

## City of Texas City

# 2020 Voter Information for Local Office

Last edited 10/13/2020

**Names are in the** order as appearing on the ballot.

All responses came directly from the candidates and are unedited\* by Moore Memorial Public Library. Moore Memorial Public Library does not support or oppose any candidates or parties.

\*slight formatting edits were made

## Candidates for Mayor

### Dedrick Johnson

#### **What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?**

I served 16 years as a Texas City Commissioner of District 3, under 2 different mayors and have assisted with the successful growth of Texas City. I have a Bachelor of Journalism / Public Relations degree from the University of Texas at Austin. I was raised and educated right here in Texas City and know the pulse of our community. My experience as a former educator and current operator in our petrochemical industry has allowed me to forge relationships across different cultural and socioeconomic spectrums. This can only be beneficial to the city when looking for their next leader.

#### **Why do you think the voters should elect you to this position?**

The voters should elect me to this position because I am a good listener who is genuinely concerned about the citizens of our City. I returned to Texas City to start a family and raise my children here because it's a great place to live, work, and play. I have proven competency and concern with actions and not just lip service. I have the most experience of any other candidate or commissioner in this local election. My vision for this city is that of progress, unity, and synergy. I'm Dedrick Johnson and I'd appreciate your vote for mayor! Thank you!

### Phil Roberts

#### **Q1) What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?**

A) I currently serve as mayor pro-tem, so I know how to get the job done! As mayor pro-tem, I serve as acting mayor for Texas City when Mayor Doyle cannot. This means I have learned the ins-and-outs of how Texas City runs, and what it needs to flourish. I am currently on Texas City's Planning Board, the Board of Directors for the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and a member of the

Galveston County Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association. By serving on these boards, I have gained great experience in helping make sure that Texas City's needs are well taken care of.

**Q2) Why do you think the voters should elect you to this position?**

A) I love this city, and I have dedicated my life to serving it. My wife, Paula and I raised our three sons here. I want to make sure that Texas City can give our residents and their families the opportunities it has given me and my family. We need to ensure public safety is our top priority. So, I promise that I will work tirelessly to make sure Texas City is a safe place to live. Texas City must have a strong economy with plenty of job opportunities. That way we can untap the potential of Texas City.

## **Commissioner At-Large**

### **Kevin Yackly**

**What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?**

My experience for office comes from being a small businessmen in Texas City for over 30 plus years. I have always signed the front of paychecks not the back. I have volunteered in every aspect of this community. I always have been a “mover and shaker” in Texas City. During times of trouble in our community I never left or ran out on our community. During storms I cooked and fed police, fire and the National Guard. I always donated many many meals to victims of storms, hurricanes, and fire. I know how to respond and act during times of calamity.

**Why do you think the voters should elect you to this position?**

I have been involved with the community for over 35 years. After I retired from my business I knew I wanted to seek officer in Texas City. Items I stand for: one price for Senior Citizens concerning water. This price will be based on their past usage. The price of water should be frozen at the rate it is now. Next I think the city should be involved in rebuilding our local small businesses. The city should allow our small businesses to use our local TV channel to promote their business. The water bill should include coupons to be used at local businesses. All of the citys bill boards and rolling bill boards should be available to our small businesses. If a small business has been affected by being forced to close, their city property tax rate should be adjusted. Next I think we should abolish the kill shelter in Texas City. We must pass a ordinance that requires the animals brought to them by the TCPD should not be euthanized. We should opt for adoption. Texas City should start planning for a shelter that's humane and has green space and expanded adoption procedures. Sewage in West Texas city needs improvement. Cleaning of ditches and sewers is needed. Fines need to assessed to companies that cut grass and just blow it into the sewer systems. A long term strategy needs to be in place to deal with bad drainage in minorities section of town. The police department and fire department must always be fully funded. Community policing must be a part of discussion. We must assure the public systemic racism does not exist in TCPD.

### **Bruce Clawson – information unavailable**

## **Thelma Bowie**

### **What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?**

My civic engagement uniquely qualifies me for Commissioner-at-Large and includes 3 terms as Commissioner for District 1 (2012 – 2018). Additionally, I've been an active participant on the city's Strategic Planning Committee, Audit Committee, Zoning Commission, Housing Authority, Charter Review Committee, TC-LM Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club - Board of Directors / Lane 2 - Club Service II Chair / Youth in Government plus Scholarship Committees, TCISD Citizens Facility Advisory Committee, TC - Mainland Lions Club, BOD plus 1st Vice President, The Nick Gary Foundation – BOD and Fundraising Chair, Stephen Holmes' Backyard BBQ for Seniors, and Senior Share Christmas Party.

### **Why do you think the voters should elect you to this position?**

Voters should elect Thelma Bowie to the position of Commissioner-at-Large because proven leadership and experience at city hall in 2020 and beyond is a MUST. My experience as a 3 term Commissioner for District 1, member of multiple city boards and commissions, educational credentials, civic and community involvement, and relevant management work experiences prepared me for greater responsibilities. For me personally, there's **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** left on the table (community initiatives). I wish to serve Texas City as we navigate the challenges of managing the new residential and commercial growth along the I-45 corridor while continuing improvements to our established neighborhoods. Visit [www.ThelmaforTexascity.com](http://www.ThelmaforTexascity.com) for Platform, Education, Awards, and Work Experience

## **Abel Garza, Jr.**

### **What training, experience, and background qualify me for this position?**

I possess the experienced leadership. I assist our local businesses to be successful. I listen to concerns, determine solutions, and discuss those solutions with City leadership. Also, I:

- Currently serve as City Commissioner
- Am familiar with issues affecting our City
- Serve on the Galv. Co. Animal Resources Center Advisory Board-2 yrs.
- Serve on the Bayou Golf Course Advisory Board-19 yrs.
- Served on the City's Board of Adjustments Comm.-17 yrs.
- Served on the City's Goals 2000 Planning Comm.
- Served on the City's Vision 2020 Planning Comm.
- Graduated from U of H-Clear Lake with a Bachelor's degree
- Am an Eagle Scout

### **Why do I think the voters should elect me to this position?**

I favor:

- The construction of a public safety facility in the vicinity of the Tanger Mall/Lago Mar subdivision for our police/fire personnel to reduce response time for emergencies
- To maintain rapport with local petrochemical industries to be informed of potentially harmful environmental issues
- To ensure that drainage systems handle excess water to avoid flooding
- To provide affordable upscale housing to attract families to live in our City
- To diversify our economic base by attracting industry like the ammonia facility and the LNG pipeline and storage facility, which will provide good paying jobs during construction and good paying permanent jobs

## **District 1**

### **Earl Alexander**

#### **What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?**

Earl (Ken) Alexander is a direct product of the environment in which he was reared. Living in District - 1 for 34 years, I have been volunteering through the community and county for 30 years. While in college I learned that beyond my regular responsibilities, I also have a civic responsibility, at that point I began volunteering with the election of Precinct 3 Judge Sonny James, from this point on, my love for the community grew as I began walking the streets to get petitions signed, knocking on door to get bonds past for school improvements, working voter registration events and picking up trash for several community clean up events. This earned me several awards including La Marque IDS's Volunteer of the Year, College of the Mainland's Student Role Model of the Year and a, African American Image Award. Not only do I live in the district I serve, I am also employed in the district at College of the Mainland where I have proudly served for 13 years, as a college advisor who also splits his duties inside area high schools, assisting students to further their education to COM or beyond. I am a graduate of College of the Mainland, University of Houston (Main) and Quarter Master Supply School at Fort Lee Virginia.

#### **Why do you think the voters should elect you to this position?**

Quote: "Earl you have been practicing for 30 years, it's now time for you to get off the sideline and into the game." A good leader must first be a good follower. Over the past 15 year I have been mentored by former Commissioners Donald Singleton and Thelma Bowie, to one day succeed one of them. As I watched their commitment to the citizens of Texas City, I one day hoped to demonstrate the same love and compassion to this great city and the people who reside in it. As a college advisor and commissioner, I have a very important dual role to this city. First to help make the youth of our city grow to be productive and successful citizens through education and secondly to make strong decisions as a commissioner that will provide them with employment opportunities and make Texas City the best possible choice for them to raise their families in the future. I have committed myself to 5 terms which is a 10-year commitment to District 1 and the City of Texas City. As a Veteran of the U.S Army-Texas Nation Guard, I am so proud to say that I have served my Country, I have served my State and I will continue to serve my Community as the City Commissioner for District-1.

**Keith Henry**

**What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?**

I have over a decade of public administration experience which includes leadership tenures in fiscal and governmental affairs at all levels of government. Markedly, my roles have included serving as a state liaison of environmental federal grants, managing a \$50 million portfolio, a workforce development manager at the municipal level where I oversaw \$20 million in social service grant funds. At the Federal level I served as a government analyst. Additionally, my academic credentials have augmented my experiences as I have a Bachelor of Arts and Letters, a Master's in Public administration, and am at completion of my Ph.D. in Public Policy.

**Why do you think the voters should elect you to this position?**

I am seeking to become the next Commissioner of Texas Cities District 1 to create opportunities for District 1's youth. As such, I want to ensure the safety of my community as I will work to establish peaceful community-police relationships. Moreover, I am running because of my wife's passion for supporting single mothers. In addition to my children's desire to ensure that our family does all we can to help the least vulnerable among us. I feel that my leadership will catalyze change to ensure palpable policies that will foster equitable opportunities regardless of race, religion, or socioeconomic status.

**District 2**

**Felix Herrera (Unopposed)**

**District 3**

**Dorthea Jones (Unopposed)**

**District 4**

**Jami Clark**

**What training, experience, and background qualify you for this position?**

My name is Jami Clark and I am the city commissioner in District 4 and am running for reelection. I have lived in Texas City my entire life, went to school here, raised our boys here and don't plan on leaving. Texas City is my hometown. I have been in public service for Texas City for 25 years before becoming a commissioner almost 7 years ago. And being a commissioner for the last 3 terms, I know how our city government works. We are moving in the right direction and I want to see us to continue to move that way.

**Why do you think the voters should elect you to this position?**

I have experience in this position and know how things work in our city government. I am always available for my constituents and have always answered and tried to take care of any issues that have been brought to my attention. I am a part of the team that makes Texas City a great city, and even though we still have work to do, my knowledge and experience and willingness to work for our citizens is the main reason why I want to retain my seat on the commission.

**Henry Gomez – information unavailable**