



Hays County Tejano Democrats  
Primary Election March 2024  
Candidate Questionnaire: Hays County Tax Assessor Collector  
(Alphabetical Order)

Jennifer Escobar

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*Current Member of the Hays County Tejano Democrats*

**Why are you seeking the office of County Tax Assessor-Collector? What is your background and how does it pertain to the office you are seeking?**

I am seeking the office of tax assessor because there is room for improvement in leadership, transparency, and efficiency. I have 25+ years' experience handling all kinds of tax issues for individuals and businesses of all sizes. Half of those years have been as owner/operator dealing with income taxes, business personal property taxes, franchise taxes, and real property taxes, both timely and delinquent. My experience with tax, and in managing people and running offices, makes me the right person for the job.

**How can you improve the performance of the Hays County Tax-Assessor-Collector's office?**

I will bring strong leadership skills that will allow me to best serve the people. I plan to be accessible and transparent and I will welcome the taxpayers' concerns and thoughts. And lastly, I will be committed to working on the efficiency of the office by implementing new ways for taxpayers to timely get through the frustrating lines.

**Given the evolving landscape of technology, what strategies would you implement to modernize the tax office's operations, improve customer service, and ensure data security?**

To modernize the office, the first item of business would be to assess what is outdated and then set goals - are we trying to improve efficiency? reduce cost? etc. Then we can upgrade software or hardware accordingly. To improve customer service, we need the input of the taxpayers - what do they want to see improved? I would also focus on employee training to ensure they are up to date on the services offered and most importantly their communication skills. To ensure data security, I would conduct regular audits to identify vulnerabilities, train employees in security practices & how to handle sensitive information and finally, create incident response plans in case there is a breach.

**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?**

As more Latinos take on leadership roles in Hays County, it is important for these new leaders to be aware that, even in 2024, some people in the county still want us to fail. Furthermore, as a Latina and a Democrat, I see valuable insights that can be gained from embracing a fresh perspective.

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

Since 2008, I have owned and operated a tax resolution business and while we handled all the typical functions of such office, the most rewarding part was the fact that Escobar & Associates made educating the community its number 1 priority. I plan to bring the same enthusiasm for education to the tax assessor's office. Educating the public allows each person to make an informed decision and is an investment that not only benefits the taxpayers but also fosters trust and contributes to the long-term success of the office.



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Vianna Garza

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*Current Member of the Hays County Tejano Democrats*

**Why are you seeking the office of County Tax Assessor-Collector? What is your background and how does it pertain to the office you are seeking?**

I am running for office to continue making a positive impact on my community as a Tax Assessor - Collector. As a future tax collector, I am dedicated to ensuring that property assessments are fair and accurate. I am also dedicated to providing useful services to our taxpayers, and ensuring tax collections are handled efficiently. Through my skills and knowledge, I will continue to contribute to the efficient allocation of resources and the smooth functioning of local government. As a Property Tax Supervisor at the Tax Office, I am the most experience candidate running for office, my background includes expertise in accounting, knowledge of and certificates in tax laws relevant to the Tax Office, the Appraisal District, the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, among others. To maintain a fair and transparent tax system without delays or disruptions, Hays County residents can count on me to play a significant role.

**How can you improve the performance of the Hays County Tax-Assessor-Collector's office?**

In light of our rapidly growing population, it is essential that we keep up with the changes. My goal at the Tax Office is to continue to improve the office, listening to our community and incorporating their suggestions as we work to make the office better. Building trust and improving overall customer satisfaction by investing in training and development, which provides opportunities for everyone to develop professionally. To improve our office, I have built relationships with a variety of agencies and government departments. This is to ensure coordinated approaches to tax assessment and collection. I believe we need to increase our staff as Hays County's population grows. As a public servant, I am able to fulfill my passion for serving the community with the help of an amazing team.

**Given the evolving landscape of technology, what strategies would you implement to modernize the tax office's operations, improve customer service, and ensure data security?**

By continuing to update our streamlined processes, embracing technology, and keeping security as a top priority. I have had the honor of attending our regional meetings as a member of the Tax Assessor - Collectors Association of Texas, where we have the availability to view the best and upcoming vendors that provide services to enhance our office as we grow in population.

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**If elected, how does being a Democrat impact how you carry out the duties of your office?**

In my role as a public servant, I am committed to treating everyone with respect and kindness. As a proud Latina, I have met many people who share my upbringing and share my vision for the Hays County Tax Office. In addition to my administrative responsibilities, I am passionate about helping residents of my community. I hope that I can continue to develop relationships with people who are truly dedicated to helping others.

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

As a child growing up near the border in South Texas, I felt a sense of responsibility for my community. It was important to me to make a positive impact and difference. While it is very childlike, I remember running for student council president as a 3rd grade student. This is where my dedication and passion for public service began. My involvement with the student base continued from elementary to high school. My family members spent weekends and days off from work organizing community relief efforts, gathering supplies, coordinating

volunteers, and assisting with any challenges we faced as a whole. My career in public service continues today with the Hays County Tax office. While I work, I assist our residents, and outside of work, I share helpful

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information pertaining to our office with anyone who is willing to listen to me. Throughout this campaign, my commitment to public service remains unwavering. Starting as a child volunteer at animal shelters to current roles as a property tax supervisor, I've enjoyed a variety of roles in the field. I am doing what I love as long as I am able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



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Cynthia Millonzi

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555827693526](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555827693526) or  
search Millonzi for Hays County Tax Assessor-Collector

**Why are you seeking the office of County Tax Assessor-Collector? What is your background and how does it pertain to the office you are seeking?**

I'm seeking the office of County Tax Assessor-Collector because the County needs real leadership, not management, but leadership. I am a retired military officer with 30 years of national and international experience and a 25-year federal civil servant. I currently work for Hays County as the Deputy Director to the County Clerk. I have an extensive career as a leader and change agent. I am well rounded in all the disciplines, from HR to fiscal management, required to lead any office, entity, or organization at the Executive level.

**How can you improve the performance of the Hays County Tax-Assessor-Collector's office?**

There are many components to improving performance and processes. As an experienced process and efficiency analyst I will apply my skills to do an initial assessment of the Tax Assessors Office. I will assess manpower, processes, policies and procedures, and I will implement corrective actions to address identified deficiencies. I will review the results of any current investigations and audits assessing the gaps that lead to any negative findings and establish management controls to mitigate known or suspected risks that impact the functions of the office.

**Given the evolving landscape of technology, what strategies would you implement to modernize the tax office's operations, improve customer service, and ensure data security?**

Cyber-crimes and infiltration of government networks are one of the fastest growing crimes that can render significant consequences to the County and its constituents. These matters must be actioned with the utmost urgency and diligence. Working in coordination with the County IT Department and utilizing external resources such as the subject matter experts at The Association of Counties, I will work to ensure that our systems and records are protected with the most current tools available. I will seek out technological solutions to improve operations and create efficiencies with the intent of improving the time that the staff has to work one-on-one with members of the community. I know how to build teams that not only provide excellent customer service but also lead to increased job satisfaction for the staff. I will not be complacent, and I will be continuously assessing and seeking ways to be more effective and efficient.

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Being a Democrat means that I treat everyone equally, with dignity, respect, and fairness. I have lived a life of service and I work every day to make a positive difference in everything that I do. I spent my career living the Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage and these values also embody Democratic values. I plan to continue living and applying these values in my life and in my work.

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

First, I will say that I have been in service to my country and community for my entire working career. I served in the US Army for 30 years and in the Federal Civil Service for 25 years. Locally, I have served as the President of Imagine Wimberley, the President of the Katherine Anne Porter School Board and I currently serve on the Board of The Wimberley Players. Here is one personal story. When COVID was first identified with so many people were getting sick and fear spreading, a group of five women, me included, activated a dormant non-profit entity in Wimberley call Imagine Wimberley. We knew we needed, and wanted, to support our

community so we started meeting via Zoom every day of the week for several months. We built a website, a Facebook page, and put out a call for volunteers not really knowing what the next step would be but taking steps none-the-less. We raised funds, we worked with other local non-profits, and we filled gaps in the non-profit community where needed. In the end we had a small but mighty team of volunteers that were transporting community members to necessary appointments and delivering groceries or medical supplies. I personally conducted daily transport of fellow community members to critical medical appointments daily for months. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my friends and neighbors during Covid in such a rewarding and meaningful way.



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Jessica Sanchez

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**Why are you seeking the office of County Tax Assessor-Collector? What is your background and how does it pertain to the office you are seeking?**

I seek this office because it's time for the residents of Hays County to have a Tax Assessor they can rely on and trust. My 14 years' experience and prior certified training courses within this office already put me in a position to hit the ground running. This has been a goal of mine to achieve so while I was in the office, I learned the process of the office to serve the residents of Hays County.

**How can you improve the performance of the Hays County Tax-Assessor-Collector's office?**

I will bring back the trust and leadership this office has been lacking. Put forth the effort to give the office a more structured leader they can rely on and count on. I will work alongside the staff, because a leader works alongside their team to earn their trust.

**Given the evolving landscape of technology, what strategies would you implement to modernize the tax office's operations, improve customer service, and ensure data security?**

Times have changed to better our now more online transactions, but I still see some residents that aren't to par with technology. My hope is to help those in need of understanding the basic form filling or step by step protesting process. Work to establish a computer station within the office for residents who do not have accesses to computers for online payments or filling process. Communicate with IT and commissioners on the steps to make this happen and ensure the security of information.

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Everyone is taxed, no matter their political affiliation. I will work alongside my staff to meet all of our deadlines on time and provide customer service that ALL Hays County residents trust and are proud of. I will be available to residents to discuss any issues they are having and work to ensure their issues are resolved and handled appropriately.

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

My work experience has always been with public/customer service. My desire it to serve the community and I will continue to serve them. I will be a Tax Assessor the county will be proud to call a fellow hays County resident.