



Hays County Tejano Democrats  
Primary Election March 2024  
Candidate Questionnaire: Hays County Commissioner Precinct 1  
(Alphabetical Order)

Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe

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**Why are you seeking the office of County Commissioner Precinct 1? What is your background and how does it pertain to the office you are seeking?**

I am running for reelection to the Hays County Commissioners Court because now more than ever we need proven leadership representing the residents of Precinct One. During my tenure on the court I have worked alongside our neighbors, elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels, community organizers, and neighborhood activists to improve critical infrastructure, expand access to affordable healthcare, find innovative solutions to reform our local criminal justice system, and increase access to our democracy by advocating for more polling locations East of I-35.

**What are the weaknesses of the Commissioners Court? How do you plan to address these weaknesses?**

Our Commissioners Court is made up of four county commissioners each representing a distinct and unique geographic region of our county and a county judge who is elected at-large. This means that the court must balance the wants and needs of the various commissioners court precincts and inevitably certain projects get prioritized or funded. I am grateful we now have a Democratic majority on the court. I remain hopeful that we can now make strategic investments in the area East of I-35 in both San Marcos and Kyle - an area that has historically been underfunded due to a lack of prioritization from a majority of the court.

**What is your vision for infrastructure development in your precinct, particularly regarding roads and bridges?**

My philosophy in regards to infrastructure is simple - we must maintain our current infrastructure (roads and bridges) while planning for the future. I am proud to say that we recently completed FM 110, the eastern loop connection, in San Marcos which will provide much needed congestion relief for I-35. This project is a testament to the court's commitment to ensuring Hays County's long term infrastructure needs are met.

**In a Nov 2023 survey conducted by UnidosUS, the United States's largest Latino nonprofit advocacy organization), when asked about the Democratic Party, 49% of Texas' Latino voters say the party cares about Latinos, 37% say it doesn't care too much, and 14% say it is hostile toward the Latino community. If elected, how does being a Democrat impact how you carry out the duties of your office?**

Unfortunately, I'm not surprised by the results of the UnidosUS survey results. Communities of color, especially Latinx communities in Hays County, continue to be disproportionately impacted by natural disasters, economic crises, and lack of investment from our local, state, and federal governments. During my tenure on the court, I have seen first hand how difficult it is advocating for much needed resources for communities East of I-35. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish in regards to our Public Health Dept (Christus Trinity Clinic), infrastructure, and expansion of East Side polling locations. However there is still much work to be done and that is why I am running for reelection. My democratic values are what guide me as an elected official and I firmly believe the economy should work for everyone, healthcare should be accessible and available to everyone, diverse communities are strong communities, and full participation in our democracy is good for everyone.

**Can you share a personal story or experience that highlights your commitment to public service?**

Recently, my office received a phone call from a woman who I helped, in 2021, after she noticed my name on signs around town. At that time, her daughter had recently suffered a stroke. In order to care for her daughter, she needed to have a mobile home located adjacent to her home off Hwy 21. A variance would be needed for this to happen. I immediately called Development Services and after a few days and working through some issues, we were able to provide her with a variance, so she could have her daughter close by. It

is very rewarding to hear people recall the small things we do, that have such a big impact on their quality of live.



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Alyssa Ramirez

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**Why are you seeking the office of County Commissioner Pct 1? What is your background and how does it pertain to the office you are seeking?**

I am seeking the office of County Commissioner Pct 1 because I believe my education, lived experience, and understanding of serving communities with similar demographics makes me a well-rounded candidate. I have a background in public education, community health promotion, policy advocacy, board service, and building successful non-profit organizations. My experience in creating innovative solutions to complex problems will enable me to look at issues with a fresh set of eyes and take appropriate action to ensure that community needs are being heard and met.

**What are the weaknesses of the Commissioners Court? How do you plan to address these weaknesses?**

I think overall there is a lack of accountability, transparency, and inclusion. I plan to address this by working with my colleagues, staff, and community members to create meaningful opportunities to address these issues.

**What is your vision for infrastructure development in your precinct, particularly regarding roads and bridges?**

One vision I have for infrastructure development in Precinct 1 is simply maintaining the roads we do have and mitigating hazards that have already been identified. Many of our existing roads do not meet simple standards such as being properly lined/painted making it difficult to see at night, especially in those areas that lack ample lighting. Additionally, there are many intersections that are extremely scary and dangerous to navigate either because they are very busy and there are no lights to manage traffic, or they are only two lane roads making it unsafe to pull out of residential and commercial properties. From the research I've been doing it appears that many suggestions, based on extensive mitigation studies/plans, have been made but I'm not certain that these improvements have been followed through to completion. My vision includes exploring the mitigation plans that have been put into place and being accountable for seeing those projects through to completion.

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As a Democrat I share values steeped in accessible and affordable health care, public safety, environmental protections, and equal rights. I believe that one of my biggest strengths is upholding strong ethical values and I intend to use those values when making decisions in this position. One of the main issues, I feel, that leads to people feeling uncared for is when they don't believe their voice is being heard. As a leader I find it is of the utmost importance to listen to lived experiences and take into account as many voices as possible when deciding on outcomes that affect our broad community. My Democratic values guide me in the work I do as a professional, volunteer, and philanthropist and they will continue to guide me in this office.

**Can you share a personal story or experience that highlights your commitment to public service?**

I have been a servant leader all of my life, starting from about the time I was 6 years old, so there are many different experiences I've had that highlight my commitment to public service however, probably the most recent and highly significant experiences were those I had during the height of the Covid pandemic. During this time I was leading relief efforts in the ETJ of Travis County doing everything you could possibly imagine from distributing food and PPE, to sharing information about rental and utility assistance, to collecting vaccine intention data, to hosting clinics, to delivering hundreds of care packages to the doorsteps

of community members, and serving thousands of families via drive-through distributions. I risked my health and my life on the frontlines for over 2 years in order to make sure that my neighbors, and those with the most need, had the resources to protect themselves and their families because I am committed to serving my community.