



Political Watch Committee

Arlington, Texas

A combined Committee of Members of the Arlington Republican Club and
the Republican Women of Arlington

Report #26

September 2026

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National Offices (by Dr. Mark Hanson)

All our local federal elected officials except Senator **Cornyn** were in Arlington along with local officials Tony **Tinderholt**, Tim **O'Hare**, and Phil **King** on September 10th at the Medal of Honor Museum with Speaker Mike **Johnson** and President **Trump**. The President announced a new Medal of Honor monument in Washington DC.

Senator John Cornyn (R-TX)

The biggest race for Texans in the November election pits Attorney General Ken **Paxton** against radical left-wing Democrat James **Talarico** to replace current Senator John **Cornyn**. The outcome of this race will go a long way to deciding whether or not Republicans can hold on to control of the US Senate. The difference between **Paxton** and **Talarico** is vast, with **Talarico** spouting non-sense like “God is non-binary”, “there are six genders”, and “the Bible supports abortion”. Contrast that with **Paxton** who led the fight against the Obama and



Ken Paxton (R) faces progressive
Jame Talarico (D) for US Senate

Biden administrations to preserve conservative values. This is a key race!

Senator **Cornyn** has remained active following his primary loss to Ken **Paxton**. He:

- Applauded a \$30 million National Science Foundation investment in The University of Texas at Austin to accelerate robotics research and innovation.
- Worked with Senator **Cruz** to support the nominations of Richard **Bennett** and Courtney **Coker** for federal judgeships in the Southern and Northern Districts of Texas.
- Announced multiple Department of Justice public-safety grants for Texas communities.
- Announced \$16.1 million in federal funding for Texas to improve public safety, fight crime, protect communities, and reduce recidivism.
- Introduced the bipartisan Mystic Alerts Act with Senator Jon **Ossoff** to strengthen wireless emergency alerts by enabling satellite-based delivery when other systems fail.
- Secured **Trump** administration commitments to release and obligate congressionally appropriated PEPFAR funds in line with congressional intent.
- Introduced the Sanctioning Russia Act with other bipartisan cosponsors.
- Mourned the death of Senate colleague Lindsay **Graham**.

Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)

Senator Cruz has also been very active this summer. Among his accomplishments, he:

- Highlighted Texas leadership on **Trump** Accounts in Austin with business leaders.
- Applauded House passage of the Local Access to Courts Act, legislation he authored to improve access to federal court proceedings.
- Visited The Imani School in Houston to celebrate school-choice victories.
- Led bipartisan foreign-policy efforts, including sanctions legislation related to Nicaragua and a bipartisan resolution supporting free and fair elections in Venezuela.
- As Chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, advanced a kids' online and AI safety markup that included the Kids Online Safety Act, Youth AI Privacy Act, CHATBOT Act, and Children's Artificial Intelligence Toy Safety Act of 2026.



- Introduced the bipartisan NEW HORIZON Act to strengthen military data capabilities in space through a pilot program for orbital data centers and space-based cloud computing services.

At the recent GOP convention in Dallas, Senator **Cruz** said during his speech, “Islamism likewise produces murder and oppression – from forced wearing of hijabs to the stoning of rape victims.”

Cruz is against the administration’s plan to lift the cap on ownership of TV stations.

Senator **Cruz** is actively lobbying for his “Protect College Sports Act.”

Representative Jake Ellzey (R-CD6)

Recently Representative Jake **Ellzey**:

- Marked the House Appropriations Committee’s completion of all 12 FY2027 funding bills, emphasizing a return to regular order, transparency, oversight, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.
- Cosponsored the Reshoring American Manufacturing Act, the Securing Agriculture’s Workforce Act, and American Franchise Act.
- Highlighted that the FY2027 appropriations process advanced priorities including national defense, veterans, border security, critical infrastructure, and taxpayer protection.
- Voted for the FY2027 National Defense Authorization Act, which passed the House on July 22, 2026.
- Voted for the Removing Barriers to Work for Disabled Americans Act, which passed the House on July 23, 2026.
- Voted for the Main Street Act, which passed the House on July 21, 2026.
- Supported veterans locally by volunteering at the VA’s Fourth of July picnic, helping serve nearly 2,000 veterans and VA employees.



Representative Roger Williams (R-CD25)

Representative Roger **Williams** recently:

- Introduced the Veterans Medicare Premium Transparency Act to help protect veterans from unexpected lifetime Medicare penalties by requiring clearer information about how VA health care affects Medicare enrollment and premiums.
- Introduced a bipartisan resolution supporting designation of July 15, 2026, as Glioblastoma Awareness Day.



- Recognized those affected by the Ross Fire in local counties on the House floor.
- Celebrated five CD25 school districts being named among North Texas' top 10.
- Voted for the Removing Barriers to Work for Disabled Americans Act, which passed the House on July 23, 2026.
- Voted for the FY2027 National Defense Authorization Act, which passed the House on July 22, 2026.
- Spoke in Arlington at the Arlington Rotary Club. **Williams** is a frequent guest on local media.

Representative **Williams**, who was an all-conference baseball player for TCU, is a big supporter of the Congressional Baseball Game for Charity. The GOP consistently wins this game!

State Offices *(by David Rakes)*

Texas Senate

Taylor Rehmet (D – SD9)

The battle lines are drawn between Democrat special election runoff winner Taylor **Rehmet** and strong conservative challenger Leigh **Wambsganss**. **Rehmet** was a union leader who is fighting to overturn the school choice law that was passed in the previous legislative session. In a recent ad, **Wambsganss** stressed how she put herself through college working three jobs, then raised a family while building a small business. Her record includes fighting for lower taxes, and she has testified at the local, county, and state levels. She has earned the respect of state lawmakers and is ready to take her place among them. With a strong turnout in November, we can make that happen!



SD9 Republican Candidate
Leigh Wambsganss

Phil King (R – SD10)

In a non-election year for Phil **King**, he has stayed active, monitoring the efforts in response to the Ross Fire in Palo Pinto and Jack counties. He has visited the area, meeting with and praising fire fighters for their courageous efforts. **King** has provided contacts so residents can stay informed regarding the latest information about the fire and can take precautionary actions as needed.

As Chair of the Senate Homeland and Border Security Committee, **King** held hearings regarding cartel use of drones to monitor law enforcement activity and even to transport drugs across the border. These



drones have been in the news recently as the Border Patrol has been using laser weapons to down many of these drones, causing the cartels to reduce their activity for now.

Senator **King** also raised awareness of pornographic material that has been found in many public school libraries. He called for parents to stay informed and to monitor their children's reading. He offered RatedBooks.org as a resource for parents to research books' content before allowing their children to read them.

Brian Birdwell (R – SD22)

This open seat will pit Democrat Amy **Martinez-Salas** against current Texas House Representative David **Cook (R)**. **Salas** has received the endorsement of Texas Representative Chris **Turner**, which should tell us all we need to know about her. **Turner** has been a stalwart in the Texas House (until recently losing in the primary), leading Democrats in walkouts to break quorum, and other efforts to fight Republicans. Current Representative David **Cook**, who previously served as Mayor of Mansfield, has fought to keep boys out of girls' sports, for property tax relief, and to stop illegal immigration. He also focuses on cutting government waste, allowing tax cuts to put money back in the pockets of citizens.



SD22 Candidate
David Cook

Royce West (D – SD23)

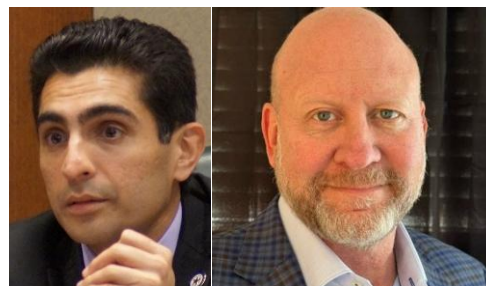
Senator Royce **West** is running unopposed to retain his senate seat. A long-time liberal in the Texas Senate, **West** has advocated for gun-control such as the banning of "assault weapons" and universal background checks. This is ironic, since background checks are already required when purchasing firearms, and there is no accepted definition of what an assault weapon is, other than "big, scary-looking gun". **West** would have you go through a background check before you could inherit a gun from a family member. Senator **West** represents a Democrat district, and it will be hard to unseat him.



Texas House

Salmon Bhojani (D – HD92)

Representative Salmon **Bhojani** will face Republican JP **Woodruff** in the November General Election. As a current House member, **Bhojani** is a big tax and spend Democrat. He is more concerned about throwing money at schools than providing for school choice. As a Muslim from Pakistan, **Bhojani** works to provide religious rights to all, although it appears he focuses primarily on Muslim expression and wants citizens to "celebrate, respect, and protect" those rights. I believe this is double-speak, and his real



Republican JP Woodruff (R) seeks to
unseat Representative Salmon Bhojani

motive is to push the Muslim religion into the mainstream.

Republican challenger JP **Woodruff** has a clear vision for Texas, emphasizing property tax relief, merit-based opportunities, election security, and free speech. He also advocates for the younger generation to get the training and education they need in order to begin successful careers. **Woodruff** deserves our support.

Tony Tinderholt (R – HD94)

With Representative **Tinderholt** leaving the Texas House in order to run for Tarrant County Council, Republican Cheryl **Bean** will face Democrat Katie O'Brien **Duzan** to represent House District 94. Cheryl **Bean** used her master's degree in engineering to build a career in aerospace. She then pivoted to create a successful small business as a builder and is a past president of the Greater Fort Worth Builders Association, all while raising her family. As the daughter of an Air Force fighter pilot, she has a heart for the military and is active in serving veterans.



HD94 Republican candidate Cheryl Bean

Cheryl **Bean** understands home-building and wants to make owning a home achievable for the average Texan. She supports safeguards around adult online content and cracking down on the gaming and betting websites designed to hook young adults into gambling.

Democrat Katie Obrien **Duzan** considers school choice a waste of money and equates education with the constant increase of funding for public schools. She wants funding to be based on enrollment rather than attendance.

Current Representative Tony **Tinderholt** has been one of the strongest conservative voices in the Texas House. We can't afford to turn this seat over to a tax and spend Democrat, so we need a big turnout in the November General Election to elect Cheryl **Bean**.

David Cook (R – HD96)

Much like HD94, House District 96 has no incumbent running in the November General Election. Representative David **Cook** (R) is running for Texas Senate District 22 (see SD22 above) and Republican Ellen **Fleischmann** will vie with Democrat Ebony **Turner** to replace him.



HD96 Republican candidate Ellen Fleischmann (R) shown with PWC reporter David Rakes

Ellen **Fleischmann** is a conservative attorney, small business owner, and a mother. Among her priorities are property tax relief and securing the border. She is pro-life and pro-second amendment.

She advocates for law and order and wants to hold rogue judges and attorneys-general (AGs) accountable for being lax on criminals. **Fleischmann** wants to protect our children from harmful DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, a left-wing attack on merit), and wants to reward great teachers, not a bloated bureaucracy,

to restore academic excellence. As a small business owner, she advocates for government to get out of the way so small businesses can flourish.

Democrat Ebony **Turner** is also an attorney who worked with the Texas Legislative Council drafting bills for members of the legislation. As the mother of a child with Down Syndrome, her top issue is the special education system in our public schools. **Turner** wants to expand Medicaid and espouses the “advantages” of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). She opposed school choice and wants to repeal the law enacted in the previous legislature that provides assistance for families seeking a better education for their children. Economically, **Turner** supports raising the minimum wage, even though it is proven that doing so causes the loss of jobs at the entry level, depriving young people of the needed experience that would qualify them for a later career.

As we wish Representative **Cook** well in his bid for the Texas Senate, we need a strong turnout to keep this seat in Republican hands by electing Ellen **Fleischmann**.

Chris Turner (D – HD101)

Texas House District 101 is another Democrat District and is a missed opportunity for Republicans. Eight-term incumbent Chris **Turner** lost in the primary to upstart Junior **Ezeonu**, and there is no Republican challenger for this seat. It is much easier to win an open seat than it is to unseat an incumbent.

Turner is a former leader of the Democrat caucus, so his loss in March was a real upset.



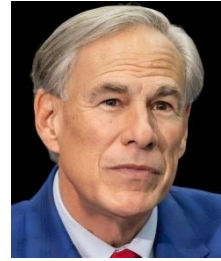
HD101 Democrat Junior Ezeonu will replace Representative Chris Turner in the next legislature

Junior **Ezeonu** emigrated from his native Nigeria at age two, and was the youngest member ever elected to the Grand Prairie City Council. One of his greatest “achievements” is that he helped to raise the minimum wage for city employees to over \$15/hour and wants to do the same for all of Texas. As discussed previously, this is a job killer that rewards a few employees while costing others their jobs. The market cannot sustain such a rate for unskilled workers, as businesses in liberal California and Washington state have discovered. **Ezeonu** opposes school choice and wants to feed the public-school bureaucracy with more funds rather than actually solve the educational shortcomings we see today. He advocates for free in-state tuition for Texans, a budget killer that burdens all Texans with the cost of sending other people’s kids to college. He also wants to expand Medicaid and supports green energy. (Remember how well that worked during our deep freeze just a few years ago!)

While there’s nothing we can do in this election, it would be great if we could find a good candidate to challenge **Ezeonu** in two years. In the meantime, residents of this district should let him know that they want small, conservative government, not a big nanny-state.

Other State News

Texas will also be voting for governor in November. Incumbent Greg **Abbott** is seeking his fourth term and is running against Gina **Hinojosa**. **Abbott** stood strong (no slight intended against the wheelchair-bound governor) against the illegal immigration that threatened Texas during the **Biden** Administration and was a major force in getting school choice passed in the previous legislature. He has also been outspoken regarding protecting Texans from Sharia law. Muslims are teaming with liberals to gain more of a foothold in Texas, advocating for Sharia law, which conflicts with the American constitution that is the basis of our nation.



Texas Governor
Greg Abbott

One point that is notable regarding the governor's race: The election of the governor affects election integrity! The way that a precinct votes determines who the election judge will be for the next four years for that precinct. If a precinct votes Democrat, even if the Republican wins, that precinct will have a Democrat judge. By voting for the Republican for governor, we ensure that solid, Republican-appointed judges will work upcoming elections for the next four years. Keep that in mind when you make your choice for governor!

County Offices *(by Steve Eklund)*

Early voting starts October 19th and Election Day is November 3rd. Have you done your homework to be an informed voter?

Judge Tim **O'Hare** (R) has been a huge success as our County Commissioners Court judge for the last four years. He serves as the Chief Political Executive of one of the largest and fastest growing counties in Texas. Judge **O'Hare** is a fifth-generation Texan. Before taking office, he spent more than 25 years managing a successful law firm and a real estate investment company.



Tarrant County
Judge Tim O'Hare

Since taking office as County Judge, **O'Hare** has focused on responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources, public safety, and long-term economic strength.

His top five accomplishments are:

- Instituted maximum homestead exemption for the first time in Tarrant County
- Reduced the county's operating budget by more than \$70 million
- Increased funding for law enforcement
- Led initiatives aimed at eliminating fraud, waste, and abuse of citizens' taxes

- The largest tax cuts in the county's history

Judge **O'Hare** will be on the ballot in the mid-term elections! We all need to vote for Judge Tim **O'Hare**!

The Republican mid-term elections candidate for County Commissioners Court, Precinct 2, is the current state Representative for Texas House District 94, Tony **Tinderholt** (R). **Tinderholt** will fully support Judge Tim **O'Hare's** agenda to continue to cut property taxes, eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse of your hard-earned tax dollars, encourage and facilitate economic growth, secure our elections, fully fund law enforcement to include the county jail facilities, and to build and maintain county roads.



County Commissioner
candidate Republican
Tony Tinderholt

Representative Tony **Tinderholt** is a former officer of the U.S. Army; he served as an enlisted intelligence collection specialist in the U.S. Air Force before commissioning in the army. He and his wife are raising two children in Arlington.

A vote for Tony **Tinderholt** will ensure the Tarrant County Commissioners Court will be in good hands for four more years!

Our County Clerk, Mary Louise **Nicholson**, has been on the job since 2022 and will also be on the ballot. **Nicholson** is finishing her fourth year as our County Clerk overseeing a team of 160 employees. She and her team have saved taxpayers an amazing \$13 million. She came through local schools and went on to the University of Texas at Arlington and graduated with honors.

Nicholson served on the Tarrant County Sheriff's command staff for eight years before being sworn in as County Clerk in 2011. She currently serves on the Tarrant County Bail Bond Board, the Tarrant County Elections Commission, and the Tarrant County E-Government Committee. What is the job of the County Clerk? She manages public records, vital statistics, real property filings, and court documents.

Our County District Clerk, Thomas A. **Wilder**, has been on the job since 1995. Tom's office manages the operations of 28 elected courts and 22 associate judges with a staff of 153 employees.

A recent statement by Tom **Wilder**: "I am announcing another year of under budget performance where I will return \$600,000 to Tarrant County. We have done this every year for the 32 years I have been in office. Also, we saved taxpayers 1.8 million dollars on building our new case management system using good management of our funds dedicated to us by the Texas Legislature."

Each of the ten county criminal court judges is a Republican and every one of them has been nominated to run for re-election. There is no question why law and order and low crime is a hall mark of Tarrant County. See Tarrant County Criminal Court, Texas, at ballotpedia.org,

Tarrant County Reduces Polling Locations for the Midterms

Tarrant County commissioners voted 3-2 recently to approve a list of polling sites for the November elections that included 92 fewer sites than the 2022 midterms. The adopted list includes 224 sites for Election Day and 47 for early voting. The 2022 list included 316 Election Day sites and 50 for early voting. The Commissioners voted along party lines, with Republicans - County Judge Tim **O'Hare** and commissioners Matt **Krause** and Many **Ramirez** - supporting the list, and Democrat commissioners Alisa **Simmons** and Roderick **Mikes, Jr.** voting against it.

More than 1.3 million people are registered to vote in Tarrant County. Local leaders, both Republican and Democrat, have framed the November midterms as the "most important of our lifetime."

City Offices – City Council Meetings *(by Richard Weber)*

The city council approved the first readings of the budget and tax rate on September 8th. The final reading should be approved on September 15th (between this writing and the release of this report). They approved the same tax rate as last year, \$0.6298. That rate is actually below the no-new revenue rate. The difference was bridged by using the Cowboys lease money to go to the general fund, something I have been pushing since learning it was not already going to the general fund. A Chris **Moss** [article](#) in the Arlington Report addresses the budget approval.

Several of the more liberal council members were hoping to raise the tax rate to the no-new revenue rate (\$0.6363) to help fund several homelessness initiatives and several other items.

The city has made a developer deal with Trammel **Crow** to produce [at least] a \$130 million project of apartments (390 minimum), office space, retail, and parking garage on the six-plus acres of East, Main, and Abram Streets area. They also tapped into the water fund (cash cow) as the water department will get office space. This was passed with NO discussion at the evening meeting on the consent agenda. Funds will be coming from the city and the TIRZ#1 (downtown). [TIRZ funds are basically funds siphoned from the general fund.] A realtor.com [article](#) explains some of the deal.

Later this month (September 29th) the council is expected to vote on a resolution to protest Tarrant County's reducing the number of voting locations for the midterm elections [compared to 2022]. The council also dislikes the elimination of UTA as a voting location. Chris **Moss** discusses this in the Arlington Report in this [article](#).

Arlington ISD *(by Jan Tyler)*

Back to School with a Challenging Agenda Ahead

The first AISD School Board meeting for the school year 2026-27 was held on

July 30, 2026. Many speakers addressed the Board regarding employees who were released in May due to the budget cuts needed. They wanted to remind the Board that some of those employees were integral members to their school community. Personally speaking, removing cafeteria monitors will impact teachers far more than anyone can imagine. At the elementary level, a 30 minute lunch period is actually less than 30 minutes to eat when you include the microwave line, a personal phone call, or a bathroom stop. One teacher pumps breast milk during her lunch. Lots of multi-tasking occurs during that 30 minutes of personal time. I have been told that in some of the schools, parents are covering the monitoring so their teachers can have that personal 30 minutes. I believe that this year, there will be many more meetings with community feedback, as the district addresses its financial position. Their budget shortfall of \$60 million is the largest since 2018. The Board is discussing how to right-size the district for the current and future enrollments. With the decrease from 65,000 students in 2014 to 50,000 this year, there are under-utilized buildings, some under 50%. An additional issue for consideration is that AISD had a slightly higher number of employees last year than we had with an enrollment of 65,000 in 2014. The number of staff should have correlated to our enrollment numbers starting years ago. The superintendent, Dr. Matt **Smith**, says we are facing a transformational change. Dr. **Smith** will be working hard for his \$360,000 salary this year. We all pray that this is the year for better outcomes for all our students in Arlington. I believe this is a goal that the Board is committed to for this school year. The Board has approved several new committees and during the month of August asked for volunteers from the community, as well as employees, to serve on these committees. The Board will receive input from these groups concerning: bond 2026 money oversight, Community Ambassadors, instructional decision making, instructional calendar, long-range facilities planning, health advisory, library advisory, and technology advisory. These committees will meet several times during the school year with AISD staff to share opinions and ideas regarding the issues that impact our schools, students, and parents.



AISD Superintendent
Dr. Matt Smith

Some Changes in the Works

Last year, the Board voted to close Blanton Elementary because at age 70 it was too costly to repair. They have decided to make it the site for the new 18 PLUSS Center. This building will provide job training and life skills for special-needs students ages 18 - 22. The concept for this model is currently working in other districts and seems to be an effective educational use of taxpayer money. It should improve the quality of their lives and give them an opportunity to join the workforce and live a more independent life. The current cost of the project is \$25M. The target date to open is August 2028.

The Board unanimously approved the schematic design for the new South Davis Elementary building that will be located at the site of the old Administration

Building at Pioneer and Davis. Two acres were purchased from Fielder Church to accommodate the needed space. It will accommodate 900 students. Students will continue to attend the current South Davis site until it is completed. They plan to open for the 2028 school year. The estimated cost is \$65M.

The Board voted to adopt a final draft of the Strategic Plan Brochure. The tri-fold brochure includes the AISD mission statement and the district's strategic plan for years 2025- 2030. It includes the Vision Statement, Values & Beliefs, Improvement Plan, and its Priorities with goals and Key Progress Measures. The Key Project Measures include Academic Growth, Culture, Safety & Discipline, Marketing & Engagement, and Talent & Resources.

The Board received a presentation by Dr. Michael **Hill**, Chief Operations Officer, explaining some options that the Board could consider as ways to fund the items included in the failed **Proposition C Bond**. This proposition asked for funds for various athletic needs throughout the district. One of the options was to put the Proposition C Bond request on the November 2026 ballot. At this time, most trustees did not think that was a good option. Other options to consider include using bond interest money and prioritizing the nine items from the Proposition C Bond. They will continue to discuss how to fund the needed items.

The District will continue to survey students, employees, and parents this year. Their feedback will be used to continue to improve each group's experience with the AISD.

For the 2025-26 school year, the state has given the cumulative grade of "C" to the AISD. They increased their score from last year by one point to 78%. The percentage of all the AISD students Meeting Grade Level proficiency in the core subjects are:

Reading 46%; Math 37%; Science 46%; Social Studies 45%

All of these percentages are below the state averages in each subject. For a deep dive into details and specific school numbers, go to txschools.gov. Remember you can watch all Board meetings at your convenience on-line at [AISD.net](https://aisd.net).

Mansfield ISD (34% of MISD students live in Arlington) (by Keziah Farrar)

Mansfield ISD Exploring Single-Member Districts

A significant change could be coming to the way Mansfield ISD voters elect their school board trustees.

At its August 25th meeting, the Mansfield ISD Board of Trustees voted **4–3** to approve a resolution beginning the process of exploring a transition from the district's current at-large election system to one that includes single-member trustee districts. The vote does not, by itself, change the way trustees are elected, and no final map or election structure has been approved.

Currently, all seven Mansfield ISD trustees are elected at large. That means

every eligible voter in Mansfield ISD can vote in each trustee race, regardless of where the voter or candidate lives within the district.

Under a single-member district system, Mansfield ISD would be divided into geographic trustee districts. Voters within each geographic district would elect the trustee for that particular district. The board could also consider a hybrid system. Texas law permits a seven-member school board to have at least five trustees elected from single-member districts while retaining one or two at-large positions. Mansfield ISD has not yet determined whether it would pursue five, six, or seven single-member districts.

The August resolution passed with Trustees Michele **Gooch**, Jandel **Crutchfield**, Ana-Alicia **Horn**, and Jason **Thomas** voting in favor. Trustees Jesse **Cannon II**, Benita **Reed**, and Michelle **Newsom** voted against the measure.

The discussion highlighted differing views among trustees. Supporters pointed to responses from a district governance survey of more than 1,000 people and concerns from some residents who said they did not feel adequately represented under the current system. Opponents raised questions about the necessity and cost of making the change, as well as whether trustees should continue to be elected by and accountable to voters throughout the entire school district. According to information presented at the meeting, the estimated cost associated with moving to a single-member district system could be approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000.

There are several important points for Mansfield ISD voters to understand as this discussion moves forward.

First, the voters are not necessarily required to approve the change at the ballot box. Texas Education Code §11.052 allows a school board to initiate and adopt a single-member district system itself after following the required process. Before doing so, however, the board must provide notice and conduct a public hearing.

Second, the boundaries cannot simply be drawn around existing schools or feeder patterns. Proposed trustee districts must comply with state and federal law and must be compact, contiguous and as nearly equal in population as practicable. Mansfield ISD says demographic experts and legal counsel will be involved in developing any proposed maps.

Third, even under a single-member district system, trustees would continue to govern the entire Mansfield Independent School District. A trustee would be elected by voters within a particular geographic district, but that trustee would still vote on policies, budgets, personnel and other matters affecting every MISD campus and student.

The district says the next phase will include community meetings, work with a demographer, consideration of potential maps and additional board discussion. If the board ultimately decides to move forward, proposed maps would be presented publicly, and a public hearing would be held before a final board vote.

Timing is also important. If a new system were to be used for the May 1, 2027

school board election, attorneys told the board that the process would need to be completed on a timetable that satisfies the statutory requirement that the order establishing the new election system be adopted at least 120 days before the first election conducted under it.

For Mansfield ISD taxpayers and voters, this is an issue worth following closely. Changing from at-large elections to single-member districts would fundamentally change who gets to vote in individual school board races, where future candidates must live, and how geographic representation on the board is structured.

Mansfield ISD has created a dedicated page on its website with frequently asked questions, information about the legal process, official documents and, as the process develops, proposed maps and opportunities for public input. Residents should watch upcoming board agendas and district announcements for dates of community meetings and the required public hearing.

Political Watch Committee (PWC) members are members of the [Arlington Republican Club](#) and the Republican Women of Arlington (RWA): Steve Eklund, Dr. Mark Hanson, David Rakes, Richard Weber, Jan Tyler, and Keziah Farrar.

A link to this report may also be found on the [Arlington SPECTATOR website](#). The SPECTATOR provides in depth analysis of Arlington city politics and is run by Richard Weber.

Disclaimer: The reporting and opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the official policies and agenda of the Arlington Republican Club (ARC), nor those of the Republican Women of Arlington (RWA). This report draws information from other media and agency sources. These include school board and city council sites, as well as media sites such as Arlington Spectator and UTA's The Shorthorn.

If you want to send a “**Letter to the Editor**” or just your comments regarding this report, please send it to: eklundastephen@yahoo.com. Thanks!

