



**VOTER GUIDE  
McKINNEY CITY COUNCIL  
SPRING, 2021**

**McKINNEY CITY COUNCIL  
CANDIDATES  
MAY 1, 2021**

**Mayor**

Jimmy R. Stewart  
George Fuller  
Tom Meredith

**District 1**

Cris Treviño  
Johnny Moore  
Stan Penn  
Justin Beller

**District 3**

Gere' Feltus  
Vicente Torres

**At Large**

Brian Magnuson  
Charlie Philips





**VOTER GUIDE**  
**McKINNEY CITY COUNCIL**  
**SPRING, 2021**

**MAYOR**

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**JIMMY STEWART**



**Phone:** (833) 619-0687

**Email:** jimmy.stewart@pleasevote4.me

**Website:** www.PleaseVote4.me/Jimmy.Stewart

**Facebook:** Jimmy Stewart For McKinney Mayor

**Background:** (Community Impact) Running for office because he believes the city needs a new type of leadership. Feckless leadership, residents losing confidence in leadership, and a perceived lack of fairness. I plan to address these areas by listening to what residents have to say and taking action on the issues. New ideas are needed, also, to meet future challenges. New ideas on increasing revenue without raising taxes.

**Education:** B.S. in Electrical Engineering

**Occupation:** Small business owner

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

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**Platform/Priorities**

**Cleanup The Books**

A review of all city rules and regulations to ensure they don't restrict the city from growing, providing fairness and great governance.

**Great Governance**

Government should provide the greatest number of citizens the greatest chance to be successful. Unifying our community around great policies.

**Economic Solution**

We need the right kind of businesses moving to our city. We need to provide businesses with great reasons to do business in McKinney



**JIMMY STEWART**

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**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.



## VOTER GUIDE McKINNEY CITY COUNCIL SPRING, 2021

### MAYOR

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#### GEORGE FULLER



**Phone:** (972) 547-7501

**Email:** [george@fullerformayor.com](mailto:george@fullerformayor.com)

**Website:** [www.MayorFuller.com](http://www.MayorFuller.com)

**Facebook:** Mayor George Fuller

**Background:** (Community Impact) I want to continue serving this city I love. Since elected, we have lowered the tax rate more than [in] the past 20 years combined and, this year, passed the first “no-new-revenue” tax rate. In 2020, we grew our year-over-year commercial tax base 70% over the rate four years ago. We secured the PGA Byron Nelson for the next five years [and] brought the airport from requiring annual city subsidy to being profitable, and today, we are rated the safest city of our size in Texas. I want to continue our success and would be honored for the opportunity.

**Education:** Business Management – Norwich University

**Occupation:** President & CEP, George C. Fuller Contracting Company  
Owner, Guitar Sanctuary

#### Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:

- Mayor of McKinney, 2017-present
- President of the Stonebridge Ranch Commercial Association
- Co-founders of the Love Life Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing awareness of the many tragedies inflicted upon at-risk children. Love Life Foundation provides resources to supporting agencies and groups that bring relief and comfort to the young victims and their families.
- Served as a member of the McKinney Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Served as a Board Director for Meals on Wheels
- Served as Chairman of the McKinney Community Development Corporation

**(Community Impact) If elected, what would be your top priorities?** Be accessible; be compassionate; be respectful and kind. Serve ALL residents. Support our businesses and families through the economic crisis. Continue sensible business, commercial and entertainment industry growth that fosters sustainable property and school tax relief and provides quality-of-life amenities. Continue to develop our airport that now generates an annual economic impact of over \$212 [million] while preparing for passenger service. Maintain our historic feel and culture while responsibly increasing the downtown footprint east of [State] Highway 5. Continue to support our excellent police and fire departments, city staff and all that make our community great.

**(Community Impact) What are some new ideas or programs you would like the city to explore?** I have been working with our state transportation partners to take Highway 5 below grade for approximately six blocks adjacent to our historic square, creating a Klyde Warren-like park over the highway [and] connecting our downtown to our historic communities within the Mill District. Redeveloping and revitalizing this historic area will bring new business, jobs, entertainment, retail, dining and the charm of our downtown area to the east side. We will achieve this working with the current east side residents to ensure their concerns are met and that they benefit from the revitalization.



**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

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## VOTER GUIDE McKINNEY CITY COUNCIL SPRING, 2021

### MAYOR

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**TOM MEREDITH**



**Phone:** (214) 683-2213

**Email:** meredithformckinney@gmail.com

**Website:** www.MeredithforMcKinney.com

**Facebook:** Meredith For McKinney

**Background:** McKinney is a great city to live in. We have opportunities to make it better in the future. I have a lot of experience working with city government, and I have a track record of getting things done. We need government that is open, transparent and inclusive. We need to evaluate economic development and infrastructure projects based on sound economic analysis that show we are choosing projects that are best for all of our residents and not just for the benefit of a small group of people. We need to be more competitive in bringing the types of business McKinney needs and supporting our existing businesses. To accomplish this, we need to make it easier to do business in McKinney.

**Education:** BBA in Petroleum Land Management - University of Oklahoma  
MS in Operations Research/Management Science from UT Dallas

**Occupation:** Co-owner, The Pantry Restaurant

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

- 2016, City of McKinney Committee for Downtown Parking
- 2016, received the Chamber of Commerce award for Best Commercial Historic Renovation Project
- 2010, City of McKinney bond and McKinney Census Community
- 2003 to 2009, Vice President and Treasurer of the downtown Property Owners organization
- Vice Chairman and Treasurer of the Merry Main Street Board

**Platform/Priorities**

**Prioritize Public Safety** - Alarms.org recently released their 2021 list of the Safest Cities in Texas based on the most up-to-date report from the FBI Uniform Crime Report Statistics. McKinney was ranked the 40th Safest City in Texas. I believe there is room for improvement and McKinney needs leadership that ensures a safe future for our families.

**Reduce Density/Apartments** - When the executive decision is made to build multiple apartment complexes, it often puts undesired pressure on law enforcement, public safety, and school districts. Let's protect our suburban charm by ensuring McKinney has the space so each family and business can grow comfortably.

**Low Taxes** - McKinney residents could benefit greatly from lower taxes. People choose McKinney because it is a great community to live and raise a family. With more money in the pockets of our citizens, McKinney residents can invest in their passions. When individuals can thrive, McKinney thrives.



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**TOM MEREDITH**

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**Platform/Priorities - Continued**

**Helping Small Businesses** - McKinney needs a level playing field to do business. Currently it takes a long time to obtain simple, necessary items from the city government so that businesses can go forward with their plans. With reduced regulations and adequate representation from the local business community we can help McKinney thrive. Residents and businesses deserve an open and transparent government especially regarding business dealings.

**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

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**VOTER GUIDE**  
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**SPRING, 2021**

**DISTRICT 1**

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**CRIS TREVIÑO**



**Phone:** -

**Email:** -

**Website:** [www.cristrevino.com](http://www.cristrevino.com)

**Facebook:** Cris Trevino for McKinney D1 City Council

**Background:** (Star Local Media) I am the best candidate for this position because I understand that people want to be heard. I am ready and willing to listen and not talk over them or tell them their ideas don't matter, because they do. I want them to have a conversation with me. I want them to give me ideas. I want them to participate in reconnecting our community. I want them to feel welcomed and realize how much I care for my district and its people. It was heart wrenching to see our community fall apart over the last several years from people trying to tear us apart. I am ready to be kind neighbors again that help each other so we can get back to the Texas life we are accustomed to in the best city in Texas

**Education:** -

**Occupation:** Law Enforcement, 19 years, currently working in a local ISD Police Department

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

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**(Star Local Media) What is your history of community involvement in the city/area?**

I am well known in the east side (which is the oldest part of McKinney) neighborhoods, so my neighbors know they can come to me since I have spent my entire career in law enforcement. If my neighbors need something, I am there to help. As we grow and welcome more neighbors into our overall district, I want to be the native Texan that they have heard about know they can come to me to get help anytime there is a need or concern.

**Platform/Priorities**

**HEALING DISTRICT 1**

The biggest issue facing McKinney in my district is to heal and come together as a community after the McKinney District 1 Council seat was made vacant from the recall of La'Shadion Shemwell. It was a very passionate and emotional time for all of us. I am going to do my best to reunite the community that I have lived my entire life. I am proud to be a native Texan, but most of all proud to be born and raised in the District and am looking forward to joining with my neighbors to set an example of how we can come together and be excited about our future for our families.



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**CRIS TREVIÑO**

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**Platform/Priorities – Continued**

**HOUSING FOR THE FUTURE**

The City of McKinney has been growing rapidly as the attractiveness of the Texas suburban lifestyle is desirable. One of my top priorities is to advocate against any more apartments in my district. Many apartment developers have already built apartments in the district and I will advocate that our district has done our fair share of apartments so I will work with the zoning commission to limit and/or eliminate future builds while encouraging permanent long term housing. As we grow our business tax base, the more tax revenue the city will acquire from the business who want to come serve our community. This will add more to our budgets for improving city services, adding additional resources for citizens, but MOST OF ALL keep our City portion of our property taxes DOWN as market growth for property goes up. Incredibly, the last 4 years has had a downward trend in city taxes, and I intend to collaborate with my fellow council members to continue to keep city taxes down so that people in my district are not “taxed” out of their homes.

**ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATES**

I am going to coordinate QUARTERLY District 1 updates to discuss new community resources, updates on streets and project improvements. I also want to educate people on how to evaluate city vs county taxes as well as other interesting best practices so the people I represent can know I am working for them as well as keeping them updated.

**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

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**VOTER GUIDE**  
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**SPRING, 2021**

**DISTRICT 1**

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**JOHNNY MOORE**



**Phone:** -

**Email:** jaymoore12@hotmail.com

**Website:** -

**Facebook:** Moore for District 1 in McKinney, Texas

**Background:** A strong and intelligent leader that will continue to help increase equality/equity for all McKinney's citizens

**Education:** Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration - San Diego State University  
Master's Degree in Education, with a focus in counseling and psychology - University of North Texas

**Occupation:** High school counselor

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

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**Platform/Priorities**

My three areas that we should concentrate are

- 1) our future leaders (MISD and CCCC graduates). MISD has connected with CCCC to implement an Early College program; however, MISD has put several guidelines for students to follow(s). Unfortunately; not all future graduate students fit into MISD guidelines. Therefore, we have future graduate students will have to decide on saving money to enroll at CCCC or help pay the family' bills.
- 2) Small businesses...We know that it is very difficult to open up a small business and maintain their daily operation. And with the Covid-19, we know that about 800 (nation wide) small businesses are closing each day (Fortune 9/28/2020). And small businesses (nation wide) employ about 48% of our private workforce (Smallbiztrends. 1/25/20213)
- 3) and Our elderly. There are about 8,000 elderly (75+ years old) living in McKinney and yet most can't afford by-yearly check up copay. However, we should continue to maintain our relationship with large companies.



**JOHNNY MOORE**

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**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

**DISTRICT 1**

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**STAN PENN**



**Phone:** (972) 562-2929

**Email:** scpenn@yahoo.com

**Website:** www.pennformckinney.org

**Facebook:** Stan Penn for McKinney City Council

**Background:** I'm not running for City Council to be important, but to do important things for the City of McKinney; to do the difficult tasks, not the easy thing. McKinney is at a crossroads. We are enjoying the fruits of strong past labors and visionary leadership. McKinney cannot rest on its laurels now. We cannot afford to get bogged down on issues and personalities that divide us. We must have the courage and strength to overcome and thrive. We still have lots of work to do and I hope you will join me as we try to move McKinney forward into a bright and prosperous future.

**Education:** -

**Occupation:** Owner of The Celt and Dempsey's Place; Retired Bank President

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

- Board chair for United Way and campaign chairman
- Past Rotary Club president
- Former Lions Club and Kiwanis
- Past Chamber board member and Finance Committee chairman
- Various downtown business and neighborhood groups, past board member of Chestnut Square

**Platform/Priorities**

**Public Safety and Neighborhoods**

- We need to maintain appropriate public safety department staffing levels. The number of new police, fire and EMS personnel must keep in line with population growth. Anything less is a reduction in our ability to maintain a safe city.
- We need to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect between the police and the community.
- We want to focus on crime reduction, reducing traffic accidents, and addressing quality of life issues in our neighborhoods.

**Smart and Sustainable Growth**

- High property taxes are pushing many long-time residents out.
- More and more of the same looking multi-family structures are being constructed changing the diverse charm of our city to one which lacks distinction.
- We must offer the citizens a mix of quality affordable housing opportunities.
- The citizens of McKinney need to be able to afford to live where they work. This is especially significant in areas of the city like downtown where so many are employed by restaurants, hotels and retail shops.



**STAN PENN**

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**Platform/Priorities – continue**

**Delivery of Services**

- Today, more than ever, a city government that can quickly and effectively adapt to any and all situations is not a luxury, it is a basic need in order for businesses to survive.
- Improve the ease-of-doing-business and you will increase the number of businesses.
- The permitting process needs to be improved. Delays in the permitting process are costly and inconvenient for both homeowners and businesses.
- We expect the streets, sidewalks, and lighting throughout the city to be safe and well maintained.
- This is not a red or blue issue. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue. It's a right and wrong issue. When you turn on the tap you expect clean water.

**Preserving Our Uniqueness**

- McKinney has a charm all its' own that should not be easily sacrificed in the name of growth.
- There is a delicate balance between growth and preservation that must be maintained.
- Simply tearing down and building new should not be done in haste. Once it's gone it's lost forever.
- As downtown and the East Side grow, we must preserve the unique personalities and histories of our neighborhoods.

**Parks & Public Spaces**

- We have beautiful parks and green spaces. We must make sure they are funded and well maintained. Anyone who has spent time in our parks knows that these spaces bring our citizens together from every part of the city. They not only create a place to gather but also improve the overall personality of our city.
- As our city grows we cannot lose our green spaces to growth. We must grow smart and preserve as much green space as possible.
- We must make sure future parks are not defunded or delayed. Every citizen and neighborhood benefits from the addition and expansion of parks within our great city.

**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

**DISTRICT 1**

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**JUSTIN BELLER**



**Phone:** -

**Email:** [votebeller@gmail.com](mailto:votebeller@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.votebeller.com](http://www.votebeller.com)

**Facebook:** Justin Beller

**Background:** (Community Impact) I've worked hard in my community since I've lived and worked in McKinney. I care dearly about this community and my neighbors. We need good representation on council, representation that understands the diverse issues that we face and will work hard to address them. I am not a typical political type, but I have the experience, the relationships, and the skills to serve District 1 and get the outcomes we need, for everyone. I'm proud of the work I've done trying to build and improve my community, and I can continue that work serving on council.

**Education:** Graduate and Master of Business Administration – Harding University

**Occupation:** Community Banker for Independent Financial in McKinney

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

- 2015 Volunteer McKinney Pete and Nancy Huff Community Service Award
- 2018 Leadership McKinney Alumni of the Year
- Leadership McKinney, 2012
- Holy Family School Board
- McKinney Chamber of Commerce Board
- Young Life Committee
- McKinney Housing Authority Board
- McKinney Housing Finance Corporation Board
- 2019 McKinney City Bond Committee
- McKinney Throckmorton ad hoc Committee
- McKinney Alliance Board
- McKinney Force (current)
- NCTCOG Collin County Transit Study Project Advisory Committee (current)
- Allen Community Outreach Development Committee (current)
- Flourish Community Based Initiatives Advisory Board (current)
- Kiwanis Club member (current)
- First United Methodist Church member (current)



## VOTER GUIDE McKINNEY CITY COUNCIL SPRING, 2021

**JUSTIN BELLER**

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### Platform/Priorities

#### Vision for District 1

Provide experienced and sensible leadership to deal with complex issues. Justin has a long history of community participation on boards including the McKinney Chamber of Commerce, the McKinney Housing Authority, and numerous other leadership roles. This experience is invaluable to understanding and solving the issues that we face and will face as a community.

Value the community and put the work in to help build a better one. This requires tangibles such as an improved infrastructure, more affordable housing, and expanded public transportation options. But it also requires relationships and understanding and working to see others' perspective.

Work towards a sustainable community that values everyone. McKinney Council District 1 is the most unique district in the city. From large employers to historic sites, it is one of the most diverse areas from a land use and demographic perspective. Navigating growth while protecting what is important will require effort from everyone to build a community that works for everyone.

### GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**In 2016, Plano became the first city in Collin County to pass an Equal Rights Ordinance (ERO) that was LGBTQ+ inclusive. The City of Plano's Equal Rights Ordinance, in their own words, depicts their city's commitment to ensuring equality and inclusion for all citizens and visitors in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and city contracting. Would you support an ERO that is LGBTQ+ inclusive in your city? Why or why not? If you are a candidate in Plano, do you support retaining the ERO? Why or why not?**

I was also asked this question at the McKinney Democrats Forum. And the answer is absolutely. Yes. We need to ensure that as a city, we are setting the example and expectation for what is right and just in our community.

**What would you, as a City Council Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBTQ+ community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBTQ+ community?**

I have said throughout my campaign that one of the biggest issues for District 1, and its representative, is engagement. We are a big, and diverse, district. And it will take work to ensure that all perspectives are heard, understood, and represented. At the beginning of 2020 I was part of a group that recommended to the council a Race and Culture Taskforce that would work to ensure that the perspectives that are typically missed have a place and a voice in our decision-making and governance.



**JUSTIN BELLER**

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**GALA Candidate Questionnaire - Continued**

**Hate in America is quickly on the rise, and is dividing our community. Whether in speech or action, hate has been targeted to specific members of our community based on the color of their skin, their country of origin, their religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and any number of other identifying factors. As a city leader, what can and will you do to stand against hate, and help restore us back to a united community?**

Disparate outcomes are a reality in our culture and we have to address these underlying issues that contribute to these injustices. I am fairly quiet and analytical and feel I better serve with a researched persuasion than an emotional one. I was on the City of McKinney's Throckmorton Ad Hoc committee, and I made one of the presentations to the council about the history of injustices, and advocated for the moving of the statue. While we can't right all of the wrongs from the past, we can make decisions to address the narrative of difference that has run throughout history and for many, continues today.

**Why should members of the LGBTQ+ community support your candidacy?**

I am the most experienced candidate in this District 1 race. I am the only candidate with years of service and work in this community. I have mentored young men with my nonprofit, McKinney Force, and I have worked to create an inclusive, accepting environment for everyone.



**DISTRICT 3**

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**GERE' FELTUS**



**Phone:** -

**Email:** feltus4mckinney@gmail.com

**Website:** www.Feltus4McKinney.com

**Facebook:** Geré Feltus for McKinney City Council

**Background:** I'm proud to have called McKinney home for the last ten years, where I'm raising my daughters to understand the importance of service to others. As a working mom, physician, volunteer, and civically involved member of this community, I'm working to make McKinney a better place. A growing and transforming community needs innovative, inclusive, and transparent leaders who reflect our diverse population. I want to amplify your voice. That is why I am asking for your vote for McKinney City Council District 3.

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology - Austin College  
 Medical Degree - Wake Forest University  
 Residency in Family and Community Medicine at the University of Maryland in Baltimore

**Occupation:** Board-Certified Family Physician

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

- Partnered with local churches to develop programs that target the prevention of cardiovascular disease, obesity, diabetes, and mental health disorders
- Served as a board member for the American Heart Association
- Served as a volunteer mentoring middle and high school students through CityChurch McKinney.
- Served on the Board of Directors fo McKinney Economic Development Corporation
- Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County Board of Directors
- Advisory Council for McKinney's Police Chief, Greg Conley
- Collin College Law Enforcement Academy Advisory Board
- Proud alumna of the Chamber of Commerce Leadership McKinney Class of 2020
- Member of One Community Church.

**Platform/Priorities**

**Economic Development** - For businesses relocating to the DFW area, McKinney is a highly desirable location to establish roots. As a board member of the Economic Development Corporation. I strongly supported innovative deals that have secured over 1,700 new jobs and more than \$466,000,000 in new business capital investments. As your next City Councilwoman, I will support the aggressive recruitment of forward-thinking companies in strategically targeted industries that will care for our community's professional needs while supporting education programs that prepare our future professionals for an abundant work ecosystem. To make that possible, there must be a collaborative and cohesive effort across all city departments. We must also focus on revitalizing a robust local economy in a post-pandemic era. Together we can nourish the growth of our small businesses who care about our city and have made McKinney unique.



## VOTER GUIDE McKINNEY CITY COUNCIL SPRING, 2021

### GERE' FELTUS

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#### **Platform/Priorities – Continued**

**Public Health** - This past year's events have demonstrated how vital public health concerns are to our community, impacting not only the wellbeing of individuals and families but also our local economy's wellbeing. As a physician, I have seen first-hand the personal devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I commend the efforts of my fellow health care professionals, members of the McKinney Fire Department, and volunteers, who have worked diligently to implement immunization programs for McKinney's citizens. Advocating for the immediate and long-term allocation of coronavirus vaccines for our residents through federal and state agencies will be essential in providing means to keep us safe and healthy. As your next city councilwoman, I would like to utilize my clinical experience to help navigate McKinney through the next few years as we continue to battle this pandemic and any variants of COVID that arise. I will also collaborate with our public safety officials to find how to best address the growing mental health needs of our community.

**Attainable Housing** - McKinney is a wonderful place to live and raise a family. But like many other cities in the U.S, McKinney is facing an attainable housing crisis, lacking the inventory in a variety of housing options that meet the needs of its current and incoming residents. As a matter of public policy, we need to encourage and plan for a broader range of housing options to include the renovation and expansion of existing properties. I will support residential developments that provide attainable housing for young professionals, first-time home buyers, new college graduates, retirees and "empty nesters" who desire to downsize. Multi-family housing must be a component of any comprehensive housing plan especially in a community growing as rapidly as ours. But when working with developers, we should encourage quality mixed-use developments where residents can live, work and play. As your City Councilwoman, I will be committed to the development of innovative solutions to the housing needs of our growing community.

**Public Safety** - We all know that McKinney is one of the fastest-growing cities in the country. It is imperative that we focus on keeping McKinney the safest place for our children to flourish and for all of our residents to thrive. As a citizen of this community, I have welcomed opportunities to address and support public safety issues in our city by serving on the Advisory Council for McKinney's Police Chief Greg Conley, and by serving on the Advisory Board for the Collin College Law Enforcement Academy. As a member of the Public Safety Bond Committee, I helped to secure funding for the expansion of our public safety infrastructure. And as your Councilwoman, I will be vigilant in ensuring that resources continue to be marshalled to support the staffing, training, and infrastructure needed by our Fire and Police Departments as our city continues to grow. I will also support the expansion of our Neighborhood Police Officer program which helps to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and members of our community.

**Small Business Recovery** - The effects of COVID-19 on our economy and everyday life have been devastating and the long term effects of this pandemic on our economy have yet to be seen. Among the most brutal hits were to small businesses, many of which are still in jeopardy of closing their doors forever. Evaluating the ongoing impact on small businesses by gaining feedback through surveys, conversations, online platforms and forums will help find solutions that are sustaining. Community wide programs such as the "Buy Local" program and "One Heart McKinney" have been a lifeline to so many. Expanding those programs by collaborating with our Community Development Corporation and the McKinney Chamber of Commerce to provide sustained financial support of those businesses will be my mission.



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**GERE' FELTUS**

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**Platform/Priorities – Continued**

**Citizen Engagement** - Last year McKinney ranked #4 on the list of the fastest growing cities in Texas and #11 nationally according to the US Census Bureau. Clearly, our town is no longer the small town that it was 20 years ago, and some of us may think that the city has grown too large for our individual voice to be heard or to make a difference. As we witness the rapid growth in population numbers each year, we also recognize increases in other metrics as well. We are growing more economically, racially, religiously, and culturally diverse. But amidst our diversity, we all still share a common desire to maintain those small-town values and the sense of neighborly concern that have characterized McKinney for so long. If we hope to maintain those values in shaping the course of our community's development, we must facilitate more citizen engagement with elected leaders and meaningful citizen participation in civic decision making. Democracy is only as good as the people who participate in it. That's why I have chosen to run for City Council, because I believe that the voice and concerns of every member of our community should be heard as we plan McKinney's future. As your Councilwoman, I will actively seek out your input, your civic engagement in envisioning and shaping the McKinney we all want for our families and neighbors.

**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.



**DISTRICT 3**

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**VICENTE TORRES**



**Phone:** (972) 379-7422

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**Website:** [www.torresformckinney.com](http://www.torresformckinney.com)

**Facebook:** Torres for McKinney

**Background:** I feel that McKinney has a choice to make, as we are at a tipping point. Our community needs to be informed and decide which way we should go. Should we be a city or suburban community? Overpopulation will lead to an increased strain on infrastructure, which will increase property taxes while diminishing city services. We also need to be more business-friendly. Bringing in business will help off set the high property taxes we currently pay. Many long-term residents of McKinney have chosen to relocate to the surrounding areas due to the increased cost of home ownership in McKinney.

**Education:** Public Administration - University of Texas at Dallas

**Occupation:** Administrator for the computer science department at The University of Texas at Dallas

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

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**Platform/Priorities**

- Provide emergency services with the staff and equipment necessary to continue delivering outstanding service to the city of McKinney.
- Transparent, responsive, accountable communication and decision making.
- Adjust long term planning for McKinney's economic development by encouraging business growth in order to offset the tax burden on McKinney citizens.
- Re-commit to and promote opportunities for families to come together and create community with their neighbors and fellow citizens.



**VICENTE TORRES**

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**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

**AT LARGE**

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**BRIAN MAGNUSON**



**Phone:** -

**Email:** bmagatlarge1@gmail.com

**Website:** -

**Facebook:** Brian J. Magnuson for Mckinney City Council At Large 1

**Background:** I was called to run, and I am running to be a servant not a superstar nor a master of people. Matthew 23:11

**Education:** Bachelor's Degree, Photography/Art Education – University of Tulsa

**Occupation:** Educator  
United States Army Reserves and National Guard infantryman

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

**(Star Local Media) What is your history of community involvement in the city/area?** - I am an educator, volunteer soccer coach (when my children played soccer), artist, and attempted to educate fellow residents on the visual meaning of the Throckmorton sculpture. Volunteer with 4H.

**Platform/Priorities**

**(Community Impact) If elected, what would be your top priorities?** - The people of McKinney. Open the city and seek to end the fearmongering. Well-paying jobs. Healthy people. Make sure we are prepared for the next drought and other environmental issues with the boom growth of our city. Foster an environment of moral decency. Stop massive apartments sprawl.

**(Community Impact) What are the biggest challenges facing the residents of McKinney? How do you plan to address these issues?** - "Beware of those who seek to take care of you lest your caretakers become your jailers." -Jim Rohn; "We have nothing to fear but fear itself." - FDR; The biggest challenge in life will always be an unforeseen challenge. Issues vary, but the moral character of the public servant is most important. During these challenges moral leadership that respectfully listens and communicates is paramount. The answers are not in a single person, but in the community. We can make McKinney more than bigger we can make it better with fearless servant leaders. I will address any issue with dignity and charity.

**What are some new ideas or programs you would like the city to explore?** - I believe in a small government, yet there are many positive things that can be done. I'd like the city to help small businesses and startups to find grant money. Connect high school and college students with our workforce to make sure we can keep our talent at home. Focus on retaining our talent first rather than bringing in outside talent. See our community and community leaders continue to fund and create amazing community areas such as parks and trails that would elicit a safe, healthy and an active community.



**BRIAN MAGNUSON**

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**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

THIS CANDIDATE CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO THE GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE.

**AT LARGE**

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**CHARLIE PHILLIPS**



**Phone:** -  
**Email:** charlie@charliephilips.com  
**Website:** www.charliephilips.com  
**Facebook:** McKinney Councilman Charlie Philips

**Background:** I am asking that I be allowed to continue to represent the City of McKinney to continue giving back to the city that took me in and allowed my children to have a lifestyle that I never knew and to make McKinney the place where children go off to college but want to return here to raise their families.

**Education:** Bachelor and master’s degree in Architecture – University of Texas Arlington  
 J.D. - St. Mary’s University Law School

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Highlights of civic involvement/accomplishment:**

- McKinney City Councilman At Large, 2016 – present
- Pro bono legal advisor to Community Health Clinic, McKinney, 2014-present
- Pro bono legal advisor to Cornerstone Christian School, McKinney, 2010-present
- Leadership McKinney Class of 2016
- Board of Directors, Community Health Clinic, 2014-2016
- Board of Directors, Hope School McKinney, 2010-present
- Board of Directors, Texoma Emmaus Community, 2011-2015
- Judge and Board of Directors, Collin County Teen Court, 2006-2011
- Kiwanis Club McKinney, 2002-present
- Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Collin County, 1995
- Northwest Texas Legal Services, volunteer pro bono services, 1994-present

**Platform/Priorities**

**(Community Impact) If elected, what would be your top priorities?** - Continue to reduce the tax rate on residents by increasing the commercial tax base by promoting McKinney as the greatest place to live, work and play and attracting the best employers and jobs. We are currently the safest city in Texas over 100,000 and need to continue that trend by supporting our police and fire departments and making it the place to retire and not just work.

**(Community Impact) What are some new ideas or programs you would like the city to explore?** - We are currently working on our development services to make McKinney an easier city to do business with and in. We are planning on connecting our hike and bike trails to make McKinney a walkable/bikeable city. Plans are underway for a much-needed city hall. We are also developing our entertainment and corporate capacity to bring more professional jobs to McKinney.



**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

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