

2024 Ellis Appraisal District Board of Directors' Candidate Information

Please find information for the nominated candidates:

Rusty Ballard

Walter Erwin

Dani Muckleroy

Cornel Benford II

David Hurst

Machanta Newson

Travis Bruton

Rick Keeler

George Ricks

Sherron Mosley

Rusty Ballard – Mr. Ballard was nominated by Ellis County. Mr. Ballard is a longtime resident of Ellis County and has lived primarily in the Forreton area for the past 40 years. Over the years Mr. Ballard has served the community in public office and city commissions for Ellis County and the City of Waxahachie. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington and his Master of Science degree in Forensic Studies from Stevenson University. Mr. Ballard works as a claims investigator for CoventBridge Group LLC focusing on the insurance industry.

Cornel Benford II - Mr. Benford was nominated by the City of Glenn Heights. Mr. Benford earned his Bachelor of Science in Information Systems from DePaul University in Chicago. His career started in 2012 in California working for 3M. Since 2015 Mr. Benford began in the Pharmaceuticals Industry as a Primary Healthcare Representative I. Mr. Benford moved to Texas in 2017 and continued in the Healthcare arena as a Sales Representative at Pfizer, an Oncology Sales Representative for Ferring Pharmaceuticals, a Sales Representative at Romark Pharmaceuticals, and an ADHD Account Manager at Ironshore Pharmaceuticals. In 2022 Mr. Benford became a Solution Architect at Leica Biosystems.

Travis Bruton - Mr. Bruton was nominated by the City of Glenn Heights. Mr. Bruton earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance at the University of Memphis and his Master of Business Administration at American Intercontinental University in Florida. His career started as an Accountant working with The ADT Corporation in Security Services in Florida. In 2013 Mr. Bruton moved to Texas to work with the Westwood Holding Group, followed by McKesson and Trinity Industries, Inc. as a Senior Accountant. In 2020, Mr. Bruton become the Principal Owner of Total Mortgage and Lending Solutions. He has served the City of Glenn Heights creating the first Youth Advisory Council and was elected in 2017 and 2021 as a City Councilman. He also served as the Vice Chair of the Small Cities Council with the National League of Cities.

Walter Erwin - Mr. Erwin was nominated by the City of Midlothian. Mr. Erwin has served on the Ellis Appraisal District Board of Directors as the Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2022 and 2023 and as a Member for a part of 2021. He was in the US Army Reserve from 1964-1971 while simultaneously earning his BBA from the University of Texas. From 1973-2018, he was the President and CEO of Erwin Distributing Co, Inc. DBA Wally's Party Factory while also founding Party Club of America and was co-owner/founder of Halloween and Party Expo, selling these businesses by 2018. Mr. Erwin remains the Managing Member of Erwin Properties, LP (I & II) and remains on the Ennis State Bank Board of Directors since 1985. He volunteered as the Vice-President of the Ennis Industrial Foundation in the 1970-80's and the Trinity River Authority of Texas from 1982-1993, serving as the President of their Board of Directors from 1991-1993.

David Hurst - Mr. Hurst was nominated by the City of Midlothian and Midlothian ISD. Mr. Hurst has served on the Ellis Appraisal District Board of Directors as a Member for a portion of 2023. He has been a resident of Ellis County since 1994. Mr. Hurst has been a licensed Texas Architect since September 1988 after graduating from the School of Architecture at the University of Texas. Professionally he has served as CEO for Integrated Builders from 2000-2008, Vice President of Southern Cross from 2009-2011 and is currently President of Falcon Construction Advisors. Mr. Hurst is the Former President and Chairman of the Board for Midlothian Economic Development Corporation.

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Richard (Rick) Keeler - Mr. Keeler was nominated by the City of Midlothian. Mr. Keeler has served on the Ellis Appraisal District Board of Directors as a Member for 2022-2023. He has been a resident of Waxahachie since 1985, serving on the Waxahachie Planning and Zoning Commission as Chairman, on the City of Waxahachie Economic Development Commission and on the Steering Committee for the Waxahachie Economic Development Plan. He attended De Soto High School, received a BBA in Finance from Sam Houston State University and attended the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University. Professionally, Mr. Keeler has been with Options Real Estate Investments, Inc. since 1996, from 1981-1996 worked with Community and Commercial Banking and is a member of the Congress for the New Urbanism. He volunteers with Waxahachie Youth Baseball and the Waxahachie YMCA.

Sherron Mosley – Mr. Mosley was nominated by the City of Glenn Heights. He is a Real Estate Agent at JPAR-Arlington Real Estate and served as a Safety Officer at The Potter's House from 2017-2021. Mr. Mosley is a City Councilmember for the City of Glenn Heights.

Dani Muckleroy - Ms. Muckleroy was nominated by the City of Midlothian. Ms. Muckleroy has served on the Ellis Appraisal District Board of Directors as the Secretary for 2022-2023 and as a Member for a part of 2021. Ms. Muckleroy has been a resident of Ovilla for 28 years. She owned a retail gift shop in Duncanville for 14 years. She is a volunteer and supporter of several non-profit groups that meet the needs of marginal families with an emphasis on children. She has served on the Advisory Council of the Ellis County Salvation Army for 13 years and on the Board at Daniel's Den for one term. She presently serves, using her many years in accounting, on the Finance Committee of First United Methodist Church of Red Oak, understanding budgets and the reason for them. Ms. Muckleroy is a CASA volunteer and a mentor at Red Oak High School.

Manchanta Newson - Ms. Newson was nominated by the City of Glenn Heights. Ms. Newson earned her Bachelor of Social Work at Mississippi State University in 2003 and her Master of Science in Social Work in 2006 from the University of Tennessee. She started her career in 2006 as a Clinical Therapist and in 2007 moved into working in many different roles with the Department of Veterans Affairs, continuing currently as a Medical Foster Home Coordinator/Social Work Supervisor with the VA. Ms. Newson also is the Executive Director of Kennedy Kares in Glenn Heights and a Psychotherapist/Owner of Village Counseling & Consulting PLLC in Ovilla. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Texas and Tennessee and a Texas Board Approved Clinical Supervisor. Ms. Newson is a member of the Academy of Clinical Social Workers and an Active Member of the National Association of Social Workers. Ms. Newson has served as a City Councilmember for the City of Glenn Heights since 2017.

George Ricks - Mr. Ricks was nominated by the Midlothian ISD. Mr. Ricks graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and in 1990 earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Dallas. From 1977-2006 in Texas, he held positions including Petroleum Engineer, Sr. Drilling Engineer, Production Engineer, Contract Engineer, Sr. Engineering Specialist for companies such as Hunt Energy, Sunmark Exploration, May Petroleum, American Oil Partners, and Anadarko Petroleum Corporation. From 2007 to 2013, he was a Sr. Production Engineer for Reef Exploration, LP, and a Sr. Staff Operations Engineer for Pioneer Natural Resources from 2013-2019. Mr. Ricks retired in May of 2019.