

2022 Nonpartisan Voter Guide  
Parmer County Primary Election  
for  
Contested positions  
of County Judge, Justice of the  
Peace Precinct 1, and County  
Commissioner Precinct 2 & 4

Disclaimer

This guide does not support or oppose any political candidate or party. It may be distributed and used **only** for educational purposes and is not to be used to endorse any candidate.

<b>County Judge</b>	<b>Izzy Carrasco</b>	<b>Randy Geris</b>
<b><i>Why are you running for County Judge?</i></b>	No response	Since my first step into law enforcement over 39 years ago, I recognized within me a pride and desire to serve my community that would be lifelong. At this point in my career, my knowledge of the intricate workings of our county government gives me confidence in this opportunity to be a part of what’s best for Parmer County. Being elected to County Judge would be an honor to add in my long line of service to the county, bringing together a history of protecting our citizens and promoting our success. Our county continues to evolve, adapt, and face challenges. I’m here to attack them head-on.
<b><i>What do you think are the primary responsibilities of the County Judge?</i></b>	No response	The County Judge position involves carrying out judicial and administrative duties. Judicial duties include handling misdemeanor criminal offenses, appeals from Justice of the Peace courts, probates, juvenile offenses, and small civil cases. Administrative duties include presiding over the commissioners’ court and working alongside the commissioners conducting the county’s business. The County Judge manages, prepares, and develops the county budget with the commissioners. The County Judge works with the commissioners in setting the county’s tax rate. I believe the County Judge should help promote the county and work hand in hand with the other county officials and city officials toward common goals. The County Judge directs emergency management activities.

**County Judge (cont.)**

**Izzy Carrasco**

**Randy Geris**

<p><b><i>What training and experience do you have that qualifies you for County Judge?</i></b></p>	<p>No response</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture Business and Economics.</li> <li>- 39 years of experience in law enforcement including 5 years as Chief of Police in Friona and 21 years as Sheriff of Parmer County.</li> <li>- 26 years of personnel management, 21 years managing the Parmer County Sheriff’s Office/Jail and the largest portion of the county’s budget of 1.6 million dollars.</li> <li>- Worked to help design, build, and operate our county jail and bring thousands of dollars in annual revenue from housing inmates.</li> <li>- Served on Panhandle Emergency Management and 911 committees. Developed contracts and proposals for services for the county.</li> <li>- Active role in many areas of our local courts.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>What are changes that need to be made in our judicial system?</i></b></p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>We need to work harder to move our cases through the system faster; either to trial or disposition. I believe we need to continue to support effective indigent defense but get assistance from the state government in funding these expenses and not fund them from county taxpayers. We also need to always develop more options or enhancements for pre-prosecution services when applicable.</p>
<p><b><i>How do you define justice?</i></b></p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>Equal and fair treatment under the law.</p>
<p><b><i>Have you read the Constitution?</i></b></p>	<p>No response</p>	<p>Yes</p>

**County Judge (cont.)**

**Izzy Carrasco**

**Randy Geries**

**What is your slogan, and why did you choose it?**

No response

"Experience and trusted leadership"

Having experience being involved in Parmer County government and within the judicial system gives me the exact qualifications and element of trust for voters looking to choose the right County Judge this year. The honor of being elected six times and serving for 21 years as Sheriff of Parmer County demonstrates the trust of the voters in my service and leadership of our County Law Enforcement. Trust in leadership was also conveyed by the Sheriff's Association of Texas in selecting me to serve on their board of directors.

***An important part of a county judge's role is budgeting. What are your fiscal goals and strategy?***

No response

I plan to work within a balanced budget which has realistic, attainable goals. I want to keep our taxes low and reduce them if possible. I care about the citizens of this county and want to enhance life in Parmer County by committing to viable goals. A big part of this is staying on top of the many unfunded mandates handed down by the state in advance and looking for alternative means such as grants to fund them. I plan to re-evaluate county services as a means of cutting costs where feasible. I will work towards eliminating the county's portion of our vehicle property taxes and encourage the other taxing entities in the county to do the same.

***County Judge (cont.)***

**Izzy Carrasco**

**Randy Geris**

***What would you like the voters to know?***

No response

I have considerable experience in the judicial system, law enforcement, emergency management and have successfully managed the largest portion of our county's budget for the last 20 years. I've formed professional and respected relationships with county and city leaders, prosecutors, and judges. I've worked directly with three county judges, two county attorneys and several commissioners, learning from them all. This county is my home where I was born and raised, worked on the family farm, raised my children, and graduated school. Being the Parmer County Sheriff, humbly elected to six terms, has prepared me with the knowledge, experience, and skills to be successful as your judge. Our county is important to me, and I would be honored to continue my service to the Parmer County citizens.

**Justice of the Peace  
Precinct 1**

**Joe Lafuente**

**Rhonda Wilkins**

***Why are you running for the  
Justice of the Peace?***

I am running for Justice of the Peace because I am committed to and believe in Public Service. I have a strong knowledge of Personnel relations as well as over 35 years' experience of successful communication skills, engaging with people from different backgrounds, cultures, socioeconomic status and experiences. I have provided service to the public and country in one manner or another throughout my adult life and believe strongly in giving back to my community.

I have been very involved in serving this community both through my employment and volunteer activities. I believe the Justice of the Peace roll will be an opportunity to continue my dedicated service for this community

***What do you think are the  
primary responsibilities of the  
Justice of the Peace?***

Justice of the Peace (JP) Courts are the most accessible judicial settings for the average citizen. The JP's hear misdemeanor cases punishable only by fine, as well as most civil disputes involving claims of \$10,000.00 or less. They perform magistrate functions, conduct inquests and hears Truancy cases. JP's may issue warrants for search and arrest, conduct preliminary hearings, administer oaths, perform marriages, and serve as coroners in counties without a medical examiner. They may also oversee mortgage foreclosures, enforce liens on personal property and resolve landlord-tenant disputes.

The Justice of the Peace is the presiding officer of the justice court and the small claims court (up to \$20,000). The JP has jurisdiction over minor misdemeanor offences and a variety of civil processes, as well as arrest and search warrants. The JP also presides over hearings pertaining to drivers license suspension, traffic offenses and conducts other hearings and inquests.

**Justice of the Peace  
Precinct 1 (cont)**

**Joe Lafuente**

**Rhonda Wilkins**

***What training and experience do you have that qualifies you for Justice of the Peace?***

Graduate of various Navy and NSA Cryptology and Intelligence Analyst schools. DoD Civil Service certification in: Labor Relations for Practitioners, Employee-Management Relations, Fundamentals of Suitability and Fitness Adjudicator, Special Emphasis Program Manager, Basics of HR Law. As a DoD Civil Servant, I served as Labor Relations Officer and Employee Relations Officer. I provided technical guidance to Management, interpreting laws, regulations, rules, and local policies. I assisted the Court Litigators in preparing and presenting cases for management during third party proceedings such as disciplinary actions, arbitrations, mediations and disputes.

Thirty- seven years of management experience has provided me with a comprehensive employment background. I have extensive experience with regulatory compliance and development of policies to comply with the legal requirements in many different areas. Eight years of employment in a law office and serving on the Parmer/Bailey County Juvenile Probation Board provided me with exposure to the legal system. I am a self disciplined leader with strong interpersonal skills which are necessary in the judicial role for which I am seeking election.

***What are changes that need to be made to our judicial system?***

We must develop and apply court and judicial performance standards that measure and encourage fairness, good judicial management and overall efficiency. But first, we need to recognize that there is a need for change. It is up to us, the voters; to vote in a justice system that offers a just, speedy, and inexpensive resolution to all cases. It's not just admitting that change is needed, but more importantly to provide solid and meaningful solutions on how to make and embrace these changes.

All individuals need to be treated equally in every aspect of life, including the judicial system.

**Justice of the Peace  
Precinct 1 (cont)**

**Joe Lafuente**

**Rhonda Wilkins**

<b>How do you define justice?</b>	Just behavior and treatment for all citizens.	Justice is fairness in the way people are treated.
<b>Have you read the Constitution?</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>What is your slogan, and why did you choose it?</b>	My Slogan is, "Of the Community, With the Community, For the Community". I am of the community, having been raised in Friona and am a product of the Friona ISD and this community. I have worked with the community, having worked in local jobs during High School and upon military retirement. As a father of two FHS graduates, my wife and I were active in all activities of our two daughters and supported all educational and youth programs. The successful education and upbringing this community provided me, and my children has prompted me to run for JP and be a leader and servant for the community.	Continued Service. I chose this because it is my ultimate career and life goal.
<b>What would you like the voters to know?</b>	Everyone who works for the County serves this community and therefore should hold themselves to a higher standard. As Justice of the Peace, I will honor my oath to uphold the United States Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas. In doing so, I will preside, as with all the laws of this state, in a fair, reasonable, and consistent manner.	I am fair, honest and hardworking.



**County Commissioner  
Precinct 2**

**Gene Schueler**

**Charles Wilkins**

***Why are you running for  
County Commissioner?***

I'm certainly not a politician but felt that it was time to get involved at the local government level. The current Precinct #2 Commissioner has done a good job and served the county well but I also believe that as a citizen of Parmer County we deserve a choice when voting for county leadership positions. I have no agenda but would like to be a part of bringing every town and community within our county closer together.

I want to keep the county taxes as low as possible without sacrificing any of the current, critical services of the county such as funding fire departments and EMS, providing county road maintenance, an efficient sheriff's department and continue to ensure that all parts of the county are represented.

***What training and experience  
do you have that qualifies you  
for County Commissioner?***

I farmed full time for 25 years and while doing this served on numerous boards within the county. The last 24 years I have worked at Hi-Pro Feeds and the last 15 years as Customer Service Manager, in serving within this position I have developed what I believe to be good public relations. I believe these past and current experiences will help in serving the county as a Commissioner.

I have been the Commissioner for Precinct 2 for 3 years. During that time, I have attended numerous training seminars for commissioners. I am knowledgeable about all areas of the county thru years of business dealings at my pump repair company, farming, baling hay, and grazing cattle. Additionally, as a city of Bovina Councilman for 6 years and a Bovina Chamber of Commerce board member for multiple years, I am aware of the needs and strengths of Bovina and the surrounding area. My previous years as a volunteer fireman and EMT in Bovina are beneficial when reviewing their equipment and financial needs.

**County Commissioner  
Precinct 2 (cont.)**

**Gene Schueler**

**Charles Wilkins**

***What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?***

In running a business and serving on numerous cooperative and Church boards I believe that I am as qualified as anyone in preparing and overseeing a budget.

I have been extensively involved with the county budget since taking office and intentionally attended training seminars related to county budgets. During my 6 years as a city of Bovina Councilman, budget planning and execution of the budget was a major one of my responsibilities. More than 30 years of running my own business, farming and ranching shows additional experience with budget preparation.

***County taxes are***

too high.

about right.

***What part of county government would receive more attention if you were elected?***

The only part of the Commissioner's position (county government) that I'm knowledgeable in at this time would be the county roads. Precinct #2 has I believe 3 road maintainers at a cost of somewhere in the \$250,000 - \$300,000 dollar price range and most of our county roads are in poor condition. I am aware that the county roads are a very small part of a commissioners job when it comes to county government but, the county has a lot invested in equipment that I would hope could be managed better than it has been managed by the last 3 commissioners.

Ongoing management of county tax monies and continuing the task of improving our county roads.

**County Commissioner  
Precinct 2 (cont.)**

**Gene Schueler**

**Charles Wilkins**

***If new resources were available, what area of the county services do you feel needs additional resources?***

I'm sure that there are many area's that need additional resources but would certainly look at our schools, fire departments, county extension programs and continued building updates, along with maintenance of those buildings.

Helping to improve volunteer services for the county such as EMS and fire departments. I am actively pursuing funding for a new fire engine for the Rhea fire department and new equipment for the Bovina ambulance.

***Your precinct is a quarter of Parmer County. How will you work with the other commissioners to develop or further Parmer County as a whole?***

I would like to see a combined effort of all 4 precincts and all towns and communities within these precincts coming together in helping build a stronger Parmer County.

The current Commissioners work very well together. Major issues are negotiated and decisions which best benefit our county are the result.

**County Commissioner  
Precinct 4**

**John O'Brian**

**Casey Russell**

<p><b>Why are you running for County Commissioner?</b></p>	<p>I'm running for county commissioner to lower property taxes, provide better oversight in regards to Parmer county appraisal district, and to provide a higher grade of leadership to the commissioners court. I am also running to make sure the precinct 4 county commissioners race is not run unopposed as has happened in the past.</p>	<p>I have always loved serving and working with the folks in our community and Parmer County. I have enjoyed being involved and watching county government in action the last 3 years. I am excited to keep learning and working for Parmer County.</p>
<p><b>What training and experience do you have that qualifies you for County Commissioner?</b></p>	<p>Like many citizens I meet the requirements provided by Texas State Law to run for county commissioner. I am a problem solver, and I finish what I set out to do.</p>	<p>I have been a commissioner for the past 3 years and go to different trainings 2 to 4 times a year. I also feel like I have a good relationship with the folks in our communities in Parmer County. I also love helping and being of service to the people of Parmer County. I have owned a business in the county and served the public most of my life.</p>
<p><b>What is your experience with preparing or authorizing budgets?</b></p>	<p>I monitor and adjust budgets on a regular basis as a farmer dealing with highly varying input costs and revenue streams. I can squeeze a budget with the best of them. I am bothered that government, no matter what level (local, state, federal), never seems to have to make due with less; while insisting we give more and more. To what end?</p>	<p>I have owned and operated a custom spraying business since I graduated high school. My wife and I have always been farmers at heart. In 22 years of farming, we have grown our farm from a couple hundred acres to a little over 2500 acres. I have also served on several boards over the years.</p>
<p><b>County taxes are</b></p>	<p>too high.</p>	<p>about right.</p>

**County Commissioner  
Precinct 4 (cont)**

**John O'Brian**

**Casey Russell**

***What part of county government would receive more attention if you were elected?***

The budgeting process will receive the highest degree of attention necessary. I will NOT vote in support of any budget increases, any tax increases, any budget that is not at least 5% below the 2022 budget, any tax rate that is not at least 5% below the no-new-revenue rate for 2022. I will personally assess every inch of county road in precinct 4 with an open ear to those who drive them daily. After decades of ill repair, it will take time to get the roads in good shape but it can be done. I do not think citizens should have to pay for service NOT received.

I feel like all the elected officials in the county are doing a great job. I do feel that we should always take careful consideration in the county's budget, and electing a tax rate.

***If new resources were available, what area of the county services do you feel needs additional resources?***

Additional resources should service county debt, or be refunded to taxpayers.

The first responders in the county could always use help in keeping equipment functioning and up to date. Keeping the roads and highways in the county safe.

Government spends too much money, period. It should be limited in its' ability to spend as much as is possible and then a little more.

***Your precinct is a quarter of Parmer County. How will you work with the other commissioners to develop or further Parmer County as a whole?***

I will respectfully work with my fellow commissioners and county judge to complete the work required by us under state law.

Since I am running for re-election, I hope we commissioners have proven we all work together for the good of the county. We already have a good working relationship and try for a positive outcome in all the challenges that have and will come our way.

In my opinion this county government has been driving us in the wrong direction. I aim to pump the brakes and reverse course.

Unity in the wrong direction is not to be celebrated. I stand in direct opposition to that kind of unity which is currently displayed by the commissioners court with their unanimous support for higher taxes and more wasteful spending.