



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

Lorenzo Gonzalez

www.LorenzoForHays.com

You can also connect with our campaign on Facebook for the latest updates, events, and community discussions at:
facebook.com/LorenzoforHays/

Current Member of the State Tejano Democrats

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

I am seeking the office of Constable in Hays County Precinct 1 because I am deeply committed to fostering positive change within our community. My background uniquely positions me for this role. I bring a fresh perspective to law enforcement, unburdened by ingrained habits or old-fashioned approaches. My leadership experience extends beyond law enforcement. I have served in executive capacities in both public and private sectors, contributing to a well-rounded skill set. In county government, I played a pivotal role in the administration of the Bexar County Clerk's Office, spearheading projects that enhanced public engagement and streamlined services. I also led various Democratic organizations, including serving as the former President of the San Antonio Young Democrats and Bexar County Young Democrats, as well as the former Vice Chair for Youth for the State Tejano Democrats. My experience in county government, private businesses, and my leadership roles in Democratic organizations have equipped me with a diverse skill set, including strategic planning, financial management, and community engagement. This multifaceted background allows me to approach the Constable's office with innovation, efficiency, and a dedication to community service, essential qualities for ensuring the safety and well-being of Hays County residents.

What are the duties of a constable and why are you best suited to fulfill those duties?

The duties of a Constable traditionally include serving legal papers, such as subpoenas and eviction notices, and providing bailiff services for Justice of the Peace Courts. However, my vision for this office goes beyond these traditional responsibilities. I am committed to not only fulfilling these duties efficiently but also to transforming the Constable's office into a true resource for the residents of Precinct 1. My commitment to community-focused leadership is the cornerstone of why I am best suited for this role. I believe in actively bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community. I aim to develop programs that engage and educate residents about their rights and available resources while advocating for transparent and balanced eviction practices. I plan to create streamlined processes leveraging technology for efficiency, and providing specialized training for deputies focused on crisis intervention and mental health. My leadership roles in Democratic organizations, coupled with my experience in county government and the private sector, provide me with a unique skill set to manage the Constable's office effectively. I am not just seeking to simply fulfill the statutory duties; I am dedicated to creating a Constable's office that becomes a proactive and valuable resource for the residents of Hays County, ensuring their safety, well-being, and trust in law enforcement.

A constable should be well versed in all areas of law enforcement. How do you plan to stay up to date on changing rules, regulations, and laws during your tenure?

Staying up-to-date on changing rules, regulations, and laws is paramount for effective law enforcement, and I am committed to maintaining a high level of expertise in all relevant areas. To ensure continuous professional development during my tenure as Constable, I plan to implement a comprehensive strategy, to include: 1. Regular Training Programs: I will establish regular training programs for myself and my deputies, ensuring that we stay informed about any changes in laws, regulations, and procedures. These training sessions will go beyond the required bi-annual legislative updates, and include mental health, crisis

intervention techniques, and community-oriented policing training. 2. Participation in Professional Associations: Active participation in professional law enforcement associations will be a priority. This involvement will allow my staff and I to engage with other law enforcement professionals, attend conferences, and access resources that keep the Constable's office informed about the latest developments in law enforcement practices, policies, and legislation. 3. Community Advisory Boards and Committees: Establishing these boards and committees will provide an additional layer of insight into local concerns and expectations. Regular meetings with these organizations will not only strengthen community relations but also offer valuable feedback on how changing laws impact the residents we serve. 4. Utilization of Technology: Leveraging technology is crucial for staying current in the rapidly evolving field of law enforcement. Implementing systems for real-time updates, online training modules, and digital communication channels will ensure efficient dissemination of information to my team. By implementing these strategies, I am confident that I can maintain a high level of proficiency in all areas of law enforcement, ensuring that the Constable's office remains a reliable and well-informed resource for the Hays County community.

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?

Being a Democrat significantly influences how I approach life on a daily basis. The Democratic values of inclusivity, equity, and community engagement are integral to my vision for the office of Hays County Constable. My Democratic principles will shape my office in many ways, including: 1. Inclusivity and Community Engagement: Democrats prioritize inclusivity and community engagement. In my role as Constable, I am committed to fostering an inclusive environment where all residents feel heard, respected, and protected. I will actively engage with the diverse communities in Hays County, ensuring that their perspectives are considered in shaping the policies and practices of my office. 2. Equitable Law Enforcement Practices: Democrats advocate for fairness and equity. I will work tirelessly to ensure that law enforcement practices in Hays County Precinct 1 are transparent, unbiased, and just. This includes advocating for transparent eviction practices, streamlined civil processes, and specialized training for deputies to promote empathetic and equitable policing. 3. Advocacy for Latino Community: The UnidosUS survey highlights concerns within the Latino community about how the Democratic Party addresses their needs. As a Democrat, I will be a vocal advocate for the concerns of the Latino community in Hays County. I will actively seek input from the community, collaborate with Latino advocacy organizations, such as Tejano Democrats, and work to address any perceived gaps in the care and attention provided by the Constable's office. 4. Community-Based Solutions: Democrats often emphasize community-based solutions. I will prioritize community policing strategies, fostering collaboration with local organizations, non-profits, and community leaders. This approach will help address specific needs and concerns within the Latino community and other demographic groups, ensuring that our Constable's office serves as a true resource for all residents. In essence, being a Democrat shapes my commitment to progressive and community-focused values. I will carry out the duties of the Constable's office with a dedication to inclusivity, equity, and active engagement with the diverse communities that make up Hays County.

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

One significant experience that underscores my commitment to public service occurred during my tenure in the Bexar County Clerk's Office. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many government services faced disruptions, I spearheaded an initiative to ensure uninterrupted accessibility to essential services. Recognizing the challenges posed by the pandemic, we swiftly implemented technology-driven solutions to maintain public accessibility. This included the development of online platforms, virtual service options, and streamlined procedures to accommodate the limitations imposed by the crisis. At the forefront of this effort was the creation of a groundbreaking mobile unit named "Records on the Run." This innovative solution, the first of its kind, ensured that vital services remained accessible to the community despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic. The mobile unit became a symbol of our shared commitment to efficiency,

delivering crucial documents and services directly to local neighborhoods. The success of "Records on the Run" surpassed local recognition; it went on to win multiple prestigious awards at the county, state, national, and even international levels. This accolade not only showcased the adaptability and resilience of our public service approach but also demonstrated the potential for innovative solutions to transcend geographical boundaries. This experience profoundly shaped my perspective on the transformative power of public service. It serves as a testament to my commitment to bring innovative, community-centered solutions to the role of Constable in Hays County Precinct 1. I am dedicated to leveraging my experiences, to ensure that the Constable's office not only fulfills its duties efficiently but also actively contributes to the betterment of the community it serves.



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David L Peterson

Currently, I do not have a website or a social media contact for the members

Why are you seeking the office of Constable Pct 2? What is your background and how does it pertain to the office you are seeking?

Initially, I chose this office to continue being in law enforcement and it would have me working closely with the San Marcos community where I was born and raised. I have over 36 years of law enforcement experience. I was with the Hays County Sheriff's Office for just over 19 years and have been the Hays County Precinct 1 Constable for the last 17 years. I have over 2400 hours of continuing education and training and have various certifications.

What are the duties of a constable and why are you best suited to fulfill those duties?

The main duty of a Constable is to serve civil process. There are other assigned duties as the precinct requires such as bailiffing the courts, government center and courthouse security, and transports. They assist other law enforcement agencies when the need arises. Like all other agencies they maintain the peace and safety of their community. I can fulfill these duties with the 36 years of law enforcement knowledge and experience I have.

A constable should be well versed in all areas of law enforcement. How do you plan to stay up to date on changing rules, regulations, and laws during your tenure?

Continuing education and training help to keep me apprised of these changes. There are a number of law enforcement publications that can keep one informed.

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The duties of the office have procedures and protocol to follow. As a Democratic Constable, I would follow those procedures and protocol in serving the people of Pct 1 with professionalism and respect. Pct 1 is one of diverse communities. All citizens should be treated equally. I feel that carrying out the duties of the office in this manner would eliminate a lot of the negativity.

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

I have a lot of stories and experiences I could share highlighting my commitment to public service. I am a member of various community organizations that give back to the people. I really enjoy hosting gatherings at our local schools and involve myself with functions where I can show my appreciation. I think that the one experience that stands out more is being the Chairman of the Juneteenth Foundation, Inc Celebration and Cook-Off every year.