GET OUT THE VOTE!

BAKER RIPLEY’S 2023
VOTER GUIDE

MAY 6 ELECTION DAY

IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION

April 24-May 2: Early Voting
April 25: Last day to apply for mail-in ballot
(received, not postmarked)
May 6: Last day mail-in ballots can be received
(not postmarked)
May 6: Election Day
CITY OF PASADENA

City of Pasadena residents will elect city council members in the election on May 6th.

For more information, please visit www.pasadenatx.gov. Voters may use any Harris County election day or early voting center. To find your personalized sample ballot and voting centers, please visit www.harrisvotes.com.

The candidates for each position were asked two questions.

Question #1:
What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? (250 characters maximum)

Question #2:
What are the two most important issues affecting residents of your council district? What measurable actions will you take to address them? (400 characters maximum)

City Council Positions

Pasadena city council members are elected by district. There are eight council districts, and each district elects a council member for a two-year term. All eight council members serve with the mayor on city council. No council member can serve more than four consecutive terms. The council sets the local tax rates, votes on the local city laws (ordinances), and votes on the budget proposed by the mayor. Council members receive $300 per month in compensation by the city.

Pasadena Council District A

Ruben Villereal (Incumbent)

Qualifications:
No response.

Issues/Actions:
No response.

Keith Nielsen

Qualifications:
I have owned & operated many successful businesses & have a strong finance and real estate background. I continue to work on the quality of life throughout our City as Our Neighborhood Association President & Sarah's House Homeless Shelter Chairman.

Issues/Actions:
High Property Taxes: District A has the most affordable housing in the city, too many families are losing & selling their homes due to high taxes. Adjusting high property valuations so there are no additional revenues.

Quality of Life: Long overdue infrastructure improvement, increasing code enforcement in the district. I will work full-time to ensure District A's residents have a voice.
Pasadena Council District A (continued)

Ignacia Garcia

Qualifications:
I have been fortunate to work in a diverse area of Customer Service and Community Service all my working life. I have been privy to many different aspects of customer service training in a variety of work environments, as well as OSHA training.

Issues/Actions:
I believe for District A, we all agree that first would be our infrastructure (flooding, streets, and sidewalks) is very important to all of us. Secondly, revitalization. Our Historic North Side of Pasadena seems to have been forgotten and many areas are in decay and much in need of repair and revitalization. I know for a fact that there are plans to do updates and repairs to many areas of District A.

Pasadena Council District B

Bianca Valerio (Incumbent)

Qualifications:
No response.

Issues/Actions:
No response.

Bruce Leamon

Qualifications:
No response.

Issues/Actions:
No response.

Pasadena Council District C

Don Harrison (Incumbent)

Qualifications:
No response.

Issues/Actions:
No response.

Richard Serna

Qualifications:
No response.

Issues/Actions:
No response.
Pasadena Council District C (continued)

Emmanuel Guerrero

Qualifications:
No response.

Issues/Actions:
No response.

Pasadena Council District E

Jonathan Estrada (Incumbent)

Qualifications:
I am a product of Pasadena ISD, San Jacinto College, and the University of Houston-Clear Lake. I studied Public Service Leadership and have worked for the City of Houston for nine years. I am a dedicated public servant with experience.

Issues/Actions:
Our most essential issues are infrastructure and public safety. I have experience in infrastructure to identify the areas in my district where it is most needed and to deliver. I will focus on innovative ideas for first-class infrastructure. Public safety is a priority, and we need to work with law enforcement by giving them the tools to keep our communities safe. EstradaForPasadena.com.

Melissa Cruz Reyes

Qualifications:
No Response

Issues/Actions:
No Response

Pasadena Council District G

Salvador Serrano Jr.

Qualifications:
I have the privilege of being a 3rd generation Pasadena citizen. I actively serve on the boards of several nonprofits in Pasadena, and have continuously supported our schools & businesses.

Issues/Actions:
I plan to address the flooding issues in my community first and foremost. I will also work with individual neighborhoods to address these needs. I will continue to listen to constituents in my district and take their calls. I plan to work alongside our local Law Enforcement to ensure that all measures are being taken for the safety of our community.

Ornaldo Ybarra

Qualifications:
Experience and results matter. I served as a City Council Member for almost 12 years. I fully understand the needs facing the city, and my record proves I get things done. I have attended countless municipal and leadership training hours to become a

Issues/Actions:
My top priority is public safety. We must recruit, hire, and retain the best police officers to keep our city safe. We do that by making sure that the City Council is committed to providing our Police Officers with the most competitive salary and benefits. My second priority is public infrastructure. City sidewalks, streets, water, and sewer lines are aging and need attention. When elected, I will
Pasadena Council District G (continued)

Paola Velasco

Qualifications:
I have 15+ years of accounting experience including some forensic accounting, construction accounting and balancing multimillion dollar budgets. I have a keen eye for detail, and I plan to use these skills to help keep a balanced city budget.

Issues/Actions:
I believe Public Safety and City Infrastructure are both of dire importance. I will always support our law enforcement as well as make myself available for our residents to report any ongoing issues. I also want to make sure that our citizens feel safe on the roads and that flooding is not a concern. I commit to being as proactive as possible to avoid these conditions in our district.

Robert Marquez

Qualifications:
My knowledge of municipal, safety, security, emergency management and laws are from my experience covering budgets, planning, zoning, economic development, & strategic plans. As a Marine, my character is to get the job done and to Secure Progress.

Issues/Actions:
Public Safety #1, To hear first responders and see them in our community, not just responding, but as a preventive measure. Infrastructure health #2, Streets & drainage can no longer be deferred but maintained to respond to all crisis events in District G. Our District needs to be in every conversation, plans & projects to support Pasadena as a premier place to live, work & play in Texas.

Pasadena Council District H

Thomas Schoenbein (Incumbent)

Qualifications:
Councilman Thomas Schoenbein grew up in the Pasadena area and graduated from Pasadena High School. Schoenbein earned his Real Estate License from Champions Real Estate School and is currently a Real Estate Agent. He previously was employed at Academy

Issues/Actions:
Infrastructure - I have supported major flood mitigation projects throughout Pasadena. Water and Sewer lines have been a priority over my last 3 terms replacing miles of underground utilities. We have replaced Richey Street and many others. I will continue to focus on replacements or repairs to our aged infrastructure throughout Pasadena not just my district. City Employee Retention and Recruiti

Joe Stepp

Qualifications:
As an Army Green Beret my expertise was rebuilding broken communities in war torn areas for the betterment of their citizens. Today, I am leading Boys State 2023 for PISD & American Legion Post 521.

Issues/Actions:
With a growing Senior Citizen population, our citizens want to know that we are able to maintain and improve our response times of First Responders. They also consider flood control a component of a safe neighborhood. Finally, they're concerned about rising property taxes. I will always vote the lowest tax rate, while maintaining and delivering high quality City services to our citizens.

City of Pasadena, Unopposed Candidates Declared
Elected: Councilmember District D, Pat Van Houte
Councilmember District F, Dolan Dow.
City of South Houston residents will elect a mayor and city council members (known as alderpersons in South Houston) in the election on May 6th.

Voters may use any Harris County election day or early voting center. To find your personalized sample ballot and voting centers, please visit www.harrisvotes.com.

The candidates for each position were asked two questions.

**Question #1:**
What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? (250 characters maximum)

**Question #2:**
What are the two most important issues affecting residents of your city (council district)? What measurable actions will you take to address them? (400 characters maximum)

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**City of South Houston Mayoral Candidates**

The mayor is the chief executive of the city and is elected to a two-year term. The mayor presides over city council meetings, appoints heads of departments, and performs other official functions. The mayor votes as a member of the city council which sets the tax rates, city budget, and city ordinances. The mayor’s salary is $47,700 per year.

**Joe Soto**
(Incumbent)

**Qualifications:**
No response.

**Issues/Actions:**
No response.

**Sophie Saenz**

**Qualifications:**
Sophie Saenz is a proven leader, public educator, and community advocate. Her moral character is that of integrity, reliability, and justice. With a decade of public service in education, she qualifies to be the first Latina Mayor of South Houston.

**Issues/Actions:**
South Houstonians need safe streets and access to emergency relief. Sophia Saenz will invest in pothole repairs, sidewalk installations, proper street lighting, added speed bumps, and strict animal control. To prepare for emergencies, she will create an emergency alert system where residents receive text messages and emails with pertinent information, instructions, and access to relief efforts.
South Houston City Council (Alderperson) Positions
Residents of South Houston vote for all five city council member positions (alderpersons) to serve two-year terms. Council members vote on the tax rates city budget, code and ordinances, and confirm the mayor’s appointees. City council members can add items for consideration to city council meeting agendas. Council members receive $1,060 per month as compensation.

City of South Houston Alderperson Position 1

Mary Castillo (Incumbent)
Qualifications:
No response.
Issues/Actions:
No response.

Fina Govea
Qualifications:
In my role as a PISD Engagement Specialist, I support and provide resources for our community and families. Therefore, I have years of experience connecting with and understanding the needs of our community, making me a highly qualified candidate.

Issues/Actions:
Emergency management. No emergency alert system is offered in South Houston. Residents rely on neighboring municipalities for notifications. An emergency system will be implemented through texting and phone calls. Resources. Resources are also needed. I will provide residents with several services to meet their needs, in addition to food pantries, educational classes, and community programs.

City of South Houston Alderperson Position 2

Willie Rios (Incumbent)
Qualifications:
No response.
Issues/Actions:
No response.

Guadalupe Suquet
Qualifications:
My education and experience in Business Administration, Education, public advocacy and service qualify me for City Council. I am prepared to serve the community by actively working to improve the quality of life of South Houston residents.

Issues/Actions:
One of the most important issues is that the infrastructure of South Houston needs to be updated. I plan to promote improvements on roads, parks, street lighting, sidewalks and communication. We need a government that listens to the concerns and needs of its residents. Immediate changes need to include more community programs for children and seniors. Our community deserves better.
City of South Houston, Alderperson Position 3

Cynthia Pina (Incumbent)

Qualifications:
No response.

Issues/Actions:
No response.

Eddie Torres

Qualifications:
With my previous leadership experience as a South Houston councilman (2011-2015) and serving in the U.S. Army (1999-2002), I have the integrity, transparency, training and qualifications to serve the diverse perspectives and needs of the community.

Issues/Actions:
I grew up attending children programs in the South Houston Community Center, something the city doesn’t offer now. I’d implement children’s programs and provide a safe space for children. As a previous councilman, another issue I noticed is that the city budget needs better management. I would ensure expenses are carefully reviewed and implement both competitive bids and stricter spending limits.

City of South Houston, Alderperson Position 4

Mauro Barrera (Incumbent)

Qualifications:
No response

Issues/Actions:
No response.

Rocio Rubio

Qualifications:
For over 10 years, I’ve helped nonprofits with fundraising, community events, communications collateral and volunteer projects. As a servant leader, I have the necessary skills and passion to help South Houston be a vibrant community-oriented city.

Issues/Actions:
The City of South Houston lacks communication with its residents, especially during emergencies. I’d implement an Emergency Alert system, have an active presence on social media and send a monthly newsletter to ensure residents are informed in a timely manner. Residents also need more resources and programs. I’d host food distributions and educational programs for both children and adults.
City of South Houston, Alderperson Position 5

Louis Martinez  
(Incumbent)

Qualifications:  
No response.

Issues/Actions:  
No response.

Juan Guzmán

Qualifications:  
As a business owner, I have extensive knowledge of budgeting, plumbing, maintenance, and mechanics. I would use my business skills to ensure efficiency within all city departments.

Issues/Actions:  
One main issue is that residents need more heavy trash services. I would like to review the current waste management contract and strategize a plan to provide additional heavy trash picks for residents. Another issue is that South Houston residents need more police visibility. I would increase police presence efficiently throughout the city and prioritize school zones and heavy traffic areas.
The candidates for each position were asked three questions.

Question #1:
What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? (250 characters maximum)

Question #2:
What are the two most important issues affecting Pasadena Independent School District? What measurable actions will you take to address them? (400 characters maximum)

Question #3:
What actions do you support to increase the math and reading proficiency scores across the school district? (350 characters maximum)

Board of Trustees
Residents within PISD elect seven board trustees on alternating odd years to four-year terms. The trustees govern and oversee the management of public schools in the district. The board selects the superintendent, establishes and monitors performance goals, sets the annual budget for the district, and sets district rules. Trustees serve as volunteers and receive no compensation from the district.

**Pasadena ISD, Trustee, Position 5**

**Kenny Fernandez (Incumbent)**

Qualifications:
As a PISD graduate, lifelong resident, parent of PISD students and business owner, I am uniquely qualified to serve our schools as a Board member. We must prioritize the needs of every student, and I will always listen and advocate for ALL students.

Issues/Actions:
Safety is the number one concern facing our schools today. I understand the fears parents face because I have a PISD student, and safety is our top priority. My mother and wife were both PISD teachers, I know the importance of keeping the very best teachers. We have provided teacher raises, stipends, and retention bonuses and I will continue to support increasing teacher compensation.

Proficiency Scores:
Math and reading skills are critical for student success now and in their future. We must provide strong instruction in math and reading, and I am committed to maintaining the stipends we provide to keep, train, and recruit highly qualified teachers. I support the best professional development and mentoring of teachers.

**Larry Savala**

Qualifications:
I was appointed to the Pasadena ISD school board and served in 2014-2015. I learned board procedures and attended school board training along with many school boards from Texas.

Issues/Actions:
The current school board needs leaders who can unite the board for better decision making and should find ways to connect with families in the communities they serve. The school board must have a better plan to retain good teachers. Higher salaries, stipends, and bonuses for their good work.

Proficiency Scores:
Parent engagement is a must. Teachers and parents communicating for better results. There are many answers for this question but my years of experience as a father and a community leader have shown me that collaboration is key.
Pasadena ISD, Trustee, Position 6

Marshall Kendrick  
(Incumbent)

Qualifications:
Being a Board member is not about age, ethnicity, religion or political beliefs, but rather commitment, experience, and integrity. I participate in all required trainings and prioritize serving this district in a way that benefits all students.

Issues/Actions:
School safety is my main focus. We face many safety challenges, including natural, man-made and criminal threats, and I will continue to advocate for keeping our students safe through the commitment of resources. I also understand the importance of advocating for public education against charters and vouchers. I am opposed to vouchers and will press our legislators to support our public schools.

Proficiency Scores:
Focusing on basic skills in the lower grades will help close the achievement gaps in math and reading. I know our district leaders are working hand-in-hand with our teachers to ensure they have the resources in the classroom to address these challenges. I am committed to supporting using district budgeted funds to continue that focus.

Andy Garcia

Qualifications:
I'm a young alumnus of Pasadena ISD who then earned a degree in biomedical engineering from Columbia University. Coming out of Pasadena ISD in the last few years, I know what students today need to succeed, and I'm ready to elevate that perspective.

Issues/Actions:
Staffing and student discipline. My parents are both educators, so I know on a personal level the challenges teachers face every day. To fill positions in PISD, we must offer competitive compensation packages and an enviable culture. For student discipline issues, we must delineate the role of the school in our community and how we can leverage that to include all students and their families.

Proficiency Scores:
I support a cultural shift to build-up district partnerships which allow us to elevate the voice of professionals who look like the community we serve as exemplar advocates for learning through strategic initiatives. Teachers teach; as a districtwide community, is it our duty to excite students and energize parents who can then grow this at home.
Vickie Morgan  
(Incumbent)

Qualifications:
I have 37 yrs. service on this Board. I am an outspoken advocate for our district, all students and employees. My unwavering commitment to success for all makes me best qualified to continue serving in this role.

Issues/Actions:
Safety and emotional well-being of students should be every candidate’s top priority. Our district has implemented countless safety measures, in the best interest of our schools, employees and students served. Additional resources have been provided to enhance response to social-emotional needs of students. We must address state funding and oppose vouchers which could impact students and staff.

Proficiency Scores:
We must continue working in these areas and capitalize on our successes. The board will continue to support math and reading teachers as they work to overcome today’s academic challenges. We will budget necessary funds for critical high need areas such as math and will continue backing efforts to increase achievement in reading and math.

Jeff Snover

Qualifications:
As for training, I have always been in areas of leadership throughout most of my employment history. In the past years as a parent and grandparent those skills have become polished by playing an active role in the lives of our seven grandchildren.

Issues/Actions:
2a. The two most important issues affecting P. I.S.D. are discipline and the lack of administration supporting student referrals from frontline staff.
2b. There is a solution and it comes down to training. Training from an outside specialist where you have all the groups together in the sessions. The training has to be continuous, much like the professional development training.

Proficiency Scores:
Education has to be put back on track of teaching students how to think rather than what to think. The entire education system has to pull away from all the wokeness that is being forced on everyone. If we get back to basics, grades will come up, violence will go down and moral will be restored. We cannot continue to allow the less than one percent...
Irene Tamayo

Qualifications:
Served 10 years in public office as a city council member in South Houston, Texas. I have participated in the South Houston Elementary School PTA, the Morelos Hall Fiestas Patrias, South Houston Friends of the Library, and the Amigos Del Barrio.

Issues/Actions:
Safety for students and teachers is important. Discipline needs to be consistent and appropriate for the offense. There is need for more behavioral interventions at a young age as early as elementary and middle school. Recruitment & retention of teachers: there is need for competitive compensation, job security, and a safe environment to work in.

Proficiency Scores:
Math and reading have to be made fun from an early age. As students advance in school, labs for learning need to be made attractive in the school. Tutoring is a most positive intervention. If increased math and reading proficiency is necessary, more funding needs to be targeted to this end with innovative imagination.
The candidates for each position were asked three questions.

**Question #1:**
What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? (250 characters maximum)

**Question #2:**
What are the two most important issues affecting San Jacinto College? What measurable actions will you take to address them? (400 characters maximum)

**Question #3:**
What actions do you support to ensure quality education, while not increasing cost of attendance? (350 characters maximum)

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**Board of Trustees**
The San Jacinto College Board has seven members who are elected for six-year terms. The board establishes the college’s strategic plan and goals, sets the budget including tuition and fees, appoints the chancellor (chief executive), and works with the chancellor to establish policies and rules of the college. Trustees serve as volunteers and receive no compensation from the college.

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**San Jacinto College District, Trustee Position 1**

**Erica Davis Rouse**
(Incumbent)

**Qualifications:**
No response.

**Issues/Actions:**
No response.

**Cost of Attendance:**
No response.

**Brad Hance**

**Qualifications:**
I have lived in the College district all my life, was a Trustee 2011-2017, graduated SJC in 1968 with honors. I have always been close to SJC and would like to be a Trustee again to continue its success.

**Issues/Actions:**
We need to hire the best teachers in both areas. SJC is ranked in the top 5 Junior Colleges in America. The Marine Academy opened to reach a larger workforce. SJC provides the best trained students for the oil and gas industries.

**Cost of Attendance:**
We must keep track of industry and population growth. The Maritime Academy and Lyondell Center were opened to meet the demand. Maintaining fiscal responsibility at all levels is important. The Trustees overlook all expenditures. Having owned a business, I am experienced in all aspects of income and expenses needed to achieve success.
San Jacinto College District, Trustee, Position 2

Michelle Cantú-Wilson

Qualifications:
10 years higher ed and public ed leadership and teaching experience 20 years in community. Doctorate of higher ed leadership. Master of education supervision & instruction. Trained for board service by Latinos for Education Bilingual & first-generation college student.

Issues/Actions:
Promote university transfer to build community wealth and eliminate generational poverty. Make financial literacy courses available to community/mandatory for students. Create university cohorts of SJC students who transfer together. Provide information on advanced degrees to community. Provide financial aid education to families and in Spanish. Schedule family university visits and provide translators.

Cost of Attendance:
At this critical time, tuition increases are a reality. Other actions: Support SJC flat tuition model. Require FAFSA application for all students in service district. Closely monitor students in San Jac Promise program. Improve contact hours by improving instructional practice. Scale up dual credit program. Scale up SJC energy savings program.

Karen K. Wheeler-Hall

Qualifications:
I worked for La Porte ISD for 31 years. I now own businesses that contract with NASA. I am experienced in education and how to run a business. Some of our employees hold certifications and degrees from SJC so I understand the value of an excellent, affordable education for all students.

Issues/Actions:
#1 - completion of degrees/certifications. Many students start but do not finish. Through scholarship programs, grants and internships we can help students afford to finish and find employment after completion. #2 - high schools frequently do not encourage students to attend a CC. I would encourage SJC to go into schools to assure that students know the value of all that they have to offer.

Cost of Attendance:
Currently SJC has the Promise Endowment, grants and a robust foundation that provides scholarships to students. We should continue these efforts and look for new ones so that many students don’t have to pay or will pay less. We need to continue to look at the budget and find ways to make sure that students are the priority, keeping cost down.
CITY OF DEER PARK

Deer Park residents will elect a mayor and city council representatives in the May 6th election.

The City of Deer Park polling location is located at 710 E San Augustine St. There will be no early voting on April 29-30 for Deer Park residents. Please visit deerparktx.gov for more information.

The candidates for each position were asked two questions.

Question #1: What training, experience, and characteristics qualify you for this position? (250 characters maximum)

Question #2: What are the two most important issues affecting residents of your city or council district? What measurable actions will you take to address them? (400 characters maximum)

Deer Park Mayoral Candidates

The mayor is elected for a two-year term and is a member and presiding officer of the city council. The mayor has the right to veto legislation or other acts of council. The mayor appoints the city manager and city attorney subject to council approval. The mayor receives $275 per month in compensation from the city.

Jerry Mouton (Incumbent)

Qualifications:
No response.

Issues/Actions:
No response.

Larry Cernosek

Qualifications:
Small business owner since 1975. Towing for the Deer Park Police Department since 1980. Supporting the local community organizations and non-profits. Involved in the Texas Legislative process in Austin for over 40 years getting laws passed to protect

Issues/Actions:
Safety of our city and street repairs. As Mayor I will provide the Police, Fire and Ems with the tools they need to do their job to protect and serve the citizens of Deer Park. I will repair the streets in a timely manner!
Deer Park City Council Positions
Residentes of Deer Park vote to elect three of the six council members on alternating years for two-year terms. The council adopts the city budget, sets the tax rates, and votes on local laws (city ordinances). The council appoints the city secretary and department directors upon recommendation of the mayor. Council members receive $175 per month in compensation from the city.

**Deer Park Council Position 1**

Sherry Garrison (Incumbent)
Qualifications: No response.
Issues/Actions: No response.

Tiffany Patenaude
Qualifications: No response.
Issues/Actions: No response.

**Deer Park Council Position 2**

TJ Haight (Incumbent)
Qualifications: No response.
Issues/Actions: No response.

**Deer Park Council Position 3**

Tommy Ginn (Incumbent)
Qualifications: No response.
Issues/Actions: No response.

Information about the offices in this voter guide was taken from the South Houston City Charter, the City of Pasadena Charter, the San Jacinto College Bylaws, the Pasadena Independent School Board Charter, and the City of Deer Park Charter.

BakerRipley is a 501(c)(3) community development organization. Our work includes non-partisan voter education. BakerRipley invited every candidate to participate in this voter's guide for distribution both in print and online. Unopposed candidates are listed as running unopposed. All candidates were provided with parameters for their responses, including character limitations and restrictions on the use of obscenities, egregious personal attacks, or slurs. The responses provided are printed verbatim with minor edits to stay within character limitations. Those who did not respond are identified with the notation “no response.” The views expressed by each candidate are their own. BakerRipley does not endorse any candidate running for election.