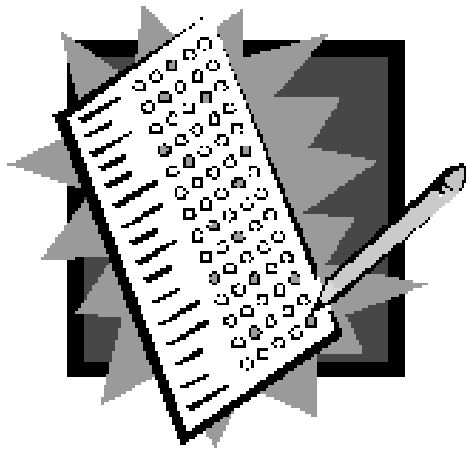


**November 2004
Higher Education
Voter's Guide**



Austin, Texas

UT  WATCH

Who Are We?

UT Watch is a student-based watchdog group for the University of Texas at Austin. We promote campus democracy, affordable education, and genuine access to higher education for all Texans. For more information, visit us online at www.utwatch.org.

Why Vote?

Students and their families are directly impacted by government legislation regarding higher education. For example, tuition was deregulated by the Texas legislature in spring 2003, and, as a result, students across the state are paying as much as \$720 more per semester. In addition, there are bills in the U.S. Congress such as House Resolution 4283 that would result in the typical student spending an estimated \$5,500 more for their loans. Students and their families must begin to get involved in the decisions that affect their lives, and voting is an important first step.

This non-partisan guide aims to inform voters of their candidates' stance on several issues important to higher education to help them make informed decisions this November. Unfortunately, some candidates did not reply after numerous attempts to reach them.

"Grading" Methodology

Candidates that we support will have a star ★ next to their names.

Agrees: +1 Disagrees: 0 No answer / undecided: 0.5

State Level

Candidates must answer at least 5 out of the 7 "yes" or "no" questions favorably to receive our support. However, some questions are weighted more heavily than others; specifically, those in favor of tuition deregulation will automatically receive a score of "0". Those who do not support the re-regulation of tuition, increased state appropriation to universities, the bills regarding free speech will receive -1 point.

Those who voted for tuition deregulation *and* support tuition re-regulation receive a total score of "0" for those two questions but are graded on the other questions.

Federal Level

Candidates must answer 6 out of 9 questions favorably to receive our support. However, one question, regarding HR 4283, is weighted more heavily. Candidates supporting this bill will be given -2.

Questions and Positions

(UT Watch's stance is indicated after each question)

Federal Level

1). *Do you support efforts, such as House Resolution 2956, to simplify the student financial aid application process?* **YES**

Simplifying the financial aid application process would cut down on a time-wasting and complicated process without impacting the amount of aid for which any student is currently awarded or eligible.

2). *Do you support efforts, such as House Resolution 2711, to allow students to refinance their federal student consolidation loans, and to allow students the freedom to select a student loan consolidator?* **YES**

H.R. 2711 and other similar measures would help ease the burden of large student debt by striking down the "single lender rule" and allowing students to refinance their consolidation loans when better rates come along.

3). *Do you support loan forgiveness efforts such as House Resolutions 1306 and 647 for teachers, nurses, and other public service professionals?* **YES**

Loan forgiveness eases the burden of debt by providing valuable but understaffed positions in the public sphere to motivated college graduates.

4). *Do you support efforts such as either House Resolutions 3519 or 3311 to contain skyrocketing tuition costs?* **YES**

The two bills mentioned are extremely different, but both represent some attempt by the federal government to address the huge increases in tuition witnessed during the last few decades. Ultimately, neither loan forgiveness nor more lucrative loans will fix the root of the problem – tuition is already too high but continues to increase at many times the rate of inflation.

5.) *Did you support House Resolution 3077, or would you support any other attempts to establish International Higher Education Advisory Boards that would monitor and redirect area studies and language programs to better serve "national needs" such as homeland security?* **NO**

H.R. 3077 intrudes on academic freedom by creating "advisory boards," which will include two members of national security agencies. While UT Watch believes in the importance of homeland security, we also believe that the government has no role in directing academic discourse toward its own ends; the government should not infringe on autonomous scholarship and research by imposing its own agenda.

6.) *Do you support House Resolution 685 or other efforts to repeal the provisions in the Higher Education Act of 1965 that prohibit those convicted of drug offences from receiving Student Financial Assistance?* **YES**

Depriving those convicted of non-violent crimes who seek to better their lives through education is inappropriate; there are already punitive measures available to judges to enforce drug laws.

7.) *Do you support or oppose House Resolution 3180, otherwise known as the "College Opportunity for All Act"?* **SUPPORT**

This large and complicated bill would help make college more affordable by, for example, repealing recent student aid changes that would deny 84,000 students their Pell Grants, and by doubling the maximum Pell Grant Award by 2011. It also provides provisions similar to those found in House Resolutions 2956, 2711, 1306, 647, and 685, all of which are described in the earlier questions.

8.) *Do you support or oppose House Resolution 4283, otherwise known as the "College Access and Opportunity Act of 2004"?* **OPPOSE**

This act eliminates low fixed rate consolidation loans, which will mean the typical student could pay as much as \$5,500 more for their loans. It also raises the cap on student loan interest rates, and it does not raise the maximum Pell Grant awards. Candidates who support this act receive an extra 2 points off their "grade" in this guide.

9.) *Do you support House Congressional Resolution 318 or other, similar efforts to establish an "Academic Bill of Rights"?* **NO**

This bill actually infringes on academic freedom by transferring the standards by which professors are hired, and the way that they grade and teach, from the academic arena to the political. It would allow courts and college administrators to have greater control over academic activities.

State Level

1). *Did you support tuition deregulation?* **NO**

The deregulation of tuition has resulted in massive tuition increases across the state of Texas. UT Watch does not support any candidate who supported this measure.

2). *Would you support the re-regulation of tuition?* **YES**

Those who do not support a re-regulation of tuition receive -1 point.

3). *Do you support including an elected and voting student member on the UT System Board of Regents?* **YES**

The UT regents lack accountability, and this is a move in the right direction. However, UT Watch supports democratizing the entire Board of Regents.

4). *Do you support House Bill 1212, which limits foreign graduate student enrollment?* **NO**

No student should be denied access to education due to their nationality. Foreign students make important contributions to their respective fields and provide diverse perspectives and experiences to their departments and peers.

5). *Did you support SB 1370, which reduced benefits to teaching assistants and other state employees?* **NO**

Reducing benefits for Teaching Assistants in Texas is the wrong idea since it undermines the ability of Texas universities to attract top students, and it is already difficult for overworked graduate students to afford school.

6). *Do you support significantly increasing state appropriations to Texas universities?* **YES**

This is the best move to combat rising tuition costs and to improve the University.

7). *Do you support efforts such as those presented by House Bill 2447 or Senate Bill 1332 to relax restrictions on the time, place, and manner of speech in a state institution of higher education?* **YES**

Free speech is vital to public discourse, which is paramount in academe.

8). *Out of the issues previously mentioned, which is the most important to you?*

FIND YOUR DISTRICTS

There may be more than one district that corresponds to your zip code. The tables on the next few pages provide a quick and easy way to narrow down your list of candidates if you do not have your voter registration card with you. Your districts can be found on that card. Remember, **you belong to only one district for each representative body.**

Find your legislator! <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm>

Zip Code	Congressional District(s)	Senate District(s)	House District(s)
73301	21, 25	14, 25	49, 51
73344	21, 25	14, 25	47, 51
78701	21	14	49, 51
78702	21, 25	14	46, 49, 51
78703	10, 21	14	48, 49
78704	21, 25	14, 25	49, 51
78705	10, 21, 25	14	46, 49
78708	10	14	46, 48, 49, 50
78709	21	14, 25	47
78710	10	14	46, 50
78711	21	14	49, 51
78712	21	14	49
78713	10, 21, 25	14	46, 49
78714	21	14	49, 51
78715	21, 25	14, 25	47, 49, 51
78716	10, 21	14	48
78717	31	5	20, 52
78718	10	14	46, 48, 49, 50
78719	25	14, 25	51
78720	10, 21, 31	5, 14	48, 50, 52
78721	25	14	46, 51
78722	25	14	46
78723	25	14	46
78724	10, 25	14	46, 50
78725	25	14	46, 51
78726	21	14	48, 50
78727	10, 31	5, 14	50, 52
78728	10, 31	5, 14	50, 52
78729	10, 31	5, 14	50, 52
78730	10, 21	14	48
78731	10, 21	14	48, 49
78732	21	14	48
78733	10, 21	14	47, 48
78734	21	14	47
78735	21	14, 25	47, 49

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78736	21	14, 25	45, 47
78737	21	14, 25	45, 47
78738	21	14	47
78739	21	25	47
78741	21, 25	14, 25	49, 51
78742	25	14	51
78744	21, 25	14, 25	47, 51
78745	21, 25	14, 25	47, 49, 51
78746	10, 21	14	48
78748	21, 25	14, 25	47
78749	21	14, 25	47
78750	21, 31	5, 14	48, 50, 52
78751	10, 25	14	46, 49
78752	10, 25	14	46, 49
78753	10	14	46, 50
78754	10	14	46, 50
78755	10, 21, 31	5, 14	48, 50, 52
78756	10	14	49
78757	10	14	46, 48, 49
78758	10	14	46, 48, 49, 50
78759	10, 21, 31	5, 14	48, 50, 52
78760	21, 25	14, 25	47, 51
78761	10, 25	14	46, 49
78762	21, 25	14	46, 49, 51
78763	10, 21	14	48, 49
78764	21, 25	14, 25	49, 51
78765	10, 25	14	46, 49
78766	10	14	46, 48, 49
78767	21	14	49, 51
78768	21	14	49, 51
78769	21	14	49, 51
78772	21, 25	14, 25	49, 51
78773	21	14	49, 51
78774	21	14	49, 51
78778	21	14	49, 51
78779	10, 21	14	48, 49
78780	10, 21	14	48
78783	25	14	46
78785	10, 25	14	46, 49
78786	21	14	49, 51
78788	10	14	46, 50
78789	10	14	46, 48, 49
78799	25	14	46, 51

Answer Key:

Y = Yes; N = No; X = No answer/undecided

Congressional Districts: 10, 21, 25, 31

State Senate Districts: 5, 14, 25 (*No campaigns to report*)

State House Districts: 20, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52

Congressional District 10

Lorenzo Sadun (D) – Grade: 9 ✨ *Perfect Score*

Website: www.writeinsadun.org; Email: [contact\(AT\)writeinsadun.org](mailto:contact(AT)writeinsadun.org)

Phone: (512) 371-9455; Fax: (512) 371-9455

Address: PO Box 9077 / Austin, TX 78709-0774

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Simplify Loans: Y | 2. Refinance Loans: Y | 3. Loan forgiveness: Y |
| 4. Tuition: Y | 5. Intl Studies Board: N | 6. Repeal drug offenses: Y |
| 7. HR3180: Y | 8. HR4283: N | 9. HCR318: N |

Michael McCaul (R)

Website: www.mccaulforcongress.com; Email: [info\(AT\)mccaulforcongress.com](mailto:info(AT)mccaulforcongress.com)

Meetup: MMcCaulforCongress.meetup.com

Phone: (512) 342-0001; Fax: (512) 342-0002

Address: 3508 Far West Blvd., Ste. 320 / Austin, TX 78731

Unable to respond in time

Robert Fritschie (Libertarian)

Website: fritsche.lpcandidate.com

Meetup: rwfritctieforcongress.meetup.com; Phone: (512) 794-7950

Address: 12370 Alameda Trace Cr., #228 / Austin, TX 78727

Unable to respond in time

Congressional District 21

Rhett Smith (D) – Grade: 6 ✨

Website: www.rhettsmithforcongress.org

Email: [smithrhett\(AT\)yahoo.com](mailto:smithrhett(AT)yahoo.com)

Meetup: rrsmithforcongress.meetup.com; Phone: (210) 317-5143

Address: PO Box 17271 / San Antonio, TX 78217

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Simplify Loans: Y | 2. Refinance Loans: Y | 3. Loan forgiveness: Y |
| 4. Tuition: X | 5. Intl Studies Board: X | 6. Repeal drug offenses: Y |
| 7. HR3180: X | 8. HR4283: X | 9. HCR318: X |

Lamar Smith (Incumbent) (R)

Meetup: LSSmithforCongress.meetup.com; Phone: (210) 826-1085;

Fax: (210) 826-1093; Address: PO Box 6155 / San Antonio, TX 78209

Jason Pratt (Libertarian) – *Grade: 4.5*
 Meetup: jprattforcongress.meetup.com
 Address: 4904 Woodview Ave. / Austin, TX 78756

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Simplify Loans: N | 2. Refinance Loans: Y | 3. Loan forgiveness: X |
| 4. Tuition: X | 5. Intl Studies Board: N | 6. Repeal drug offenses: N |
| 7. HR3180: N | 8. HR4283: X | 9. HCR318: N |

Congressional District 25

Lloyd Doggett (Incumbent) (D)
 Website: www.votedoggett.com; Email: [info\(AT\)votedoggett.com](mailto:info(AT)votedoggett.com)
 Phone: (512) 220-7965; Fax: (512) 220-7975
 Address: 2212 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. / Austin, TX 78702
 Unable to respond in time

James Werner (Libertarian) – *Grade: 4*
 Website: electjameswerner.com; Email: [electjameswerner\(AT\)earthlink.net](mailto:electjameswerner(AT)earthlink.net)
 Meetup: jswernerforcongress.meetup.com
 Address: 2001 Kenwood Avenue / Austin, TX 78704

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Simplify Loans: N | 2. Refinance Loans: Y | 3. Loan forgiveness: N |
| 4. Tuition: N | 5. Intl Studies Board: Y | 6. Repeal drug offenses: X |
| 7. HR3180: N | 8. HR4283: X | 9. HCR318: X |

Rebecca Armendariz Klein (R) – *Grade: 4*
 Website: www.becky4congress.com; Email: [mail\(AT\)becky4congress.com](mailto:mail(AT)becky4congress.com)
 Meetup: rakleinformcongress.meetup.com
 Phone: (512) 220-2770; Fax: (512) 477-0009
 Address: PO Box 1508 / Austin, TX 78767-1508

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Simplify Loans: Y | 2. Refinance Loans: Y | 3. Loan forgiveness: Y |
| 4. Tuition: Y | 5. Intl Studies Board: Y | 6. Repeal drug offenses: Y |
| 7. HR3180: Y | 8. HR4283: Y | 9. HCR318: N |

Congressional District 31

Jon Porter (D) – *Grade: 4*
 Website: www.porter2004.com; Email: [jon\(AT\)porter2004.com](mailto:jon(AT)porter2004.com)
 Meetup: jporterforcongress.meetup.com; Phone: (512) 335-2203
 Address: 1420 Cypress Creek Rd., Ste. 200-320 / Cedar Park, TX 78613

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Simplify Loans: Y | 2. Refinance Loans: Y | 3. Loan forgiveness: Y |
| 4. Tuition: Y | 5. Intl Studies Board: Y | 6. Repeal drug offenses: X |
| 7. HR3180: X | 8. HR4283: Y | 9. HCR318: N |

Celeste Adams (Libertarian)
 Website: www.lpcandidate.com/celesteadams Email: [celesteadamsforoffice\(AT\)yahoo.com](mailto:celesteadamsforoffice(AT)yahoo.com)

Meetup: cadamsforcongress.meetup.com
 Phone:(512)554-1762;Address:6800 McNeil Dr. 434 / Austin, TX 78729
 Unable to respond in time

John Carter (Incumbent) (R) – *Grade: 3*
 Website: www.carterforcongress.com; Email: info(AT)carterforcongress.com
 Meetup: JRCarterforCongress.meetup.com; Phone: (512) 246-9996 Address: PO Box
 6930 / Round Rock, TX 78683

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Simplify Loans: Y | 2. Refinance Loans: N | 3. Loan forgiveness: Y |
| 4. Tuition: Y | 5. Intl Studies Board: X | 6. Repeal drug offenses: X |
| 7. HR3180: X | 8. HR4283: Y | 9. HCR318: X |

Note: Rep. Carter answered all questions. However, it was not clear how some of his answers were to be tallied. His full responses can be found at www.utwatch.org.

State Senate Districts 5, 14, 25

- No campaigns to report -

State House District 20

Jim Stauber (D) – *Grade: 6* ✨

Email: jcstauber(AT)sbcglobal.net
1. Dereg: N; 2. Re-reg: Y; 3. Student regent: N; 4. Foreign Grad Students: N; 5. SB1370: N; 6. State Appr: Y; 7. Free Speech: Y; 8. Most important issue: Tuition, state employees

Dan Gattis (Incumbent) (R) – *Grade: 3*
 Website: www.dangattis.org; Phone: (512) 931-2068
 Address: PO Box 2856 / Georgetown, TX 78627

- 1. Dereg: Y; 2. Re-reg: Y; 3. Student regent: N; 4. Foreign Grad Students: X; 5. SB1370: X; 6. State Appr: Y; 7. Free Speech: Y; 8. Most important issue: Tuition**

State House District 46

Dawanna Dukes (Incumbent) (D)
 Phone: (512) 463-0506; Fax: (612) 481-0373
 Address: PO Box 14645 / Austin, TX 78761
 Does not respond to questionnaires *Abstained on Tuition Deregulation*

State House District 47

Terry Keel (Incumbent) (R) – *Grade: 0*
 Website: www.terrykeel.com; Phone: (512) 480-8683
 Address: 1108 Lavaca Suite 400 / Austin, TX 78701
 Unable to respond in time **Yes on Tuition Deregulation**

State House District 48

Kelly White (D)
 Address: 11 Sundown Parkway / Austin, TX 78746
 Unable to be reached

Todd Baxter (Incumbent) (R) – *Grade: 0*
 Website: www.toddbaxter.com
 Address: PO Box 161122 / Austin, TX 78716
 Unable to be reached

Yes on Tuition Deregulation

State House District 49

Elliott Naishtat (Incumbent) (D) – Grade: 7 ✦ Perfect Score
 Phone: (512) 463-0668; Address: 6401 Wilbur Dr. / Austin, TX 78757
1. Dereg: N; 2. Re-reg: Y; 3. Student regent: Y; 4. Foreign Grad Students: N; 5. SB1370: N; 6. State Appr: Y; 7. Free Speech: Y; 8. Most important issue: State Appropriations and Tuition

State House District 50

Mark Strama (D) – Grade: 7 ✦ Perfect Score
 Phone: (512) 633-3795
 Address: 12820 N. Lamar # 732 / Austin, TX 78753
1. Dereg: N; 2. Re-reg: Y; 3. Student regent: Y; 4. Foreign Grad Students: N; 5. SB1370: N; 6. State Appr: Y; 7. Free Speech: Y; 8. Most important issue: Tuition

Jack Stick (Incumbent) (R) – *Grade: 0*
 Website: www.jackstick.org; Phone: (512) 391-9000; Fax: (512) 474-8006; Address: 100 Congress Ave, Suite 1800 / Austin, TX 78701
 Unable to be reached

Yes on Tuition Deregulation

Greg Knowles (Independent) – *Grade: 4*
 Phone: (512) 689-8285
1. Dereg: N; 2. Re-reg: Y; 3. Student regent: Y; 4. Foreign Grad Students: N; 5. SB1370: Y; 6. State Appr: N; 7. Free Speech: Y; 8. Most important issue: Free Speech

State House District 51

Eddie Rodriguez (Incumbent) (D)
 Phone: (512) 463-0674 ; Address: P.O. Box 2436 / Austin, TX 78768
 Unable to respond in time *No on Tuition Deregulation*

State House District 52

Mike Krusee (Incumbent) (R) – *Grade: 0*
 Website: www.mikekrusee.com; Phone: (512) 463-0670
 Address: 13231 Briar Hollow / Austin, TX 78729
 Unable to respond in time **Yes on Tuition Deregulation**

Karen Felthouser (Write-In) – Grade: 6.5 ✦
1. Dereg: N; 2. Re-reg: Y; 3. Student regent: Y; 4. Foreign Grad Students: X; 5. SB1370: N; 6. State Appr: Y; 7. Free Speech: Y; 8. Most important: State Appro.
**Note: Felthouser is running primarily to increase state support for education*