



The Woodlands Township Board of Directors 2023 Election Candidate Survey

Each year, Bike The Woodlands surveys candidates for local elections to seek candidates' perspectives on issues related to bicycle riding and active transportation in our community. We reach out to all candidates with the same questions, and we hope to share candidates' responses in [a blog post on our website here](#).

Please note that we do not endorse candidates.

Learn more about our work on our website at bikethewoodlands.org.

Position #5

Shelly Sekula-Gibbs

Tricia Danto

As our community's bicycle advocacy organization, Bike The Woodlands Coalition focuses on infrastructure improvements and public policy that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. Tell us about your policy priorities for health and public safety as they relate to active transportation and bicycle and pedestrian safety.

The Woodlands bicycle community and Bike The Woodlands are a key part of my platform to Keep The Woodlands Wonderful and make it even better for future generations.

During my 2nd term on the Township Board, I have successfully worked with TxDOT, elected officials, businesses and residents to persuade TxDOT not to widen SH 242 to six lanes between Gosling Rd and FM 1488. This would have brought more cut-through traffic into The Woodlands. TxDOT's modified plans will add and elongate turning lanes at 13 intersections, improve the state highway, enhance drainage and synchronize traffic lights. TxDOT has agreed to work with the Township to design and maintain landscape in the medians and around the proposed detention ponds. Discussions are ongoing.

During conversations with TxDOT, the Township became aware of a TxDOT grant whose purpose is to build pathways that will connect isolated communities. The Township has applied for an \$8.5M (20/80) TxDOT grant that will link Harpers Landing and Windvale to the rest of The Woodlands 220 miles of pathways. The results should be released in October or November.

The Township 2024 Budget funds \$413K for a new pathway along North Millbend between Grogan's Mill Rd. and Wild Ridge Drive. This section is part of the 2016 The Woodlands Township Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, which is supported by Bike The Woodlands.

Pathways are being added on Kuykendahl Rd. between Lake Woodlands Dr. and Research Forest Dr.

Howard Hughes, Inc. recently gave 208 acres of recreational land along Spring Creek and South Gosling Rd to The Woodlands Township. This gift offers exciting possibilities for pathway expansion, recreation, and connectivity with the existing 220 miles of Woodlands pathways. It also provides the opportunity to create a safe destination for families and individuals enjoying the Spring Creek Greenway.

As a director I will listen to the residents and govern with their desires first and foremost. I am passionate about public safety and ensuring law enforcement has the tools necessary to keep citizens safe as they use our pathways and roads.

Position #5 (continued)

Shelly Sekula-Gibbs

Tricia Danto

What message would you like to send to bicycle riders in The Woodlands about your candidacy in the upcoming election?

Bicycle riders are a vital part of The Woodlands outdoor community. The businesses who support the bicycle community are important. As a member of the Township Board of Directors, I am honored to represent bicycle riders and I take my responsibility for your safety and enjoyment seriously. I am always open to your comments and suggestions.

I want this particular community to know that I will listen to their concerns. I will always get the input of my constituency before moving to make changes or add new policies. I have three girls who ride their bikes, scooters and often roller-blade on our pathways and roadways. I want these areas to remain in good condition and safe for everyone.

Over the last few years, many residents of The Woodlands have expressed opinions about the use of e-bikes in our community. What is your perspective on these bikes, and how would you respond to resident concerns as a member of the Township Board of Directors?

Township rules state that no motorized vehicles are allowed on Township pathways, which are owned by the Township. Unlike some other communities, The Woodlands pathways are often heavily forested with short lines of sight and numerous curves. This can make fast moving quiet e-bikes a heightened risk for pedestrians, strollers, and slower pathway users.

I understand there is a movement to allow e-bikes on shared use pathways. I look forward to working with residents to decide if we should expand the pathway use to include the e-bikes, but would not do so until input from the community at large was considered. If the general consensus is to allow these bikes, then I would be glad to make that change.

Position #6

Thomas A. Chumbley

Ann K. Snyder

As our community's bicycle advocacy organization, Bike The Woodlands Coalition focuses on infrastructure improvements and public policy that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. Tell us about your policy priorities for health and public safety as they relate to active transportation and bicycle and pedestrian safety.

A few of my infrastructure improvements that I would provide to The Woodlands is the addition of bike paths for riders looking to bike alongside the road and clearer Pathway marks on the sidewalk for those unfamiliar with our rules and regulations to have a reminder to stay to the right of the pathway, allowing for not only the greater safety for pedestrians using the Pathways, but also to those using vehicles using the road and being able to better see bikers in blind spots.

My priorities have always encompassed both health and public safety. I am a strong advocate of healthy lifestyles. My record speaks to my commitment regarding infrastructure improvements.

What message would you like to send to bicycle riders in The Woodlands about your candidacy in the upcoming election?

As a regular bike user myself, I see that The Woodlands is an open canvas for bike riding and has the potential to be even greater than it is now by implementing bike paths that not only benefit bikers but also pedestrians so both can enjoy the wonderful and beautiful nature we provide.

I wholeheartedly support Bike The Woodlands and have been a strong advocate since I was elected to The Woodlands Township Board in 2015.

Over the last few years, many residents of The Woodlands have expressed opinions about the use of e-bikes in our community. What is your perspective on these bikes, and how would you respond to resident concerns as a member of the Township Board of Directors?

I believe the use of e-bikes are an acceptable method for travel, however not at the expense of people using the Pathways since e-bikes have been known to go speeds up to 30+ MPH, which can cause a risk of injury or worse. With the addition of e-bikes in our community, I believe them to be another strong reason why I believe having bike paths for the side of the road is a good idea.

Currently, the Woodlands Township Board has elected not to allow e-bikes on pathways due to challenges with walkers, joggers and cyclists.

Position #7

Cindy Heiser

Thomas M. Chumbley

Ann Perry

As our community's bicycle advocacy organization, Bike The Woodlands Coalition focuses on infrastructure improvements and public policy that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. Tell us about your policy priorities for health and public safety as they relate to active transportation and bicycle and pedestrian safety.

"The security of our Hometown and the safety of our residents, businesses, and visitors are of the highest priority. Our community thrives when people feel safe and we must dedicate the resources needed to keep our hometown streets and pathways safe so that children and families can enjoy our amenities.

My discussions with our current public officials about bicycle and pedestrian safety have made it evident that we have the same focus. I would like to concentrate on the prevention of accidents on our busy roadways by collaborating with County and TXDOT officials. There is much that we can do to ensure that cyclists, runners, and pedestrians have the freedom to enjoy their sports without fear of vehicle collisions. We should be encouraging a healthy lifestyle for children and adults.

It is also important to continue a strong presence of law enforcement in our residential and commercial areas to keep speeding and running red lights at bay. Preventative policing is a best practice that we can encourage with our partners in Montgomery County while keeping our taxes low."

1. improve vehicular traffic law my the way my website indicates see tomatthewoodlands.com
2. re-establish the transportation committee and reintroduce aspects of the transportation plan to the current economic and community development committee for assessment of ROI.

The majority of the projects that are in the The Woodlands Master Plan have been completed, or now in the planning stage. I will continue to support those projects that will improve both bike safety and over all rider experience.

Position #7, continued

Cindy Heiser

Thomas M. Chumbley

Ann Perry

What message would you like to send to bicycle riders in The Woodlands about your candidacy in the upcoming election?

I would love to hear any thoughts, ideas, and concerns that you have regarding safety and access to roadways. Your safety is my priority and as a director, I will listen to the residents and govern with their desires first and foremost.

A few ideas that I would like to explore are pathway expansions and the addition of bike lanes on designated streets in cooperation with the county and TXDOT. This would require a committee of residents, mobility experts, and county officials to brainstorm possibilities. I know that together with our partners we can always come up with good solutions to support our "Live, work, play, learn and pray" model that George Mitchell created almost 50 years ago.

My email is cindy@cindyheiser.com

We have a Political Action Committee that currently dominates the Board, that will not change anytime soon and certainly not with this election, but we can stop them from taking EVERY seat and have an alternative voice on the board. This is enormously important.

As a long term resident of The Woodlands, I feel strongly that the view of the residents should be of paramount importance to the Board. I promise to be accessible and responsive to your organization and its members.

Over the last few years, many residents of The Woodlands have expressed opinions about the use of e-bikes in our community. What is your perspective on these bikes, and how would you respond to resident concerns as a member of the Township Board of Directors?

I understand there is a movement to allow EBikes on shared-use pathways and that Bike the Woodlands is in favor of this policy with a 10-15 mph speed limit modification. I look forward to working with residents to decide if we should expand the pathways used to include the e-bikes, but would not do so until input from the community at large was considered. If the general consensus is to allow these bikes, then we should consider a pathway expansion solution or a designated bike lane solution.

I think it is important to increase tourism and alternative means of transport to vehicles when possible. Ideally, that would be human-powered bikes. But that's not everyone's 'cup of tea' . E-bikes can have a place in our community. Right now e-bikes cannot be used on the path system. In many cases cycling on the road is too dangerous. These are other reasons to revisit a comprehensive transportation plan to make optimal use of our space. I think the residents deserve to have a plan prepared, an analysis of ROI presented, and an opportunity to give provide a thumbs up or thumbs down.

E-bikes are not going to go away and I support their use on the roadways of our community. I do not support their use on the pathways, which is currently prohibited by covenant.