

Questions	Responses: Ashley Evans, Candidate for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4
1. Why are you seeking this office?	It's critical to have an experienced constitutionalist who can hear facts, apply the law as written, and render a just verdict. My 16 years of Judicial experience, knowledge of civil and criminal proceedings, will allow me to hit the ground running.
2. Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate for this position.	16 years of experience in various judicial-related capacities, including the District Attorney and District Clerks Office. Since 2014, I've served as Court Administrator for Comal County Court at Law #2. I serve as the primary contact between the Court and all parties involved in civil and criminal cases. I coordinate all dockets and manage all court proceedings. I am a respected colleague to prosecutors, attorney, and judges while at the same time a trusted servant to involved parties.
3. What is the one thing you would never compromise on?	Integrity, I swear to faithfully execute the duties of JP. Protect, defend, and uphold the constitution. I am a Christian conservative woman with strong moral principles and family values. I am known as compassionate, fair, and dedicated.
4. What is the most important principle that guides your decision making?	I'm a Christian conservative who believes in the constitution and the laws of this state. My decisions will be guided by existing legal standards. A judicial position is not a place to legislate or create new laws.
5. Should JPs need to have law degrees? Why or why not?	No. The JP court is viewed as the people's court and meant to be a court of peers. Its not a court of record and is frequently litigated by non-attorney citizens. Appeal safeguards are in place to move cases to a court of record where an attorney judge presides. That said, I believe for a court to be effective, a judge should have experience in law, procedure, and general knowledge of the judicial system. When in court, you should be confident, a judge knows the law and will follow it.
6. What will carry the greatest influence in your rulings: criminal and/or civil case law, the Constitution, State statues, or other?	In the legal system, the most weight should be placed on the constitution and state laws followed by relevant case law. That said, there are varying circumstance to each case brought in front of the court and a range of rulings available depending on the severity of the offense or magnitude of the case. If elected, I will listen to all aspects and relevant facts of the case and make fair judgments based on the constitution and law rather than emotion, opinion or personal interpretation.
7. Please explain your view of recidivism and how it affects the sentences you give.	Generally, recidivism plays a larger role in the higher courts such as Courts at Law and District Courts. Criminal cases in the JP Court, have a maximum judgment of a fine only. Granted, various offenses such as truancy and no insurance have increasing penalties ranges while most others carry the same maximum fine for each incident. The goal of all courts should be to provide equal and fair justice but also to encourage compliance. If elected, this will be true in my office and my court.