

The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Affairs Committee presents
2026 Municipal & School Board Elections
Voters Guide



Early Voting begins Monday, April 20, 2026

DALLAS COUNTY EARLY VOTING DAYS/TIMES

April 20 — 8 am—5 pm

***April 21 — No Voting / State Holiday**

April 22—24 — 8 am—5 pm

April 25 — 7 am—7 pm

April 26 — 12 Noon — 6 pm

April 27 & 28 — 7 am — 7 pm

TARRANT COUNTY EARLY VOTING DAYS/TIMES

April 20 — 8 am—5 pm

***April 21 — No Voting / State Holiday**

April 22—24 — 8 am—5 pm

April 25 — 7 am—7 pm

April 26 — 10 am — 4 pm

April 27 & 28 — 7 am — 7 pm

ELLIS COUNTY EARLY VOTING DAYS/TIMES

April 20 — 8 am—5 pm

***April 21 — No Voting / State Holiday**

April 22—24 — 8 am—5 pm

April 25 — 8 am—4 pm

April 27 & 28— 7 am—7 pm

Election Day is Saturday, May 2, 2026

Early Voting

In Grand Prairie, early voting by personal appearance for Dallas, Tarrant, and Ellis County voters will be conducted at the following locations:

Dallas County Voters -

Betty Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Road (Empower Room)

The Summit, 2975 Esplanade Drive, (Ballroom 1)

Crosswinds High School, 1100 N. Carrier Pkwy, (Room 104)

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church-GP, 4729 S Carrier Pkwy, Fellowship Hall NE Wing

Tarrant County Voters -

Tarrant County Elections Center, 2700 Premier St.

Anna May Daulton Elementary, 2607 N Grand Peninsula Drive

Asia Times Square, 2625 W. Pioneer Parkway (Hong Kong Bldg. Rm116)

Ellis County Voters -

Midlothian Conference Ctr (Lobby) 1 Community Circle Dr. Midlothian 76065

We invited our candidates to provide a brief biography and to address a few issues. We have shared their responses on the following pages. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce did not edit for spelling, grammar or content.

PLEASE NOTE: The Voter's Guide will have the candidates for Grand Prairie City Council first, followed by the candidates for Grand Prairie Independent School District Board of Trustees

City of Grand Prairie Place 7 At Large Ballot Position 1: Bessye Adams (I)



Bessye Adams was elected to City Council in 2023. Mayor Ron Jensen appointed her to the following committees:

- Finance and Governance
- Public Safety, Health, & Environment
- Housing Finance Corporation
- TIF Boards 1 & 3
- Hotel Development Corporation – Presiding Chair

On a national level, Bessye is a member of the National League of Cities (NLC), where she is an active member and was appointed to the:

- Youth, Education, and Families Council
- Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee
- First Tier Suburbs

She is also a member of Women in Municipal Government (WIMG) and National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO). Professionally, Adams has held significant financial leadership positions, currently serving as the Financial Controller and Interim Chief Financial Officer for a local school district. Beyond her public service and financial career, Adams is an accomplished entrepreneur... owning and operating three businesses. She is one of seven founders and former President of Sisters of Sarai, a nonprofit civic organization that focused on community uplift and providing thousands of dollars in scholarship awards annually. She has served on the Grand Prairie Zoning Board of Adjustments, as a GOTV strategist, and grassroots presidential campaign organizer. She is the wife of a US Air Force veteran, mother of three GPISD graduates, which are Special Education Liaison, Biology Teacher, and Police Officer and has one granddaughter who is the love of her life.

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this city council seat, and explain your reasons for running? How would you be an asset to the business community?

I currently serve on the Grand Prairie City Council, where I'm responsible for adopting an annual budget, approving economic development projects and strategies, and infrastructure investments during a critical period of growth. My experience is grounded in execution—working through real budgets, development agreements, and policy decisions with a focus on measurable outcomes and fiscal discipline. During my tenure, I have supported a balanced city budget of approximately \$527,165,440, while maintaining a competitive tax rate of \$0.660000/100. I have currently approved a major project that will generate millions in additional tax revenue as a commercial investment and will produce over 900 new jobs. I am running for re-election to ensure Grand Prairie remains competitive with surrounding cities like Mansfield, Arlington and Irving. Growth without discipline creates long-term strain, and I bring the focus needed to manage both. I have been an asset to the business community by supporting accountable development around key assets like Epic Central and Lake Parks, driving tourism, sales tax growth, and business attraction. I also support workforce alignment through partnerships with Grand Prairie Independent School District to ensure employers have access to skilled talent. Re-electing me ensures disciplined growth, stronger infrastructure, and continued economic momentum.

2. What are the priority issues facing the City of Grand Prairie, and how would you address them if elected?

Grand Prairie's greatest challenge is not growth—it's managing growth with discipline. If re-elected, my priorities will be infrastructure alignment, housing balance, economic competitiveness, and workforce readiness. **Infrastructure:** Growth is putting pressure on roads, utilities, and services. I will continue prioritizing capital improvement projects tied directly to development and require infrastructure readiness before large-scale approvals. **Housing:** We need diverse housing options without compromising neighborhood stability. I will support responsible zoning and quality standards that protect property values and prevent overconcentration of low-quality development. **Economic Competitiveness:** We are competing with cities with many North Texas cities. I will continue supporting high-return projects, streamlining processes, and ensuring incentives are tied to measurable outcomes such as job creation and tax base growth. **Strategic Assets:** Areas like Epic Central, Lake Parks, and our

(Continued) Bessye Adams

southernmost corridor are key drivers of tourism, economic activity, and overall growth. I will continue leveraging these assets to attract investment and increase sales tax revenue. **Workforce:** Through alignment with Grand Prairie Independent School District and partners, I will support a skilled local workforce that meets employer needs. If re-elected, my focus remains clear: disciplined growth, accountable development, and measurable results that strengthen Grand Prairie's long-term position.

3. As you consider the infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it? The number one infrastructure issue facing Grand Prairie is keeping transportation and utility capacity aligned with rapid growth. Development is occurring faster than our roads, drainage systems, and utilities were originally designed to handle, creating congestion, service strain, and long-term cost risks if not addressed strategically. If re-elected, I will continue prioritizing data-driven capital improvement planning to ensure infrastructure investments are proactive—not reactive. This includes advancing projects within our Capital Improvement Plan with a focus on high-growth corridors and areas experiencing the greatest strain. I will also push for stronger development of accountability, requiring that new projects contribute appropriately to infrastructure needs through impact fees and clearly defined requirements before approval. Growth should help pay for growth—not shift the burden onto existing residents. In addition, I will support improved traffic flow and mobility solutions, including targeted roadway expansions, signal optimization, and long-term planning that reduces congestion and improves connectivity across the city. If re-elected, my focus is clear: build infrastructure that matches our growth, protects taxpayers, and supports long-term economic stability.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the City's financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it? From a business perspective, the City's financial position is stable, but it requires continued discipline to remain competitive. Grand Prairie has maintained a balanced budget and a diversified revenue base, with strong contributions from sales tax driven by destinations like Top Golf, Andretti's, Bass Pro, and soon to be BJs Warehouse. That said, rising infrastructure demands and service costs will put increasing pressure on future budgets. In addition, I will continue supporting conservative budgeting practices—aligning expenditures with reliable revenue and avoiding long-term obligations that outpace growth. Next, I will prioritize high-impact economic development, ensuring that incentives are tied to measurable outcomes such as job creation, commercial tax base expansion, and sustained revenue generation. Then, I will advocate for efficient use of capital funds, targeting infrastructure investments that directly support business activity and reduce future maintenance costs. Growth must be intentional. Projects should generate more value than they consume. And finally, I will continue pushing for transparency and accountability, so businesses and residents understand how public dollars are invested and what returns they produce. The goal is simple: maintain a city that is financially sound, operationally efficient, and competitive with regional peers.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the city, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community? The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce plays a critical role as the connector between businesses, the city, and education partners. Its value is not just advocacy—it's alignment. The Chamber helps ensure that business needs are clearly communicated and that public-sector decisions reflect real economic conditions. If re-elected, I will continue working with the Chamber in three key avenues: **Data Usage** - business intelligence and feedback loops. The Chamber provides direct insight into what businesses are experiencing. This feedback could be workforce gaps, regulatory challenges, or infrastructure needs. I will use that feedback to establish policy decisions and remove barriers to growth. **Workforce and Pipeline Development** - In partnership with the Chamber and Grand Prairie Independent School District, I will support alignment between education, training programs, and employer needs so businesses have access to a skilled, local workforce. **Strategic Economic Development Planning** – One of my council priorities was to develop a 5-year economic development plan using sound sophisticated data modeling. The Chamber is a key partner in recruiting and retaining businesses resulting from this information. I will continue supporting targeted growth around assets ensuring that development decisions are coordinated, data-driven, and beneficial to the broader business community. The goal is a clear, consistent partnership where the Chamber provide feedback, the City execute strategies, and businesses see measurable results.

City of Grand Prairie Place 7 At Large Ballot Position 2: Marketta Nimo



Marketta Nimo is a proud Grand Prairie resident, small business owner, and community leader dedicated to service and impact. She matriculated through GPISD schools from elementary through high school, and later earned her undergraduate degree in Public Administration from East Texas A&M University. As the owner of a Texas Rising Star–accredited childcare center, Marketta has served hundreds of families by providing high-quality early childhood education and support for working parents. In addition to her work in childcare, she is a licensed real estate agent and mortgage loan officer, helping families build wealth and stability through homeownership. Her professional experience gives her a well-rounded understanding of the challenges residents face—from housing affordability to small business growth. Marketta is deeply rooted in the Grand Prairie community. She is a participant in Leadership Grand Prairie and serves as a board member for Head Start of Greater Dallas, working alongside local leaders to support children, families, and community initiatives. A wife and mother, Marketta is passionate about creating a city where families can thrive, businesses can grow, and residents feel heard. She is running for Grand Prairie City Council At-Large, Place 7 to bring practical solutions, strong leadership, and a community-centered voice to City Hall.

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this city council seat, and explain your reasons for running? How would you be an asset to the business community?

I am running for City Council because I care deeply about the future of Grand Prairie and the opportunities available to our residents and businesses. My background includes community engagement, leadership, and a strong commitment to serving others. I have worked closely with residents and local organizations, which has given me a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing our city. I believe effective leadership requires listening, collaboration, and a focus on results. I will be an asset to the business community by supporting policies that encourage responsible growth, streamline processes, and create an environment where businesses can succeed. A strong local economy benefits everyone, and I am committed to working with business leaders to ensure Grand Prairie remains a place where companies want to invest and grow.

2. What are the priority issues facing the City of Grand Prairie, and how would you address them if elected?

Grand Prairie is growing, and we must manage that growth responsibly while maintaining the quality of life that residents expect. My priorities include infrastructure, public safety, and economic development. We must ensure roads, utilities, and services keep pace with growth. Public safety must remain a top priority so families and businesses feel secure. Economic development is also critical. We should continue attracting new businesses while supporting those already here. That means reducing unnecessary barriers, improving communication, and ensuring the city is responsive to business needs. I will focus on practical solutions, collaboration, and long-term planning to ensure Grand Prairie continues to thrive.

3. As you consider the infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it?

The most important infrastructure issue facing Grand Prairie is keeping up with growth while maintaining existing assets. As the city expands, we must ensure roads, drainage, utilities, and public services are properly maintained and upgraded. Deferred maintenance can create larger costs in the future, so proactive planning is essential.

I support a balanced approach that includes maintaining current infrastructure while strategically investing in improvements where growth is occurring. Careful planning and responsible budgeting will help ensure we meet current needs without overextending the city financially.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the City's financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it?

Grand Prairie must continue to operate with strong financial discipline while planning for future growth. Like many cities, we face increasing costs and demands on services. It is important that financial decisions are sustainable and transparent. We must prioritize spending on core services, infrastructure, and public safety while being mindful of the impact on taxpayers.

Continued: Marketta Nimo

4. Continued: I will support responsible budgeting practices, long-term financial planning, and clear communication with residents and businesses about how resources are used. Maintaining financial stability is key to ensuring the city can continue providing high-quality services.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the city, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

The Chamber plays a vital role in supporting and connecting Grand Prairie's business community. Strong collaboration between the City and the Chamber helps drive economic growth and create opportunities for residents. I believe the City should work closely with the Chamber to understand the needs of local businesses, remove barriers to growth, and promote Grand Prairie as a great place to live, work, and invest. By strengthening this partnership, we can support small businesses, attract new investment, and ensure our local economy continues to grow in a way that benefits the entire community.

City of Grand Prairie - District 1 Ballot Position 1: Jorja Clemson



Jorja Jackson Clemson has been active in her family's business for many years, previously serving as president of Store Service Inc. and currently president of Jorja Clemson Properties LLC. Jorja is a graduate of Grand Prairie High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Texas at Arlington and later received a scholarship to return to study Music Education. Council Member Clemson was elected to represent District 1 in May 2013. She has served as Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem several times. Clemson currently serves on the Finance and Government Committee, the Grand Prairie Sports Corporation, and the Advisory Board for E. Carlyle Smith Jr. Health Center at Grand Prairie. She is also a Chairman on the Public Safety Committee. She was honored to serve on the City Council with her mother, Ruthe Jackson, for three months, before Mrs. Ruthe's death in August 2013. A lifelong resident of Grand Prairie, Jorja has been married to Dan L. Clemson for 51 years. Three children, Spencer Clemson, Leanna Clemson Garcia and Allison Clemson Allison. Eight grandchildren, Blake Garcia, Cade Garcia, Allie Garcia, Luke Allison, Lane Daniel Allison, Boston Lee Allison, Madison Clemson and Jordan Clemson. A member of CrossPoint Church of Christ with her husband, Jorja has served as a Bible teacher, member of the praise team and on other various committees and projects.

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this City Council or School Board seat, and explain your reasons for running? How would you be an asset to the business community?

As a current Grand Prairie City Council member and life-long resident, I bring valuable institutional knowledge from years of service, along with experience in governance, budgeting, and community engagement. I've worked closely with residents and business leaders to support thoughtful, consistent decision-making. I'm running to continue strengthening a safe, economically vibrant city where businesses can grow and succeed.

2. What are the priority issues facing the City of Grand Prairie or Grand Prairie Independent School District, and how would you address them if elected?

Our priorities include economic development, public safety, and maintaining strong neighborhoods. While other areas of the city are experiencing rapid growth, District 1 is focused on attracting new opportunities that better serve our residents. A key priority is bringing in desirable retail, such as grocery stores and restaurants, that meet the needs of the community and improve quality of life. I will continue working to recruit and support businesses that are a good fit for the area while also investing in infrastructure and public safety to make District 1 an attract-

(Continued) Jorja Clemson

tive place to live and do business. My approach is rooted in listening to constituents and being intentional about development - ensuring we strengthen and revitalize District 1 while supporting the broader success of Grand Prairie.

3. As you consider the City's infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it?

Our biggest infrastructure challenge is keeping pace with growth. We must proactively invest in roads, utilities, and public facilities through strategic planning and partnerships that protect taxpayers while maintaining the quality of life.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the City's financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it?

Grand Prairie is financially strong due to conservative management and a lean, hardworking staff. Our diversified revenue base ensures homeowners are not overburdened, as commercial and industrial growth helps share costs. I will continue supporting responsible budgeting and long-term stability.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the City, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

The Chamber is a key partner. Strong collaboration between the City, Chamber, and business community strengthens Grand Prairie. The Chamber supports networking and growth, helping attract new businesses. I will continue working alongside them to promote economic success.

City of Grand Prairie - District 3 Ballot Position 1: Mike Del Bosque



City of Grand Prairie - District 3

Ballot Position 2: Amber Timberlake



Amber Timberlake believes that a thriving city is built on the strength of its neighborhoods and the integrity of its leaders. Amber's path to public service has been shaped by a lifelong commitment to advocacy and a deep-seated belief in the power of local engagement. While originally from Dallas, Amber chose to plant her roots in Grand Prairie three years ago. Amber's professional journey began at Howard University, where she graduated *magna cum laude*, before returning home to earn her JD from SMU Dedman School of Law. Her career has been defined by navigating high-stakes environments with a focus on fairness and transparency. As a former government attorney at the Federal and municipal level, Amber brings a unique professional experience, having developed a rigorous professional standard for oversight, accountability, and the "fine print" of urban growth. In District 3, Amber is already a familiar face, having organized and led the Feed the City Grand Prairie, a volunteer event focused on making meals for people in need, since early 2024. This work has reinforced her belief that our city's progress should be measured by the well-being of our residents, from the seniors who built this town to the young professionals just starting their journey. Amber is running to ensure that as Grand Prairie grows, it does so in a way that respects our history and secures our future. She is dedicated to listening first and leading with integrity, always working for the Grand Prairie you love.

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this City Council seat, and explain your reasons for running? How would you be an asset to the business community?

My decision to run for City Council is rooted in a simple belief: our local government should be as professional and diligent as the people it serves. As a homeowner in District 3 and a graduate of SMU Law, I've spent my career navigating complex systems. My time as an attorney with HUD taught me how to manage large-scale federal projects and ensure that every dollar of public funding is backed by accountability. I am running because I want to bring that same level of rigorous oversight to our city's rapid expansion. To the business community, I am an asset because I value predictability and efficiency. Business owners shouldn't have to guess how long a permit will take or worry if a new development next door will suddenly choke off their customer access. I understand that a thriving economy depends on stable neighborhoods and a city government that communicates clearly. I'm here to ensure fairness, transparency, and a design that helps our local entrepreneurs succeed long-term. My goal is to be a steady, expert hand on the Council who understands the fine print of a contract as well as the needs of a neighbor.

2. What are the priority issues facing the City of Grand Prairie, and how would you address them if elected?

The most pressing issue facing Grand Prairie right now is the tension between our growth and our existing infrastructure. We are seeing incredible investment in our city, but if that growth isn't managed carefully, it risks overwhelming the very things that make our community a great place to live. My priority is a "Neighborhoods First" approach. This means we must be highly selective about the projects we approve, ensuring they bring actual value; like new grocery stores to address our food deserts, rather than just adding density for the sake of a higher tax base. To address this, I will push for updated traffic-impact standards for all new commercial and residential developments. This will create a more proactive approach to project incorporation in our city, rather than trying to fix the traffic problems they create years later. Additionally, I am committed to making sure projects are completed efficiently in our community. That means making sure our current residents aren't stuck in construction zones for years on end. I will advocate for smarter project management and better communication from City Hall so that when we start a road repair or a utility upgrade,

(continued) Amber Timberlake

2. (Continued): there is a clear, respected timeline for its completion. Growth is a sign of a healthy city, but only if it's growth that respects the people who already call Grand Prairie home

3. As you consider the City's infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city or school district and what would you propose to address it?

The number one infrastructure issue facing our city is the aging state of our neighborhood connectors and the congestion that plagues our daily commutes. In District 3, we see this every day with the "cut-through" traffic where drivers use our quiet residential streets as shortcuts to avoid gridlock on main thoroughfares. This isn't just a frustration for drivers; it's a safety issue for our kids and seniors. My proposal is to implement a rigorous, open book oversight process for all new city projects. We need to ensure that major reconstructions are prioritized and completed with high-quality materials that won't require a patch-job two years later. I also want to see an expansion of our VIA Grand Prairie on-demand transit. By giving people a reliable alternative to solo driving for short trips, we can take cars off the road and reduce the wear and tear on our infrastructure. We need to stop reacting to traffic and start designing a city that moves more fluidly.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the City's financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it?

In the business world, a healthy bottom line is the result of disciplined investment and clear oversight. As I assess Grand Prairie's current financial position, we are on stable ground, but we are entering a high-stakes chapter with a \$536 million budget and a massive 2026 Bond Program on the horizon. My legal background tells me that "stability" is not a permanent state; it requires constant, rigorous protection of the people's money. I believe our fiscal health should be measured not just by our credit rating, but by how effectively those tax dollars are being converted into tangible quality-of-life improvements for our neighbor. The impact I intend to have on our financial future is twofold: transparency and accountability. I want to move us beyond the traditional 400-page budget PDF toward a more transparent model, where residents can easily see where their money is going and what it's actually achieving. Furthermore, when we use public funds for corporate incentives, I will advocate for ironclad community benefit standards. If we are providing tax breaks, there must be a guaranteed return—whether that's living-wage jobs for local residents, infrastructure contributions, or environmental protections.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the City or School District, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

I view the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce as the essential eyes and ears of our local economy. The Chamber's role is to act as a bridge between the policy-makers at City Hall and the job-creators who keep our community running. As a Council member, I see the Chamber as a primary partner in identifying where our city regulations are helping or hurting local businesses. To support economic growth, I will work with the Chamber to establish a "Grand Prairie First" procurement initiative. We spend millions of tax dollars on city contracts every year; I want to ensure that whenever possible, that money is going to local vendors and businesses right here in our city. I also want to work with the Chamber to create a more streamlined "small business concierge" at City Hall—a dedicated resource to help local entrepreneurs navigate the permitting and licensing process without needing an expensive consultant. By fostering an environment where our legacy businesses are protected and our new startups can hit the ground running, we can build a resilient, inclusive economy. My door will always be open to the Chamber because I know that a thriving business community is the foundation of a safe, vibrant, and well-funded city.

City of Grand Prairie - District 3

Ballot Position 3: David Chappelle



David Chappelle is a District 3 resident, community mentor, and finance professional running for Grand Prairie City Council because he believes the district deserves a councilmember who is focused, present, and serious about doing the work. David chose to put down roots in Grand Prairie because he saw a city built by hardworking families with a strong sense of community and pride. He believes that choice comes with responsibility, to be engaged, to show up, and to contribute. His values were shaped early. While still in high school, David started a small vending machine business, learning what it means to be accountable and follow through. He went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and an MBA in Finance. Today, David works as a finance professional helping families plan for their futures — a role grounded in trust, clear communication, and responsibility. Outside of work, he volunteers as a mentor with Bakari Behavioral Health, providing guidance to children and teenagers at critical points in their lives. Guided by his faith and a belief in service, David has built his life around showing up for people. As a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, service and community have always been central to who he is. David is running for City Council because District 3 deserves leadership that is focused on the district, attentive to its residents, and committed to the

service, David has built his life around showing up for people. As a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, service and community have always been central to who he is. David is running for City Council because District 3 deserves leadership that is focused on the district, attentive to its residents, and committed to the

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this City Council seat, and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the business community?

I'm a Grand Prairie native, a finance professional, and a community advocate who has an understanding of what it takes to move a city forward. I'm running because District 3 deserves a seat at the table. Too often, decisions that directly impact our neighborhoods, our small businesses, and our families are made without meaningful input from the people who live here. I'm committed to changing that. For the business community specifically, I bring a direct line of communication, a willingness to cut through bureaucratic friction, and a commitment to policies that make Grand Prairie a place where businesses can open, grow, and stay. I understand that when businesses thrive, residents thrive, and that relationship has to be intentional.

2. What are the priority issues facing the City of Grand Prairie, and how would you address them if elected?

The three issues I hear most consistently from District 3 residents and business owners are infrastructure, public safety, and economic opportunity. Our roads, sidewalks, and drainage systems in parts of District 3 are overdue for investment. Businesses can't grow, and residents can't thrive in neighborhoods where basic infrastructure is failing. I would push for a transparent, data-driven capital improvement prioritization process that ensures District 3 gets its fair share of investment. On public safety, I fully support resourcing our police and fire departments and investing in prevention that addresses the root causes of crime. When it comes to economic opportunity, I want Grand Prairie to be a city where a first-generation entrepreneur has a real shot. That means streamlining permitting, connecting small businesses to resources, and ensuring our workforce development pipeline aligns with the jobs we're actually recruiting for.

3. As you consider the City's infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it?

The number one infrastructure issue facing Grand Prairie is road and drainage maintenance in older residential and commercial corridors — particularly in parts of District 3 that have not seen proportional investment compared to newer developments in the city. Deferred maintenance compounds over time. A pothole ignored becomes a road failure. A drainage issue ignored becomes a flood liability. These aren't glamorous issues, but they are the foundation of a functional city and a healthy business environment. My proposal is straightforward: conduct a full infrastructure audit of District 3, rank needs by urgency and impact, and establish a clear public

(continued) David Chappelle

3. (Continued): audit of District 3, rank needs by urgency and impact, and establish a clear public timeline for repairs. Residents and business owners deserve to know when their street will be fixed — not wonder if it ever will be.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line. What is your assessment of the City's financial position, and what impact, if any, would you like to have on it?

Growth brings pressure. As the city expands, the cost of maintaining infrastructure, delivering services, and funding public safety increases. My concern is ensuring that fiscal growth is matched by discipline, as we are not making long-term commitments we cannot sustain, and that we are being strategic about where incentives and investments are made. My goal would be to ensure the budget process is transparent and participatory, that District 3 residents understand how dollars are allocated, and that we are not deferring costs in ways that create larger liabilities down the road.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the City, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

The Chamber is one of Grand Prairie's most important connective institutions, bridging the city government, the business community, and the broader economic ecosystem in ways that no single entity can do alone. I see the Chamber as a true partner. That means regular communication, not just during election season. It means bringing the Chamber to the table early when policy decisions are being made that affect business, permitting changes, zoning decisions, and infrastructure projects, so that the business community has a voice before decisions are finalized, not after. Specifically, I would work with the Chamber to support small-business recruitment and retention in District 3, align workforce development initiatives with employer needs, and advocate for reducing bureaucratic barriers that make it harder to open and operate a business in Grand Prairie. Economic growth in this city should work for everyone, and the Chamber is a critical partner in making that happen.

Early Voting starts April 20th

Election Day is Saturday, May 2nd

Grand Prairie Independent School District - Place 3—At Large

Ballot Position 1: Robert E. Williams, Jr.



Robert E. Williams Jr., supported by his wife and family, is running for Grand Prairie ISD Trustee At-Large Place 3 to bring a fresh, energetic, and focused vision to our schools, one that reflects the pride and excellence of Grand Prairie. For Robert, this commitment is personal. As a GPISD parent for nearly two decades, he has seen firsthand the dedication of teachers and the potential of students. Both of his children have been shaped by GPISD, and he is stepping forward to ensure every family has access to those same opportunities, and even greater ones. A Texas resident since 1998 and a Grand Prairie resident since 2007, Robert brings 35 years of experience with American Airlines. His background includes strategic planning, financial oversight, operational leadership, and customer relations interaction. Known for accountability and sound decision-making, he will focus on responsible budgeting, long-term planning, and strengthening GPISD's competitiveness.

Robert is also active in the community. He serves as Historian for the Nu Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and has led the chapter's impactful blood drive initiatives. He has also held leadership roles within Employee Business Resource Groups at American Airlines, including service on its Global Lead Council. Robert is running for GPISD Trustee because this is an important moment for our district. As our city grows, he is committed to strengthening schools, supporting student success, and ensuring the district remains a place families are proud to choose.

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this School Board seat, and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the business community?

As a parent of two children who have come through Grand Prairie schools, I've seen what our district does well and where we must improve. Right now, not every student is meeting grade level standards, and that's something we must address with urgency and focus. That is my top priority and it's why I'm running! I bring decades of experience in strategic planning, financial oversight, and operational leadership. My 35-year career with American Airlines has been built on accountability, making sound decisions, and ensuring resources are used effectively. As our district faces enrollment declines and financial pressures, these skills are critical. We need leadership that can balance strong academics with responsible stewardship. I will also be a strong partner to our business community by promoting fiscal responsibility and workforce readiness. Strong schools strengthen property values, attract families, and develop the skilled workforce our local businesses depend on. By ensuring our students graduate prepared for college, careers, or trade pathways, we strengthen both our community and our economy. I'm running to help move our district forward with clear priorities, strong accountability, and a commitment to every child's success.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Grand Prairie I.S.D., and how would you address them if elected?

The biggest issues facing GPISD are declining enrollment, a growing budget deficit, and the difficult decisions that come with both, including discussions around school closures and how we manage our resources. At the same time, we must improve academic outcomes that ensure our district remains competitive, so families choose to stay. That's why my platform focuses on five priorities that directly address these challenges. Ensuring strong academic outcomes for every student, strengthening transparency and accountability, implementing smart long-term planning, supporting and retaining high-quality teachers, and maintaining safe schools. When you align these five priorities with the challenges we're facing, it creates a clear path forward to stabilize our district, improve outcomes, and rebuild trust with families and the community.

3. As you consider the School District's infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it?

As parents, we all want to know that our children are learning in schools that are safe, well-resourced, and set up for success. Right now, one of the biggest infrastructure challenges facing GPISD is how we manage underutilized

(continued) Robert E. Williams, Jr.

3. (Continued): and aging school facilities while enrollment is declining. That means some campuses are not being used to their full capacity, while the district is still responsible for maintaining them. This creates financial strain and leads to difficult decisions like school closures or consolidation, decisions that directly impact families. This is where my platform priorities matter. I believe in smart, long-term planning so we're making thoughtful, data-driven decisions about our schools, not reactive ones. I also believe in transparency and accountability, so parents are informed, involved, and never left wondering how or why decisions are being made. Most importantly, this ties back to my top priority, ensuring strong academic outcomes for every student. How we manage our facilities directly affects the resources available in the classroom and the quality of education our students receive. Infrastructure is about responsibility, making sure that every dollar, every campus, and every decision is focused on improving student outcomes while giving parents confidence in the leadership and direction of our school district.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the School District's financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it?

Like many school districts across Texas, GPISD is facing financial pressure driven by declining enrollment, which directly impacts funding. Fewer students mean fewer dollars come in, and that creates a structural challenge the district must address. We are at a critical point where financial discipline and long-term planning are essential. We must evaluate how resources are allocated, address inefficiencies such as underutilized campuses, and ensure spending is aligned with student outcomes. The impact I want to have is bringing stronger financial oversight, data-driven decision-making, and clear accountability. That means aligning spending with student outcomes, making strategic decisions about facilities, ensuring every dollar is being used effectively in the classroom, and ensuring transparency so the community understands how and why decisions are made. These efforts align directly with my priorities of strong academic outcomes, transparency and accountability, and smart long-term planning. By managing our finances responsibly, we can create stability, build trust, and position GPISD for long-term success. My goal is to help move the district toward a more sustainable, accountable, and student-focused financial future.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the School District, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

The Chamber plays an important role in bringing together our schools, local government, and business community. It helps ensure we're all moving in the same direction by aligning education with workforce needs, supporting local businesses, and strengthening the overall economic health of our city. From a school district standpoint, I see the Chamber as a key partner in connecting education to the workforce, making sure what students are learning today prepares them for the jobs of tomorrow. That includes expanding internships, mentorship programs, and career pathways that give students real-world experience while helping local businesses build a strong pipeline of future talent. As a trustee, I would work with the Chamber by maintaining open lines of communication, supporting partnerships between schools and local businesses, and ensuring the district is tracking workforce trends. This approach also reflects my priorities of strong academic outcomes, smart long-term planning, and transparency and accountability. It also means promoting fiscal responsibility, which builds confidence and trust among businesses looking to invest in Grand Prairie. When our schools and businesses are working together, it benefits everyone. Our students are better prepared, our local economy grows, and our community becomes a place where families want to live and businesses want to grow. That's why my goal is to be a collaborative partner with the Chamber, making sure GPISD is not only serving students well, but also helping position Grand Prairie as a place where businesses can succeed and expand.

Grand Prairie Independent School District - Place 3—At Large

Ballot Position 2: Patty Harris



Patty Harris is the owner of A+ Academy Driving School and a DPS-authorized road tester, serving families across the DFW metroplex. Born in the Rio Grande Valley and raised in South Texas, Patty's commitment to education is deeply personal. Her mother, a longtime elementary teacher, dedicated 31 years to public education after overcoming early challenges as a Spanish-speaking student. Patty spent a decade volunteering on her mother's campus, witnessing the impact of a strong educational foundation. Her father, a Navy veteran who enlisted at 16, later built a career at Sears, instilling in her resilience, discipline, and a strong work ethic. After high school, Patty earned a place with the world-renowned Kilgore College Rangerettes, representing the United States internationally and performing in major events, most recently the January 2025 Cotton Bowl Classic at AT&T Stadium, with over 750 Rangerette Forever alumna, at the UT - Ohio State game. A certified Texas educator, Patty holds credentials in Secondary Math, Secondary Business, Special Education, English as a Second Language, Driver's Education, Mid-Management Administrator for campus leadership and Superintendent certification. Her career reflects a commitment to serving all students.

As a mother of four, with children educated in gifted/talented, general ed, and self-contained special ed programs, Patty has spent almost thirty consecutive years with a child in public school, across multiple districts. She brings both professional expertise and lived experience grounded in the belief that public schools exist to educate all children and Every decision should improve student outcomes.

As a mother of four, with children educated in gifted/talented, general ed, and self-contained special ed programs, Patty has spent almost thirty consecutive years with a child in public school, across multiple districts. She brings both professional expertise and lived experience grounded in the belief that public schools exist to educate all children and Every decision should improve student outcomes.

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this School Board seat, and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the business community?

Three decades of experience directly impacting students, from classroom teacher to small business owner helping individuals earn a Texas driver's license. I hold State educator certifications in Secondary Math, Secondary Business, Special Education, English Second Language, Driver's Education, Mid-Management Administrator for campus leadership, and Texas Superintendent for district leadership. This professional development and experience means I understand quality instruction, district finance, compliance, and accountability from the classroom to the boardroom. I am running to help Grand Prairie ISD navigate declining enrollment, campus consolidations, and funding uncertainty while keeping decisions student-centered and data-driven. As a trustee, I would be an asset to the board and the business community by insisting on transparent budgeting, strong career and technology education, and business partnerships that align GPISD programs with local workforce needs, so employers can confidently hire graduates who are career-ready. With flexible schedules, we have assisted a dozen students, in our work-study internships, progress toward higher education degrees and career certifications while learning customer service skills at our driving school.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Grand Prairie I.S.D., and how would you address them if elected?

Key issues include optimizing under-enrolled campuses, improving student outcomes, and improving financial stability. I support an open optimization process that considers campus utilization, program quality, neighborhood impact, and transportation, while communicating clearly with families and staff. Academically, I would monitor progress toward the district's strategic plan, focusing on early literacy, mathematical fluency, college, career, military-readiness pathways, and closing achievement gaps using evidence-based interventions. I would prioritize classrooms over adult bureaucracy, and regularly review long-term enrollment, staffing, and facility data before making major financial commitments.

3. As you consider the School District's infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it?

The number one infrastructure challenge is aligning our aging facilities with current and projected student enrollment. Some campuses operate significantly under capacity, driving up per-student costs and stretching maintenance dollars. I recommend continuing to share a comprehensive, publicly shared facilities master plan rubric that evaluates every campus on capacity, building maintenance concerns, and educational impact, then sequence

(continued) Patty Harris

3. (Continued:) consolidations, renovations, and technology upgrades over time. GPISD has already held three (3) community input sessions, for proposed campus closures, so families, staff, and businesses can plan ahead. If impacted, parents' number one concern is that students continue to receive special services, with a smooth transition to a new campus.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the School District's financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it?

Grand Prairie ISD is dealing with a multi-year budget shortfall. GPISD had a projected budget shortfall of about \$21 million dollars for the 2025–26 school year. Recent news coverage shared that the district is working to close a roughly \$17 million dollar budget deficit, which is one reason school closures and consolidations are on the table. My goal would be to strengthen long-term district sustainability by tying every major spending decision to student outcomes, prioritizing teachers, investing in classroom needs, and high-value programs. I would also insist on user-friendly financial reporting so taxpayers and businesses can easily see where their tax dollars go and how those investments support workforce readiness and economic development.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the School District, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

The Chamber creates an essential network between GPISD, employers, and the City's economic growth strategy. A+ Academy Driving School has been a Grand Prairie Chamber member for a decade and I am part of the steering committee that helped relaunch Leadership Grand Prairie. I am a graduate of Leadership SouthWest and Leadership ISD/Commit Partnership. The Chamber can help GPISD align career pathways with the local labor-market needs, expand internships and apprenticeships, and advocate for policies that make Grand Prairie more attractive to new families and encourage more businesses to move here. As a chamber member, I already meet with Chamber leadership. As a Trustee, I would continue to support Chamber events, and participate in committees on workforce and economic development. Together, we can market Grand Prairie's strengths as an economical Dallas-Fort Worth entertainment district for family-friendly attractions, as part of a broader "education and jobs" destination that draws investment to Grand Prairie and keeps our graduates employed close to home.

Grand Prairie Independent School District - Place 3—At Large Ballot Position 3: Wendell Davidson



I am Wendell Davidson, a lifelong resident of Grand Prairie, Texas, with deep roots in the community and a strong commitment to public service. Born at Plattner's Hospital, I am a proud graduate of GPISD schools. My connection to the district spans generations—my four children attended GPISD, and today my grandchildren continue that tradition. I hold a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice and bring nearly two decades of public service experience with the State of Texas. I currently serve as a Lead Investigator with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, where I have spent 19 years investigating welfare fraud and ensuring responsible use of taxpayer dollars. Earlier in my career, I worked in eligibility services, helping individuals and families access public assistance. I am also actively involved in local government. I currently serve as a member of the Building Advisory and Appeals Board. My prior service includes the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals, as well as participation on multiple bond committees and the District of Innovation Committee. Throughout my career, I have focused on bridging the gap between leadership and frontline employees. I believe

(continued) Wendell Davidson

effective leadership requires understanding the real challenges faced by those serving the public. I am committed to fiscal responsibility, accountability, and ensuring resources are used efficiently to support students, staff, and the community.

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this School Board seat, and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the business community?

My qualifications and experience include long-standing involvement with the district, including attending board meetings dating back to when the district offices were located on College Street. I have contributed to multiple bond elections and served on the District of Innovation Committee. I am seeking this position to further strengthen educational outcomes for all students. Additionally, I will serve as a valuable liaison to the business community by fostering partnerships and leveraging its expertise when making decisions that impact local businesses.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Grand Prairie I.S.D., and how would you address them if elected?

A key priority is addressing GPISD's budget deficit. I would focus on identifying opportunities to increase funding by creating virtual learning options and strengthening student retention, ensuring families choose to remain in GPISD rather than pursuing private or charter school alternatives.

3. As you consider the School District's infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it?

To address the infrastructure challenges facing GPISD, I recognize that the primary issue is limited funding. I would work to develop a prioritized plan for critical needs and, if necessary, present a bond proposal to voters to secure the resources required to improve and maintain district facilities.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the School District's financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it?

GPISD maintains a strong financial rating and a healthy fund balance. The current deficit appears to be a result of budgeting practices. I would conduct a thorough line-item review to identify cost-saving opportunities and streamline operations by eliminating redundant positions, ensuring resources are allocated efficiently and responsibly.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the School District, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

I would collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce to identify employment opportunities, internships, and meaningful real-world learning experiences for GPISD students. Additionally, I would partner with the Chamber to support efforts to attract new businesses to Grand Prairie, including exploring appropriate incentives, such as potential tax abatements, to encourage economic growth.

Early Voting starts April 20th
Election Day is Saturday, May 2nd

Grand Prairie Independent School District - Place 3—At Large Ballot Position 4: Gloria Carrillo (I)



Gloria M. Carrillo is originally from Lubbock, Texas. I was married to Francisco C. Carrillo for 50 years until his passing in 2015. I have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. I currently work with Wolf Law PLLC in Grand Prairie, Texas. All of my children graduated from South Grand Prairie High School and obtained professional degrees from Texas universities. Two grandchildren will be graduating with degrees in Finance this May and the youngest grandchild is a freshman at UT Austin.

- Graduated from high school in San Antonio, Texas
- Bachelor of Career Arts Degree, Dallas Baptist College, Magna Cum Laude
- Master of Business Administration, Dallas Baptist University

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND AWARDS

GPISD School Board Trustee, President 2021-2022—2023 President's Achievement Award by President Joe Biden
YMCA Advisory Board—Lifeline Board of Directors—Children's First Board of Directors—HACE President-Hispanic Association for Culture and Education—Founding member of Hispanic Assoc. for Culture and Education (HACE)
Founding member of YES Forum with GPISD-(YOUTH + EDUCATION = SUCCESS— Cinco de Mayo Committee Chair
This Committee has awarded \$500,000.00 in scholarships—Grand Prairie Parks and Recreation Department- Hall of Fame—NAACP President's Distinguished Leadership Award-2022—YMCA Sam G. Winstead Volunteer of the Year 2020—YMCA Youth Sponsorship Award—YMCA Hero of the Year—YMCA Sam G. Winstead Award—Ford Foundation Hispanic Salute—LULAC Woman of the Year 2019—Former President of the City of Grand Prairie Building and Advisory Appeals Board—MASBA – "Heroes of MASBA" 2019 and 2020

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this School Board seat, and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the business community?

I was first elected in May 2017, and I am currently running for re-election on May 2, 2026. I have served as president of the Grand Prairie Independent School District Board of Trustees (GPISD) for two years; have served as vice-president and secretary. My education, professional experience and service on this board and in our community have prepared me to be an effective member of this board. I served during the pandemic and other challenging times. We have difficult times facing our district, including the closing of a well-loved campus; decrease in student enrollment; budgetary constraints; and aging facilities. There have been no increases in funding from our Texas Legislature since 2019. I ask our community to allow me to continue to serve and add value to others while creating a healthy culture that encourages respect, trust and value for all.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Grand Prairie I.S.D., and how would you address them if elected?

Like all districts in Texas, Grand Prairie ISD has experienced changes in enrollment. Our district lost students during the pandemic. Some enrolled in charter schools, were homeschooled, moved to other districts, etc. GPISD has lost approximately 3,500 students, which is nearly a \$21 million loss in funding to our district. GPISD is known as a District of Innovation and School Choice. Our 15th annual Grand Prairie ISD Experience was held on Saturday, March 7, 2026. With this annual event, GPISD highlighted programs offered for students and parents. These are some of the strong ways GPISD continues to support our students and community. GPISD is an open-enrollment district which means that any student can apply to attend any school in GPISD. Attendance zones do not determine a child's learning experience in Grand Prairie.

3. As you consider the School District's infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it?

Some of the biggest challenges facing GPISD are our aging facilities. Decades of underinvestment in our infrastructure have led to some of the conditions existing in our facilities. Many of GPISD's campuses were built in the 1940's. Maintenance and supplies for these aging facilities is a huge challenge for our school district. Recently a Comprehensive Consolidation Plan was presented that we believe will maximize the effective use of our staff, our financial resources and facility alignment to meet the needs of our students and families. The recommendation

(continued) Gloria Carrillo

3. Continued: includes a district-wide review and adjustment of attendance boundaries and consolidation of selected campuses and district facilities. This plan is intended to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability while supporting high-quality learning environments across our district. We have a student population of more than 25,600 with 37 campuses and are joining other North Texas communities that say they are “forced” to make cuts amid declining enrollment and funding woes. Our district is facing competition from other open enrollment districts, the state’s voucher program, charter schools, and homeschooling options.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the School District’s financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it?

GPISD’s financial ratings reflect a robust financial resilience assessment of ‘aaa’ based on ‘Low Midrange’ budgetary flexibility and the assumption that our district will maintain unrestricted general fund reserves equal to at least 20% of spending and transfers out, consistent with historical performance. Our economic concentration and population size was rated “strongest” in latest financial reports. Key economic sectors around Grand Prairie include manufacturing, defense, and aerospace. Our area’s strong presence in wholesale distribution is supported by access to major air and ground transportation routes.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber’s role in relation to the School District, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

Our Chamber of Commerce is essential for local businesses in promoting their interests in the community. Businesses joining gain invaluable benefits. It helps their business make invaluable contacts and boosts their credibility by being a member of the local chambers. Our chambers support businesses through programs such as financial help, market research, and training programs. That support helps a business stay ahead in their respective industries. The chamber has a strong collective voice in that they can sway policies at local, state, and national levels, benefiting the local economy. Being a member often increases a business’s visibility through ribbon-cutting events and networking opportunities. Consumers tend to trust those businesses that are members. This was specially true during hard times such as COVID-19 pandemic. Our chambers offer critical support and provide resources ensuring businesses keep growing and remain resilient. The North Texas FIFA Organizing Committee recently had a meeting with the community and the Grand Prairie Chamber. They talked about transportation/mobility; Human Rights, Safety and Security Operations and the economic impact of approximately \$3.8 Billion to the metroplex. Grand Prairie will be involved and we will gain economically. I support both Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. I see the good they do and the services they offer our diverse community. Our chambers and our innovative school district working together result in the thriving community that we live and work in.

<p>Grand Prairie Independent School District - District 2 Ballot Position 1: Tarrance Jones</p>

Tarrance Jones is a lifelong public servant with a deep commitment to protecting and strengthening her community. A proud native of Grand Prairie and a graduate of Grand Prairie High School, she is also the parent of a graduate of Grand Prairie Independent School District. For more than three decades, Tarrance has dedicated her career to service, safety, advocacy, and community leadership. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice and a Master of Science in Social Work, combining her law enforcement experience with a deep understanding of people, families, and communities. Throughout her career, Tarrance has worked to promote public safety, advocate for families, and support efforts to reduce gun violence. She is a passionate community advocate who believes deeply in the power of public education to transform lives. Beyond her professional work, Tarrance remains actively involved in civic and community organizations. She is a member of the National Parent Teacher Association, Grand Prairie Rotary Club, Soroptimist International of Grand Prairie, American Red Cross, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. She also serves on the Grand Prairie Animal Services Advisory Committee and is a member of the Grand Prairie Citizens Po-

(continued) Tarrance Jones

Advancement of Colored People, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. She also serves on the Grand Prairie Animal Services Advisory Committee and is a member of the Grand Prairie Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. Tarrance is a member of Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, (AKA) organizations dedicated to leadership, service and community impact. She lives by the principle that community service is the price we pay for the space we occupy, and she remains committed to serving the students, families, and community of Grand Prairie.

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this School Board seat, and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the business community?

I am running for School Board because strong schools create strong communities. Every student deserves access to quality education, safe learning environments, and opportunities that prepare them for success after graduation. As a parent, public servant, and community advocate, I want to help ensure that our schools continue to provide students with the knowledge support and opportunities they need to succeed in college career and life. I was taught that community service is the price you pay for the space you occupy, and I have lived by that principal throughout my entire life. This district shaped who I am, and I believe it is my turn to give back. As a Grand Prairie native, a product of GPISD and a parent of a GPISD graduate. I have a personal lifelong stake in the success of our schools. Over the course of my 22 years as a Federal Agent with the Department of Justice I developed expertise in policy development, accountability, organization leadership, and managing complex decision under pressure. I know how to access a broken system, identify what is not working and build solutions that serve the people who depend on them. I believe that a school board member's decision ripple far beyond the boardroom - they shape the future of our students our families, our city and our society. That is a responsibility I do not take lightly, and one I'm fully prepared to carry. To the parents, students, teachers and community members of Grand Prairie together we can continue to build a GPISD that every child deserves and every family chooses.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Grand Prairie I.S.D., and how would you address them if elected?

Strengthening Academic Achievement-To ensure that all students have access to programs and resources that support high levels of academic success. This includes improving literacy and numeracy, supporting experienced teachers, and prioritizing funding for instructional resources that meet the needs of student's at every grade level. Monitoring students progress and supporting effective teaching strategies are essential to student success. Promoting Safe and Supportive Learning Environments-Students and staff deserve safe, respectful, orderly learning environments. I support policies and procedures that strengthen campus safety, encourage positive school cultural, and provide appropriate training for school leaders on district policies and procedures. Strengthening Parent and community Partnerships-Strong schools depend on strong partnerships. I support initiatives that increased parent involvement and build partnership with community organizations and local businesses. When families, schools, and the community work together, students benefit from stronger support systems and expanded opportunities.

3. As you consider the School District's infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it?

Facility utilization is critical. I support aligning campuses with enrollment and students needs, including consolidation when necessary to direct more resources into classrooms and instructions. GPISD's facilities are aging, and the physical condition of our schools directly impacts student learning, enrollment decisions, and community pride. Maintaining high standards for school facilities is critical to student success. Schools should provide welcoming environments that support learning, collaboration, and innovation. I support maintaining quality facilities that allow educators to implement innovative instructional practices while preparing students for college and career readiness. Modernize classrooms-to support innovated, culturally responsive instruction that meets the needs of our the diverse student population. Align facilities with college and career readiness- Our physical space should reflect a high expectations we have for our graduates. Reimagine how instruction is delivered-investing in flexible,

(continued) Tarrance Jones

3. (Continued): learning environment that allow teachers to reach students in multiple ways. Ensure every campus feels welcoming- clean safe and well maintained facilities send a message to students and families that they are valued.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the School District's financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it?

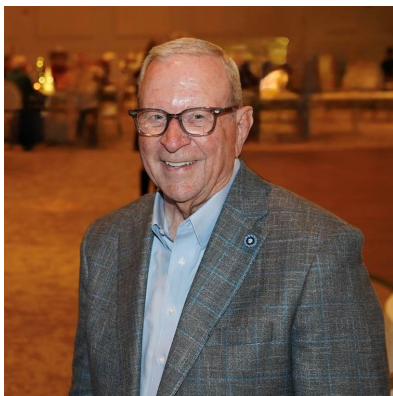
GPISD is facing a \$17 million budget deficit, declining enrollment, aging facilities, school closure proposals, and growing competition from charter schools and the state's voucher program. They are directly affecting our students, our teachers, and our neighborhoods. Families are making the difficult decision to leave. I believe the best return on taxpayer investment is a program and budget structure that directly improve student safety, achievement, and opportunity. Campus improvement plans should be aligned with the district improvement plan so that every school is moving in the same direction with the resources it needs. Budgeting must be flexible enough to meet the unique needs of each campus, while remaining transparent and accountable to the community that funds it.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the School District, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

At a time when GPISD is losing students to outside options, one of the most powerful tools we have is connecting our schools directly to the business community. I will work hand-in-hand with the Grand Prairie Chamber to build strong, structured partnerships between GPISD and local employers-creating real pathways that give students a reason to stay, graduate, and thrive right here in Grand Prairie. By establishing clear and consistent procedures at both the district and the campus levels, we can ensure that every school has equal access to business partnerships, internships, mentorships, and career exposure opportunities. Ensuring every student graduates with a concrete plan, whether that means enrolling in a four-year university, a two-year college, a trade certification or entering into the workforce with marketable skills.

Grand Prairie Independent School District - District 4

Ballot Position 1: Phil Jimerson



Phil Jimerson has dedicated his career to supporting students, educators, and strong public schools. A longtime North Texas education leader, Phil previously served as Assistant Superintendent in Grand Prairie ISD, where he helped oversee major district operations and successfully administered multiple school bond programs. He later served as Deputy Chief of Operations for Dallas ISD, providing leadership across facilities, maintenance and operations, child nutrition, and construction services — helping plan and deliver large-scale bond initiatives that built and improved schools for thousands of students, as well as purchasing, technology, property acquisition, demographics and attendance boundaries, and multiple logistics warehouses. Phil brings decades of experience in campus planning, project delivery, and fiscal responsibility.

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for this School Board seat, and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the business community?

I have deep roots in Grand Prairie and a long history of involvement in our schools and community. I am running because strong schools are essential to a strong local economy, and GPISD must continue preparing students for both college and the workforce. My professional experience includes budgeting, planning, and accountability—skills that directly translate to effective school board governance. I understand the importance of making disciplined financial decisions while maintaining focus on long-term outcomes. I will be an asset to the business community by supporting policies that strengthen workforce readiness, expand career and technical education, and

(continued) Phil Jimerson

1. (Continued): ensure GPISD graduates are prepared to meet the needs of local employers. Strong partnerships between schools and businesses are critical to sustained economic growth, and I will work to support and expand those relationships.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Grand Prairie I.S.D., and how would you address them if elected?

The most pressing issues facing GPISD are student outcomes, teacher retention, and long-term financial sustainability. We must ensure students are graduating prepared for college, careers, or technical training. That means focusing on measurable academic results and expanding workforce-aligned programs. Teacher retention is also critical. We must support educators with competitive compensation where possible, but also with strong campus environments and resources that allow them to succeed. Finally, the district must operate with financial discipline. Decisions made today must be sustainable in future years. I will support data-driven decision-making and prioritize spending that directly impacts classrooms and student success.

3. As you consider the School District's infrastructure in Grand Prairie, what do you think is the number one issue facing our city and what would you propose to address it?

The most important "infrastructure" issue for GPISD is not just buildings, but ensuring our facilities and programs are aligned with future student and workforce needs. As enrollment and program demands change, the district must plan carefully to ensure facilities are used efficiently while supporting modern learning environments. This includes maintaining existing campuses, planning for growth where needed, and ensuring programs like career and technical education have the space and resources to succeed. I support thoughtful, long-term planning that balances facility needs with financial responsibility so the district can continue serving students effectively without placing unnecessary strain on taxpayers.

4. Businesses live and die on the bottom line, what is your assessment of the School District's financial position and what impact if any, would you like to have on it?

Like many school districts in Texas, GPISD is operating in a challenging financial environment due to rising costs and limitations in state funding. The district must take a disciplined, long-term approach to budgeting. One-time decisions should not create ongoing financial obligations that cannot be sustained. My priority will be to ensure resources are focused on the classroom, support for teachers, and programs that directly benefit students. I will also support transparency in financial decisions so the community understands how funds are being used. Maintaining financial stability is critical to protecting both educational quality and taxpayer trust.

5. The Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce exists to support, strengthen, and empower businesses in Grand Prairie. What do you see as the Chamber's role in relation to the School District, and how would you work with the Chamber to support economic growth and a thriving business community?

The Chamber plays an important role in connecting education and the business community. Strong collaboration between GPISD and local businesses helps ensure students are prepared for real-world opportunities. I support continued partnership with the Chamber to expand internship opportunities, career pathways, and workforce development programs that align with local economic needs. By working together, GPISD and the Chamber can help create a pipeline of skilled graduates who are ready to contribute to the local economy. Supporting students, strengthening businesses, and growing the community are all connected, and I look forward to working collaboratively

Early Voting starts April 20th

Election Day is Saturday, May 2nd

Grand Prairie Independent School District - District 4

Ballot Position 2: Mike Riley

**We live in a society where decisions are made
by those who participate.**

***Our freedom to raise our voices to speak out
about the type of community in which we
want to live came at a high price.***

***It is our privilege, our right and our
obligation to exercise that freedom.***

**Inform yourself and vote.
Don't let your voice be silent.**

**Early voting begins April 20th and runs
through April 28th.**

Election Day is Saturday, May 2, 2026



CHAMBER
OF
COMMERCE