)
- Smith
  - Solid constitutionalist
  - No Web presence
  - Attacks Harle for being liked by Dems
- Walker
  - No information



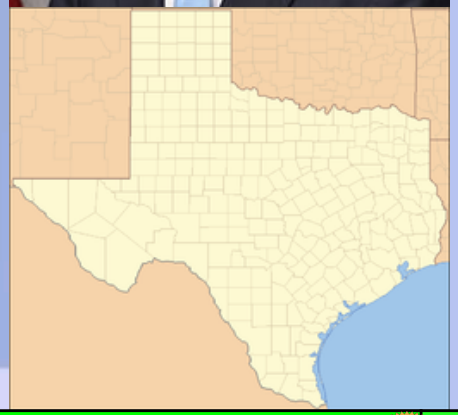
Mike Keasler	85
Richard Davis	42

Court of Crim. Appeals, Pl 6

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse Mike Keasler

- Keasler
  - 18-year incumbent
  - Proven constitutionalist
    - Author of Medellin opinion
      - State law supreme to world court
- Davis
  - Minimal information
    - Facebook site launched 22 Dec
      - 4 paragraph biography
    - No website



Ted Cruz	96
Rand Paul	80
Marco Rubio	69
Carly Fiorino	64
Ben Carson	62
Donald Trump	62
Jeb Bush	53
John Kasich	51

President of U.S.

Vetting Committee Recommends to

Endorse Ted Cruz

- Cruz
  - Stands up for constitutional values
  - Strong conservative, God-centric
  - Highest score given to date
- Trump
  - Most divisive among reviewers
    - Score ranged from 6 to 85

Conclusion

- With your approval, these results become official

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