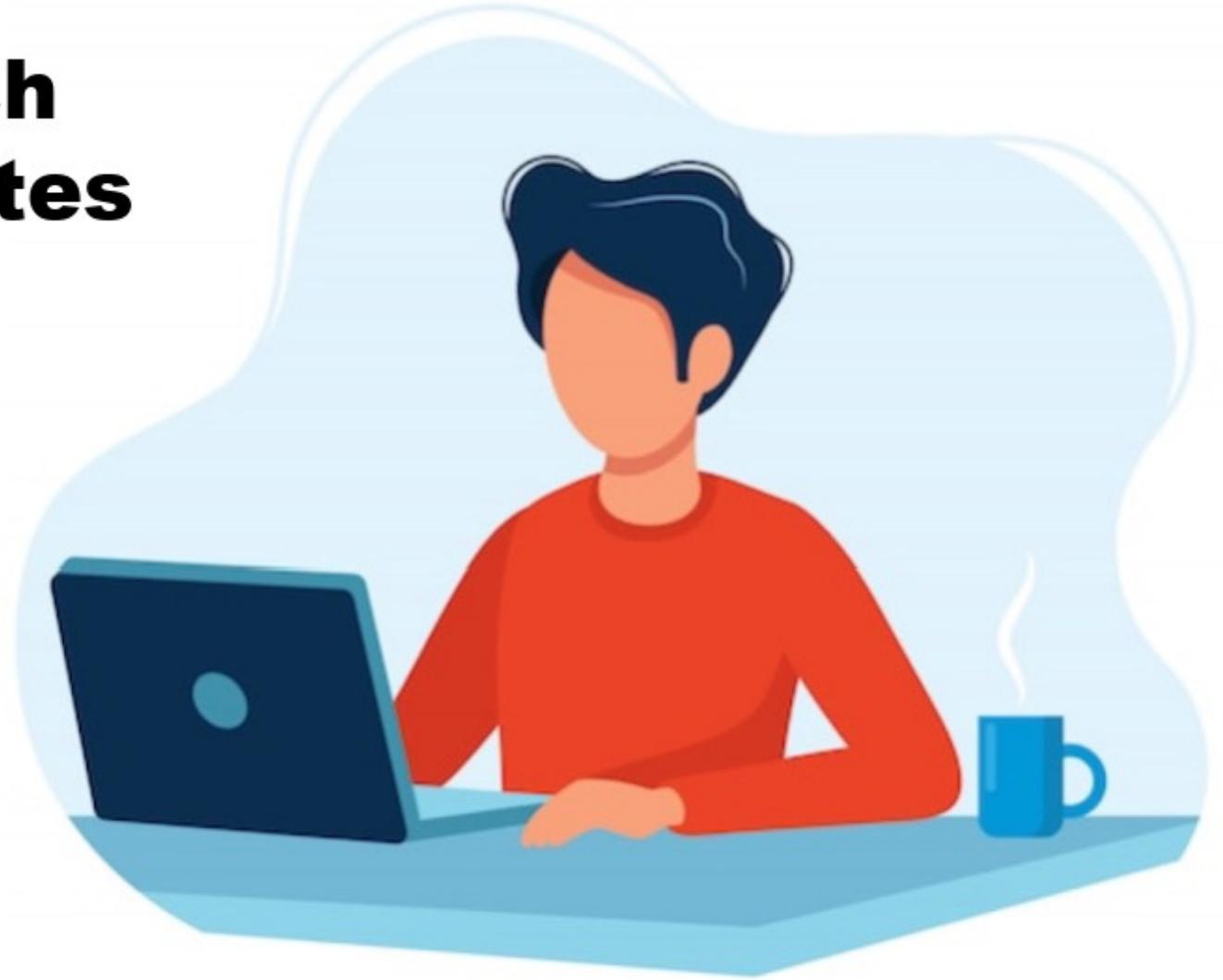


How to research political candidates

Do a deep dive
into reliable sources
on any candidate
from your home
FOR FREE!



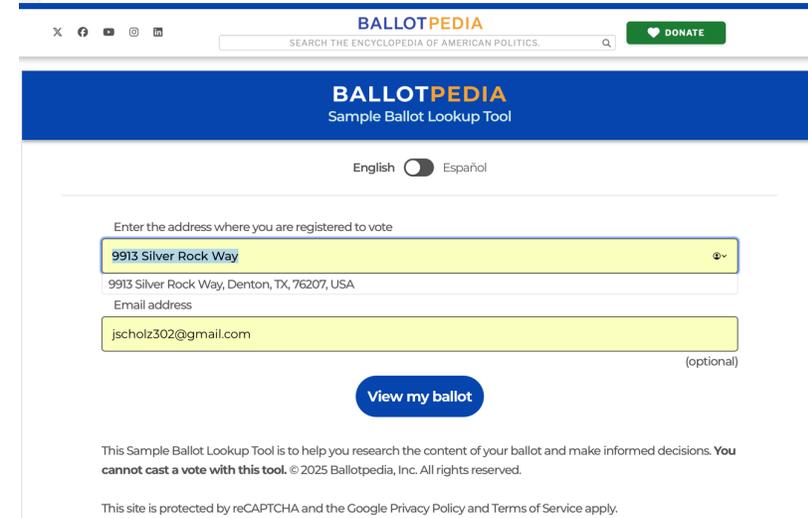
How to research political candidates

- **What/who is on your ballot.**
- **Responsibilities of each political office.**
- **Issues important to you.**
- **Issues important to the candidate.**
- **The candidate's experience.**
- **Your information sources.**



What's on the ballot in next election

- When is the next election? -- Ballotpedia.org
 - Search for Sample Ballot Lookup Tool
 - Enter the address where you are registered to vote, hit View my ballot.
 - It will show you the date and subject (election, ballot questions) of the next election in your area.



The screenshot shows the Ballotpedia website's 'Sample Ballot Lookup Tool'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Ballotpedia logo, a search bar, and a 'DONATE' button. Below this is a blue header with the text 'BALLOTPEDIA Sample Ballot Lookup Tool'. A language selector shows 'English' selected and 'Español' as an option. The main form area has a label 'Enter the address where you are registered to vote'. There are three input fields: the first contains '9913 Silver Rock Way' with a dropdown arrow; the second contains '9913 Silver Rock Way, Denton, TX, 76207, USA'; the third is labeled 'Email address' and contains 'jscholz302@gmail.com' with '(optional)' to its right. A blue 'View my ballot' button is centered below the form. At the bottom, there is a disclaimer: 'This Sample Ballot Lookup Tool is to help you research the content of your ballot and make informed decisions. You cannot cast a vote with this tool. © 2025 Ballotpedia, Inc. All rights reserved.' and a note: 'This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply.'

Responsibilities of the political offices on the ballot



[Media](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact](#) | [Website Survey](#) | [En Español](#)

[About SOS](#) | [Elections & Voting](#) | [Business Services](#) | [Notary & Apostilles](#) | [Rules & Meetings](#) | [International Relations](#) | [Forms & Other Services](#)

Qualifications for All Public Offices

Candidate's Guide Quick Links

[2024 Candidate's Guide Home](#)
[2022 Candidate's Guide Home](#)

Public Office Sought	U.S. Citizen	Texas Resident	District Resident	Registered to Vote in Area of Office Sought	Minimum Age	Practicing Lawyer or Judge	Source Law	Term of Office
President	Yes; Natural Born	-	-	not req'd	35	-	US Const. Art. II, § 1	4 yrs.
United States Senator	9 yrs. ^k	Yes ^a	not req'd	not req'd	30 ^k	-	US Const. Art. I, § 3	6 yrs.
United States Representative	7 yrs. ^k	Yes ^a	not req'd	not req'd	25 ^k	-	US Const. Art. I, § 2	2 yrs.
Governor	Yes	5 yrs.	-	not req'd	30 ^b	-	TX Const. Art. IV, § 4	4 yrs.

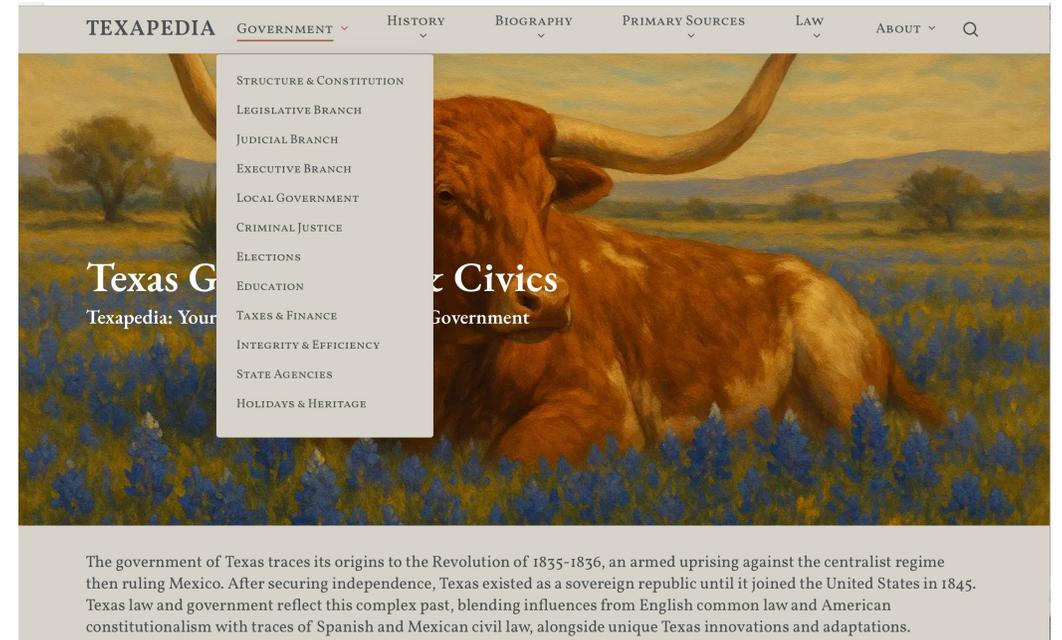


- Federal offices: search “duties of..” each office in Ballotpedia.
- Texas state offices: Go to the Texas Secretary of State’s website at sos.state.tx.us, select Candidates
- Select the most recent Candidates Guide for Federal, State, District or County offices.
- Look at qualifications to run for each office, important dates for candidates running for office, Information about political parties, etc.

Responsibilities of the political offices on the ballot

For duties of Texas state, county, municipal officials, go to Texapedia at [texapedia.info](https://www.texapedia.info)

In the main menu, under government, go to the type of state or county office you want to understand, such as legislative branch, judicial branch, local government.



The screenshot shows the Texapedia website interface. The top navigation bar includes the following items: TEXAPEDIA, GOVERNMENT (with a dropdown arrow), HISTORY (with a dropdown arrow), BIOGRAPHY (with a dropdown arrow), PRIMARY SOURCES (with a dropdown arrow), LAW (with a dropdown arrow), and ABOUT (with a dropdown arrow). A search icon is located on the far right. The main content area features a large background image of a brown longhorn cow in a field of bluebonnets. Overlaid on this image is a white dropdown menu under the 'GOVERNMENT' tab, listing the following categories: STRUCTURE & CONSTITUTION, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, JUDICIAL BRANCH, EXECUTIVE BRANCH, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, ELECTIONS, EDUCATION, TAXES & FINANCE, INTEGRITY & EFFICIENCY, STATE AGENCIES, and HOLIDAYS & HERITAGE. Below the main image, there is a text block that reads: 'The government of Texas traces its origins to the Revolution of 1835-1836, an armed uprising against the centralist regime then ruling Mexico. After securing independence, Texas existed as a sovereign republic until it joined the United States in 1845. Texas law and government reflect this complex past, blending influences from English common law and American constitutionalism with traces of Spanish and Mexican civil law, alongside unique Texas innovations and adaptations.'

Issues important to you for each office



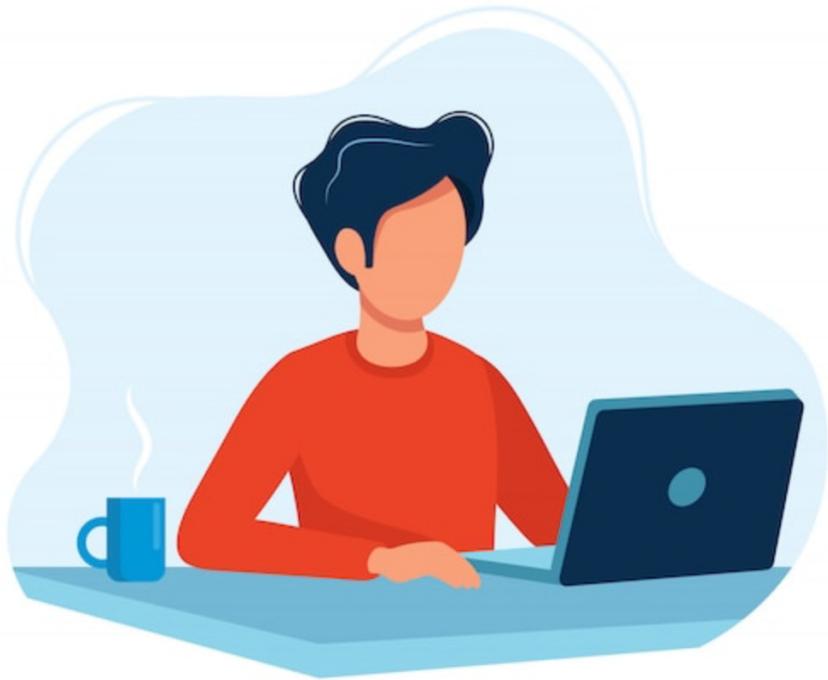
- Once you understand the duties of the offices that will be on your ballot, make a short list of issues that each is responsible for that are **most important to you**.
- For the president of the US, issues might include federal income tax, the federal budget, Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid, foreign relations, national defense.
- For US Senators and/or members of the US House of Representatives they might be the same.

Issues important to you for each office

- For TX state officials, issues might include sales and property taxes, education funding, Medicaid, women's health, voting rules, utility cost and regulation.
- For city or county officials, your important issues might include property taxes, streets and roads, zoning laws, direct services you receive from the city or county, voting rules (county).
- For school board members, your issues might include property taxes, the quality or location of the local public schools in your area.



Issues important to each candidate, each candidate's experience



Find out what each candidate says he/she wants to do and their background.

- Google each candidate to find their website, Wikipedia page.
- Search for a Facebook page.
- Look them up on X, BlueSky or other social media site.
- Use free media: Texas Tribune, KERA.com

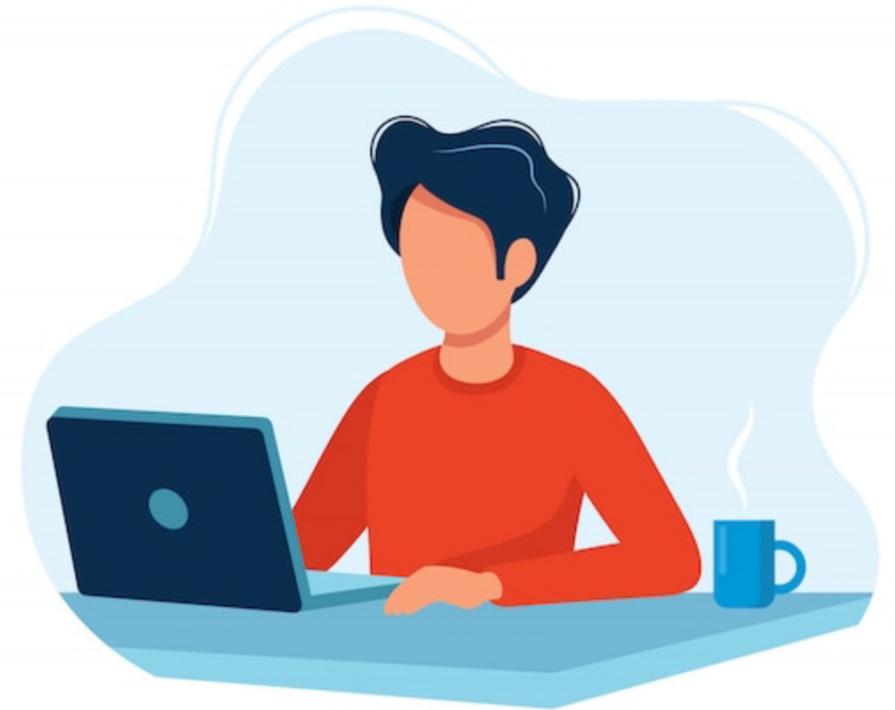
Issues important to each candidate, each candidate's experience

Use the library to search high quality subscription news/archive sites.

- For the Denton Public Library, get a library card, then go to the library website

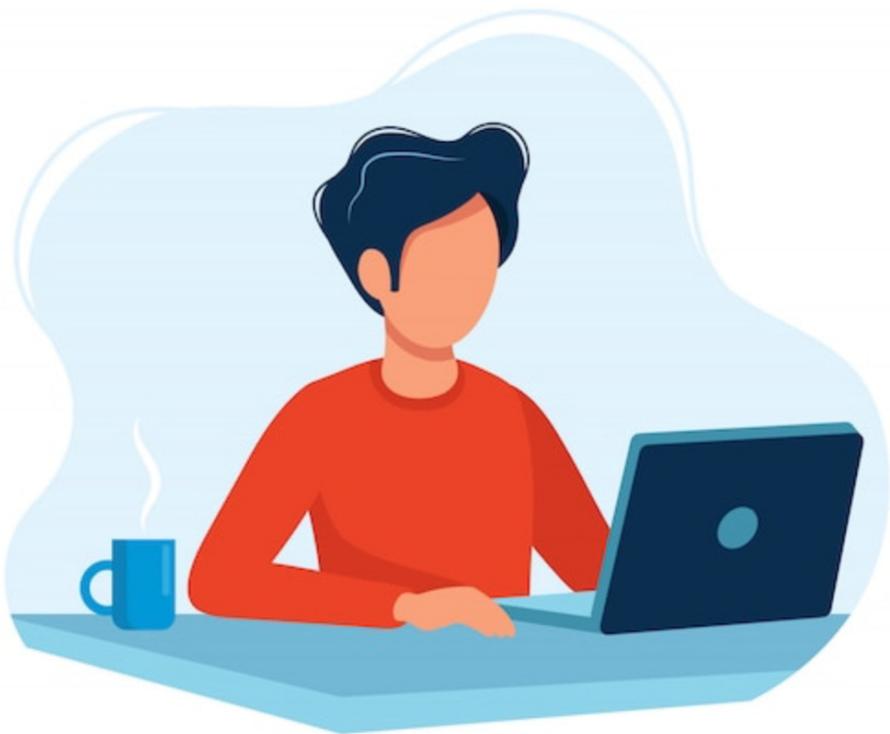
<https://library.cityofdenton.com/>

- Use your library barcode number as your username. Go to Online Library, select Research Tools, select News. Or from Online Library, select News and Magazines.
- This gives you free access to a wide range of reliable publications curated by the library. You may need to log in to some of these sources individually. Call the library if you need help.



Issues important to each candidate

Each candidate's experience



Best subscription sources for recent background on Texas candidates:

- Dallas Morning News
- Austin American Statesman
- Houston Chronicle
- Fort Worth Star Telegram

Denton County only: Denton Record-Chronicle
Wise County only: Wise County Messenger

Issues important to each candidate

Each candidate's experience

If a candidate has not addressed one or more of your important issues, **call, email or go a rally or Town Hall and ask.**

After all, they are asking you for something valuable: your vote!

If they don't respond, **they're probably not the candidate you should support.**



And most important...



**After you do your research,
don't forget to vote!!!!**

- **Party Primaries: Feb 17-27, March 3**
- **City, School Board: April 20-28, May 2**
- **General Election: Oct 19-30, Nov 3**