

# THE CANDIDATES

**THERE SEEMS TO BE** a greater interest in local politics this spring in Plano. With six different offices up for grabs, all but one is contested, and one race finds four candidates vying for one of the two seats up for election on the school board.

Early voting begins Monday, April 27 for the Plano City Council and PISD Board of Trustees. Voters will elect a new mayor and vote on a \$129 million bond package for road and park improvements. Eight candidates for city council are vying for your vote. Election Day is Saturday, May 9.



*Lissa Smith kicked off her first bid for elected office with a full house at Art Centre of Plano in February, and now finds herself the only candidate in six races to be unopposed.*

## PLANO CITY COUNCIL RACES Candidates for Place 2

**Ben Harris:** A 30-year Plano resident, Harris said he wants to address the projected budget deficit while keeping taxes low. "Plano has a long legacy of providing the best city services, best public safety, schools, libraries, and parks while maintaining the lowest effective property tax rate in the area. We have set the standard for quality of life and we must not let that lapse. Our charge in the coming years will be to continue to set the standard, this time by making our city government the most efficient and responsive city government around."

He continued, "Maintaining Plano's pro-business environment to keep attracting quality jobs for our residents and to grow the tax base, will ensure that Plano continues to be the best place to live, work, and raise a family. It is time to work together with the community to leave our fingerprint and legacy for the next generation who want Plano's future to be as bright as its past."

The graduate of Leadership Plano (LP) Class 24 is the incoming chair of the LP Executive Board, former vice-chair of the Plano Parks and Rec. planning board, and serves on the board for Plano Youth Leadership. He also serves on the PISD Beaty Early Childhood School Site-based Improvement committee. Harris works in Cardiovascular Institutional Sales for Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals. Visit [votebenharris.com](http://votebenharris.com).

**Susan Plonka:** Plonka moved to Plano 30 years ago in 1979. She owns Plonka Interactive, a design agency that provides marketing and Web software development. She said being a business owner for 25 years has readied her for the job. "It has made me assertive in asking pointed budget questions ... asking the value of every expense," she said. Plonka agreed that she's not afraid to ask tough questions. "It makes me the better candidate to serve all of the citizens of Plano,

not just the insiders." Plonka's civic involvement includes community service chairman for the Plano Metro Rotary, chairman of the Plano Parks board, and Leadership Plano Class 22. Visit [plonka4plano.org](http://plonka4plano.org).

## EARLY VOTING

April 27–29, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Thursday, April 30, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.  
May 1–2, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
May 4–5, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.

**Main Early Voting Location**  
Collin County Elections Department

**Temporary Branch Locations**  
Carpenter Park Recreation Center

Christopher A. Parr Library  
Collin College, Preston Ridge and  
Spring Creek Campuses  
Haggard Library  
Harrington Library  
Murphy Municipal Complex  
PISD Administration Center  
Renner Frankford Library

## Candidates for Place 4

**Lissa Smith:** District director for state Sen. Florence Shapiro, Smith is running unopposed for Place 4. She is a longtime community activist who has lived in Plano for 18 years. Her résumé includes a board position with the Collin College Foundation, the Junior League of Plano, and Child Protective Services. Smith has also been a member of the Plano Chamber of Commerce advisory board and public policy committee. She was the vice president on the board of directors for Hope's Door, and president of Conner Harrington

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Republican Women. "I'm committed to using my civic experience to focus on maintaining the high level of city services we have come to expect, especially in these challenging economic times," Smith said.

## Candidates for Place 6 (Mayor)

**Phil Dyer:** Former city councilman and mayor pro tem, Dyer is the president of Legacy Texas Bank and has lived in Plano for 25 years. He served on the Plano City Council from 1999-2005, and prior to that on the planning and zoning commission. Dyer was selected as Plano's Citizen of the Year in 1998. Leadership roles include chairman of the board for the Plano Chamber of Commerce, Hope's Door, the American Red Cross, Medical Center of Plano, Plano Community Homes, and chairman of the PISD 2008 Bond Committee. His first leadership role was on the horizon committee in 1984-1986, during which time the first comprehensive plan for the city was created.

If elected as mayor, Dyer said he would focus on revitalizing Plano's older neighborhoods while encouraging new business growth. "We must continue our economic development efforts to bring strong employers and a strong commercial tax base into Plano. This commercial activity creates good jobs and reduces the tax burden upon Plano homeowners. Revitalization of our older neighborhoods begins with the enforcement of our existing property standards ordinances."

**David W. Fincannon:** Fincannon is the CEO of A-All Pest Termite Exterminators, Inc., a pest control company that has been in the family since 1963. "I have learned from operating my family's small business that if you do not treat your customers right, your company is going to fail," said Fincannon. "I believe my leadership skills obtained from various organizations can guide the city in the proper direction and place the citizens on top."

Fincannon's involvement in the community includes church activities where he donated termite treatment to homes in east Plano built by Christ United Methodist Church.

Fincannon has lived in Plano for over 15 years. As mayor, he would establish an economic benefit program for small business owners. He is campaigning through YouTube where his 16-year-old son Tyler says, "My dad cares about the mom and pop companies because that's how my grandma and grandpa survived in the '60s and '70s."

Fincannon concludes, "Since change has been the focus of many for the last several months, maybe we need to admit that our own backyard needs to be cleaned up." Visit [fincannonformayor.com](http://fincannonformayor.com).

## Candidates for Place 8

**Lee Dunlap:** Plano resident for 17 years (Collin County resident for 27), Dunlap is up for reelection and says, "I look forward to the challenge of monitoring revenues and expenditures as we study the entire city service structure for excessive costs or outdated programs."

Dunlap's 30-year career as an architect for D. Lee Dunlap Assoc., Inc. has fueled his passion for the city's economic development. "I will continue my efforts to ensure Plano's transportation system is seamless and that the toll and fee revenues generated by Plano citizens and businesses will be reinvested in Plano. I will continue to embrace and encourage economic development so there will be new citizens and businesses to buy homes, goods, and services in Plano."

Dunlap's leadership roles include the Regional Transportation Council and chairman of the City of Plano's Planning and Zoning commission. The Leadership Plano Class 12 graduate has served on many advisory boards, too. Visit [leedunlap.com](http://leedunlap.com).

**Greg Myer:** An IT manager, Myer has called Plano home for eight years. He moved to Plano because of "the great school system, low crime, and overall high quality of life." If elected, Myer says, "I will bring a renewed emphasis on public safety and infrastructure. Further, I will promote the Arts of Collin County."

Myer said he will also focus on balancing the budget and increasing transparency by putting the city's check register online. "I will work to be a positive advocate for all of Plano's citizens with our elected representatives in McKinney, Austin, and Washington, D.C."

A graduate of Leadership Plano class 23 and a member of the executive board, Myer boasts a long list of leadership roles including the Plano Library advisory board, the Collin County Republican Party, and the Public Policy committee of the Plano Chamber of Commerce. Visit [gregmyerforplano.com](http://gregmyerforplano.com).



Phil Dyer



Missy Bender



Lissa Smith



Susan Plonka



Ben Harris



Lee Dunlap

**Imran Khan:** Fairly new to Plano but passionate about the city's future, Khan is up for place 8. Khan teaches 10th grade chemistry and a course on documentary films at a charter high school in Dallas. He's lived in Plano for over a year and said, "I am running because of my desire to see Plano as a model city for environmental consciousness, transparent government, and increased government efficiency. It is also my desire to see Plano with numerous social services that enable the city to coordinate with nonprofits and educational institutions to create an atmosphere of safe and comfortable living."

Khan is the former director for the Muslim American Society youth and outreach departments. He also supports Greenpeace, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and the American Chemical Society.

No one person inspired Khan to run for council; rather, he said, "The idea that within a democracy leaders will create positive social change that fosters camaraderie and civic and political participation, is a very inspiring concept." Visit [imranforplano.wordpress.com](http://imranforplano.wordpress.com).

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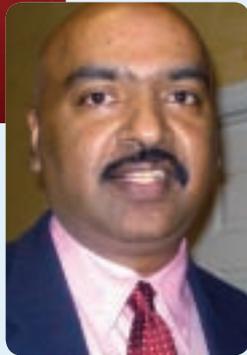
Nathan Barbera

### PISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES RACES

The PISD Board of Trustees consists of seven, nonpaid board members elected to serve three-year terms. Each member represents the entire district, not a specific geographic area. Two seats are up for election.

#### Candidates for Place 6

**Nathan Barbera:** Plano native Barbera attended PISD schools, grades K-12. Now an attorney, Barbera serves on the boards of CITY House and City of Plano Parks & Recreation, and he is a member of the Plano Rotary and Plano Chamber of Commerce.



Rama Lavu

**Marilyn Hinton:** A former PISD Head Start teacher and mother of two PISD graduates, Hinton has been involved with the school district for 15 years. She has been involved with Plano Rotary, PTA, and early education instruction at local colleges.

**Rama Lavu:** An AT&T employee for 19 years and parent of two PISD students, Lavu is a volunteer at Rice Middle School, past president of Telugu Association of North Texas, and volunteered during the 2008 general elections.

**Steve Navarre:** A business and technology consultant, Navarre cites fiscal responsibility and the desire for transparency on the school board as two of his key issues. Navarre has three children in PISD schools.

#### Candidates for Place 7

**Missy Bender:** As the incumbent candidate, a PISD graduate, and a PISD parent, Bender has experienced the district from many perspectives. She advocates parent involvement, fiscal responsibility, and tailored instruction for students. She is involved in Plano Metro Rotary, Junior League, and Forrest Outreach Foundation.

**Robert Canright:** As an engineer, author, and former public school teacher in math and science, Canright advocates for more classroom emphasis on math and reading. A Plano resident since 1992, Canright is a founding member of McDermott Road Church of Christ.

*Brit Mott and Cindy Boykin contributed to this report.*



Greg Myer

Robert Canright



Steve Navarre

## Election Day Voting

**Saturday, May 9,  
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

COLLIN COUNTY  
PRECINCTS

**52, 61, 68, 103, 141**

Armstrong Middle School

**34, 107, 119, 121, 135, 139**

Bethany Elementary School

**23, 46, 47, 50, 51, 152, 158**

Bowman Middle School

**90, 116, 137**

Brinker Elementary School

**21, 54, 62, 66**

Carpenter Middle School

**109, 123**

Christopher A. Parr Library

**15, 19, 53, 65, 70, 71**

Haggard Middle School

**58, 77, 91**

Hendrick Middle School

**31, 32, 63, 76**

Hughston Elementary School

**14, 81, 86, 89, 108, 112, 124**

Robinson Middle School

**64, 69**

Schimelpfenig Middle  
School

**28, 75, 105, 143**

Shepton High School

**39, 85**

Thomas Elementary School

**26, 49, 67, 72, 138**

Wilson Middle School

DENTON COUNTY  
PRECINCT

**226**

Christopher A. Parr Library

**Applications for ballots by mail** shall be mailed to Sharon Rowe, Elections Administrator, Collin County Elections Department, 2010 Redbud Blvd., Ste. 102, McKinney, TX 75069. Applications must be received no later than

**Friday, May 1.**