

## New cases of virus dip from previous day, with no deaths

By Sig Christenson  
STAFF WRITER

The coronavirus pandemic continued to show signs of abating Sunday as city officials said no new deaths were recorded.

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District reported 113 new cases, down from 145 on Saturday. That brought the total number of confirmed infections to 58,678 since the start of the pan-

dem in March. Metro Health estimates that nearly 80 percent of those patients have recovered.

Still, the total number of cases was up substantially from Saturday, when Metro Health said 58,184 had been tallied. That's because of the addition of 381 older cases that had been caught in a backlog.

Altogether, 1,167 people have died of COVID-19 in Bexar County. An additional 151 deaths recorded by the state health de-

partment are under investigation, Metro Health said.

The latest numbers underscored an overall improvement in the pandemic in San Antonio and Bexar County.

"We continue to see a slow decline and a plateauing of the numbers, which is better certainly than where we were before," Mayor Ron Nirenberg said. "We're not at a place yet where we can say the virus is no longer a threat. People have to continue

to be cautious, especially if we continue to see facilities and operations return to pre-COVID levels.

"It's going to require us to modify behaviors and (do) the simple things that public health officials have been telling us from the start: wearing a mask, physical distancing, personal hygiene, etc.," he said.

Two hundred COVID-19 patients were in local hospitals as of **Virus continues on A4**

At a glance

**7,419,033**

Confirmed cases in U.S.

**792,353**

In Texas

**58,678**

In Bexar County

**209,811**

Deaths in U.S.

**16,320**

In Texas

**1,167**

In Bexar County\*

\*State count, based on different criteria, is higher.

Source: State of Texas, CDC, S.A. Metropolitan Health District, Johns Hopkins

### POLITIFACT



## Fewer than half of adults get flu shot

By Madlin Mekelburg  
POLITIFACT TEXAS

**The claim:** "Did you know: in the last 10 years less than half of adults in the US received a flu shot?" – U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess, R-Pilot Point.

Burgess made the claim on Twitter, as he encouraged his followers to get vaccinated for the flu.

**PolitiFact ruling: True.** Burgess' claim about the number of adults who have gotten flu shots is on the money.

### Discussion

Health officials are doubling down on calls for people to get flu shots this fall amid the coronavirus pandemic to reduce the burden on health care workers already battling COVID-19.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends an annual flu vaccine to ward off seasonal influenza viruses, which tend to peak during fall and winter.

Estimates from the CDC show that, since 2010, fewer than half of all adults in the U.S. got a flu shot each year during flu season.

The percentage of vaccinated adults each year has fluctuated, reaching a high of 43.6 percent in 2014 and a low of 37.1 percent in 2017, the most recent year with available data.

"Depending on the specific age groups, some are vaccinated more than others," said Dr. Pedro Piedra, a professor of molecular virology, microbiology and pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. "Older adults generally have high vaccination coverage compared to the general public. Likewise for young children under 5 years of age, you'll see vaccination coverage that is generally much better than that of the general healthy adult."

Vaccination coverage among adults over 65 has ranged from a high of 66.7 percent in 2014 to a low of 59.6 percent in 2017, staying above the 50 percent mark for the past 10 years.

The age group with the lowest percentage receiving flu shots is those between 18 and 49. Vaccination coverage for this group ranged from a high of 33.6 percent in 2016 to a low of 26.9 percent in 2017.

For children, vaccination rates **PolitiFact continues on A5**

### About PolitiFact

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## In pandemic, animal blessing becomes a drive-thru affair



Photos by Matthew Busch / For the San Antonio Express-News

**The Rev. Matthew Wise blesses David and Linda Hulett's dog Woody through their car window on Sunday.**



**The Reverend Beth Knowlton of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, left, blesses Ella the dog as owner Anne Rochelle participates in the drive-by blessing on Sunday.**

By Sig Christenson  
STAFF WRITER

Ralph and Robin Voight and their two sons hadn't been to St. Mark's Episcopal Church since the pandemic halted services months ago. But on Sunday, they piled into their car along with a couple of feline friends to participate in a special rite – the annual blessing of the animals.

No one could be sure what the two 15-month-old tabbies were thinking, but the Voights were thrilled to have a few moments back at their church, even if they had to stay in the car.

Rev. Beth Knowlton was awaiting them in the parking lot so she could bless the cats as part of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The event, held on Oct. 4 of each year, celebrates the life of Francis, patron saint of animals and the environment.

"I am kind of partial to my animals," said Ralph Voight, 43, of Terrell Hills. "Animals are great. They're very intelligent, and they can sense many things. So I get a bond with them, and they know when I need a friend and I know when they need a friend. Animals are just very humane. We care for each other."

The drive-by blessing at St. Marks, across from Travis Park in **Blessing continues on A5**

## Cornerstone's founder Hagee positive for virus

By Sig Christenson  
STAFF WRITER

San Antonio's Cornerstone Church said Sunday that its 80-year-old founding pastor, John Hagee, had tested positive for the coronavirus.

Matt Hagee, lead pastor of Cornerstone, told the congregation his father had tested positive last week and that the disease had been caught early.

"He is receiving extremely good medical treatment, and I can tell you that he feels well enough to be upset with his doctors," the younger Hagee said, prompting laughter from the audience. "He did let me know before I came to church today that he covets your prayers and he looks forward to seeing you again very soon back here at Cornerstone Church."

Mayor Ron Nirenberg said, "It's a terrible disease, and we wish the Hagee family well and a speedy recovery."

Hagee's followers greeted news of the pastor's illness with an outpouring of prayer.

Writing on Cornerstone's Facebook page, Cindy Stone Mize wrote, "Praying for Pastor Hagee and Pres- **Hagee continues on A5**



**Cornerstone Church's founding pastor, John Hagee, tested positive for the coronavirus last week, and it was caught early, his son Matt Hagee, lead pastor of Cornerstone, told the congregation. His followers greeted the news with an outpouring of prayer.**

## Longtime Somerset ISD trustee draws opponents

By Krista Torralva  
STAFF WRITER

About three years ago, longtime Somerset Independent School District trustee Leo Salas started talking to Francisco "Franky" De Luna about retiring.

Salas, 80, wanted De Luna, 55, to succeed him. So De Luna started attending monthly school board meetings.

Salas, in the end, decided he wasn't ready to give up his board seat and is once again on the ballot to represent District 6 in the Nov. 3 elections. But so is De Luna, and joining them is Frank Munoz, 51, who said he decided to run because he'd heard from community members that Salas had been "losing focus."

The rural school system serves just over 4,000 students and includes parts of Southwest Bexar County and northern Atascosa

County. Administrators hope to speed the return of students to classroom learning by testing them weekly for the coronavirus under an ongoing pilot program by a local non-profit.

Trustees Robert Sanchez, in District 4, and Andrea De La Cruz, who represents District 5, also are up for re-election and drew no opponents.

Salas' list of accomplishments during his 26 years on the board is long. He said he was a driving force behind opening schools on the district's southern and eastern sides.

When Salas first was elected to the board in 1994, Somerset board meetings were marked by bitter infighting that often overshadowed educational issues and student achievement. That continued for a few years while he was on the board, and the Texas Edu-

**Somerset continues on A5**



## METRO

# Second storm may 'explode over the Gulf'

As TS Gamma skirts Yucatan, eyes are on the future Delta

By Brian K. Sullivan

BLOOMBERG

A second system gathering strength south of Jamaica may threaten Gulf energy production and Louisiana as a Category 2 hurricane later this week even as Tropical Storm Gamma skirts the northern coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

The second storm system, which will be named Delta as it strengthens, could pose a threat to offshore oil and natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico and perhaps could end up striking Louisiana if its track holds,

said Jim Rouiller, lead meteorologist with the Energy Weather Group. It was south of Jamaica late Sunday, where it has sparked storm warnings on the Cayman Islands and a hurricane watch on Cuba, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

"This storm could explode over the Gulf and present a growing, perhaps serious, late season threat to Gulf energy production," Rouiller said. "On-shore refineries to shipping along with rigs and platforms across the upper Gulf region from Louisiana to Florida need to watch this one."

Across the Atlantic, 24 storms have formed so far, the fastest that tally has ever been reached in records going back to 1851, and the second most number of

storms ever to spin out of the ocean. In 2005, a record 28 storms formed including Hurricane Katrina, which killed more than 1,800 and caused New Orleans to flood.

The National Hurricane Center has used up all the names on its official list and has begun designating systems with Greek letters. Nine storms have hit the U.S. in 2020, including Hurricane Isaias, which knocked out power to millions in the Northeast, and Hurricane Laura, which devastated Louisiana in August.

Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Gamma is sliding southwest along the coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula bring flooding rains and potential for mudslides across the region.



Elizabeth Ruiz / Getty Images

**Fishermen try to protect their boats as Tropical Storm Gamma passes Puerto Morelos, Mexico, on Saturday. A second storm system is now likely to form in the Gulf of Mexico.**

## HIGH COURT

From page A1

Democratic strategists say Biden instead will stay focused on bigger-picture implications of a potential 6-3 conservative majority on the high court, in particular the effect on health care and the survival of the Affordable Care Act.

A Texas-led lawsuit to repeal the ACA is scheduled to be heard by the Supreme Court a week after the election. If the challenge is successful, 2 million more Texans could lose their health care, adding to the state's highest-in-the-nation rate of uninsured residents.

Asked about the issue during the first presidential debate, Biden said that "the American people have a right to have a say" and that the Senate should wait before confirming a new justice. But he quickly pivoted to the practical effect of a Trump nomination.

"Now, what's at stake here is the president's made it clear, he wants to get rid of the Affordable Care Act," Biden said. "He's been running on that, he ran on that and he's been governing on that. He's in the Supreme Court right now trying to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, which will strip 20 million people from having health insurance now, if it goes into court."

Biden went on to link Barrett, a federal appellate judge, to the president's desire to gut the health care law known as Obamacare. Biden said such a move would disproportionately affect women.

Barrett, in a 2017 academic essay published in a Notre Dame Law School journal, criticized past Supreme Court decisions upholding core provisions of



Al Drago / Bloomberg

**Religious leaders march last week in Washington, D.C., during a protest against the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. The demonstration was called "Remember Ruth & Breonna: Rise Up & Vote."**

the ACA. Barrett wrote that "it is illegitimate for the court to distort either the Constitution or a statute to achieve what it deems a preferable result."

Referring to a 5-4 decision in 2012 that upheld the law's individual mandate, Barrett said Chief Justice John Roberts had "pushed the Affordable Care Act beyond its plausible meaning to save the statute."

During the presidential debate, Biden said of Barrett: "I'm not opposed to the justice; she seems like a very fine person. But she's written, before she went on the bench, which is her right, that she thinks that the Affordable Care Act is not constitutional."

Biden and other Democrats have noted that the balance of the court also affects access to abortion, immigrant rights and the environment.

Yet Biden has refrained from answering questions about whether he would seek to expand the number of Supreme Court seats if

elected, as some Democrats have suggested.

Democratic consultant Lisa Turner said Biden is playing the long game on this issue. By avoiding it, he can juxtapose his restraint and issues-based approach with Republicans' display of legislative force on the Barrett nomination, she said.

"You're threading the needle if you're Joe Biden," Turner said. "I would want the Republicans to show up the way that they're currently showing up, which is trying to ram through an appointee instead of dealing with a stimulus package and helping people that are still on unemployment or threatening the fact that pre-existing conditions may not be protected. I think that is going to be a better tactic."

Whether the issue will move the needle for either candidate in Texas – or national races – is still a question mark.

### Throwing spark on race

Trump's desire for a speedy confirmation of

Barrett has put a spotlight on the Senate, and that has breathed life into a relatively sleepy Senate race in Texas between incumbent Republican John Cornyn and Democrat MJ Hegar, whose fundraising and polling had been lagging.

"Since the passing of Justice Ginsburg, we have been humbled by the outpouring of support from people who want to ensure that her legacy of fighting for equal rights and justice for all is continued," Hegar campaign spokesman Jake Lewis said. "Texans know that on Nov. 3, preserving our health care is on the ballot, protecting women's rights is on the ballot, defending voting rights is now on the ballot, which is why they are fired up and energized to send Sen. Cornyn packing."

For at least two years straight, Texas has had the highest rate of uninsured people in the nation, census data show. In 2018, the rate was 17.7 percent, or about 5 million people, up from 17.3 percent the year prior. Hegar has made it a

campaign issue, taking aim at Cornyn for his leadership role in the GOP's effort to repeal the ACA three years ago and his continued support for abolishing it.

Cornyn recently explained on the Senate floor why he supported a Senate vote on Barrett before the election, saying it was the will of the voters who elected a Republican president and Senate majority.

"Do you think we would still be hearing the same arguments from our friends across the aisle if Hillary Clinton had become president and been able to nominate" a justice, he asked. "I think not."

The court nomination is firing up Cornyn's supporters as well, said campaign press secretary Krista Piferer.

"Our volunteers who were out knocking on doors this past weekend found the issue was top of mind to many," Piferer said. "The message from the voters has been consistent; they want a candidate who shares their values – not someone like MJ Hegar who'd allow (Senate Minority Leader) Chuck Schumer to pack the court with liberal judges who legislate from the bench."

National polling suggests the issue resonates mainly with voters who already have made up their minds.

### More anger at Trump?

A majority of voters want to see the next president choose Ginsburg's successor, rather than have Trump do so now, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll. Democrats are more convinced than Republicans that the issue makes it even more important for their candidate to win, the survey found.

Biden appears to be in a slightly better position to

benefit from a Supreme Court nomination battle. The poll found that 64 percent of his supporters say it makes it "more important" that Biden win the election, compared with 37 percent of Trump supporters when asked the same question. The majority of Trump supporters, or 62 percent, said it made no difference.

But Texas political consultant Bill Miller, who has worked for candidates of both parties, says a political win right before an election will work to the Republicans' benefit.

"It breeds enthusiasm – you're getting a Supreme Court justice nominee that you didn't expect on the eve of an election," Miller said. "Republicans are enthusiastic about that, as the Democrats would be if it were the other way around. It's an enthusiasm-builder, it's a feel-good moment, and especially so close to the election, it will carry over right into early voting and right into Election Day."

On the other hand, the electorate is already extremely polarized, political strategists said, so the issue is more likely to fire up voters from the Democrat and Republican bases than to engage voters who are not so sure.

Relative to other issues, the Washington Post-ABC poll found that the Supreme Court nomination did not animate voters of both parties as much as other issues, including the coronavirus outbreak, health care and racial justice.

"The anger is already there about Trump," Miller said, referring to Democrats. "They've got plenty of anger for Trump, with or without this deal. That cup is already full."

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## VIRUS

From page A3

Sunday, nine more than Saturday. That was a vast improvement from mid-July, when more than 1,200 people were hospitalized with the virus.

Of those in hospitals Sunday, 80 were in intensive care, one fewer than the day before, and 30 were on ventilators, down four from Saturday.

In a week that saw President Donald Trump admitted to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for treatment of COVID-19, the pandemic hit home in San Antonio in other ways.

It forced the cancellation last week of the massive Jimenez Thanksgiving dinner at the Convention Center and another Turkey Day tradition: the annual effort by families around San Antonio to host and feed young soldiers and airmen.

Still, there was good news.

Key measures of the virus' spread are more favorable than in July and early August, when the number of confirmed new cases sometimes exceeded 1,000 in a single day.

Nirenberg expressed optimism that the city's part-



Tom Reel / Staff photographer

**Workers are shown in a lab of Community Labs, which, in a partnership with the city, will offer free COVID-19 tests for people without symptoms.**

nership with a new non-profit, Community Labs, to do faster and more accurate COVID testing would mark a turning point. The tests, which will become available today, will be given free to people without symptoms.

The PCR Diagnostic Panel that will be used has the highest level of accuracy, the mayor said. Results will be available within one day, he added.

"A PCR test that can produce rapid results is really the only way we can use massive testing to our advantage," Nirenberg said.

Initially, the free tests for asymptomatic people will be available only at specified times.

Today, they will be offered at Cuellar Community Center, 5626 San Fernando St., from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

On Tuesday, they will be

available at Ramirez Community Center, 1011 Gillette Blvd., from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

On Wednesday, the tests will be offered at Freeman Coliseum, 3201 E. Houston St., between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.

All three sites will offer daily testing starting Oct. 12.

To schedule an appointment, call 830-391-8559.

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**METRO**

**BLESSING**

*From page A3*

downtown San Antonio, marked the first time Knowlton had held an in-person event there since the pandemic forced much of the city to shut down in the spring.

Knowlton has a Dachshund mix named Scooter, and the blessing of the animals has been one of her favorite events over 15 years as a priest, the last six at St. Mark's.

After greeting each set of motorists, she said a simple prayer.

"It's often just about how grateful we are for the creatures in our lives and that they're able to be a blessing to us. It's kind of an opportunity to say thank you for them, and often we'll say they represent to us God's unconditional love," said Knowlton, 51, of San Antonio.

Francis was a 12th century cleric known for his love of the poor and all creatures. He was born into wealth and privilege but heard a calling to serve the poor.

Franciscan Media, a ministry of the Franciscan Friars, describes him in a history as a man thought to be a religious fanatic, begging when he couldn't get money and prompting his erstwhile friends to feel sadness and disgust.

Some even ridiculed Francis.

"Prayer – lengthy and difficult – led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer," the Franciscan Media history says.

In celebrating St. Francis this day, Knowlton greeted each motorist and, facing the pet, raised her right arm and said a prayer.

"Ella," she said, address-



Matthew Busch / For the San Antonio Express-News

**Stella Arizpe, 7, holds her dog Bailey as she's blessed by the Rev. Ann Fraser. St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio holds the annual event.**

ing a medium-sized brown Vizsla, a breed of sporting and hunting dogs.

"We bless you in the name of the father, the son and the holy spirit, giving

thanks for your life and your time of unconditional love for your family. We ask

that you be blessed this year and you continue to be a blessing to all of us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen."

"Amen," those in the car replied.

In the next car were Frank and Linda Jones of New Braunfels, armed with a cardboard square with snapshots of cats, dogs and horses pasted on it.

"My goodness," Knowlton said, "there are so many to bless."

But bless them she did.

The Voights have a special connection to St. Mark's. They were married there, and their teenage boys attend Sunday school and sing in the choir.

Ralph Voight said his family has missed the fellowship of St. Mark's.

"It's been very, very difficult," he said. "I like to see people on Sunday and usher and greet them and welcome them into the church .... but it's different

when you can't see somebody, shake a hand or give a hug."

Knowlton said the blessing of the animals has been a high point for parishioners for yet another reason.

"It's just a way to see our people, I think, in a different way because they don't usually bring their pets to church, but you see how much they love their animals so it's just a great equalizer, to get to see that side of people's lives," she said.

Beverly Bryars attends the blessing every year. On Sunday, she brought her toy poodles Remy, 5, and Pyper, 10 months.

"It's a good story and the story ought to be really about, in my opinion, this being an example of how St. Mark's is continuing to find ways to do the things we've always done even when we have to do them differently," Bryars said.

She said Pyper was especially in need of a prayer.

"It will be very different this year, but I never miss because your animals need to be blessed as much as you do," she explained. "Puppies need it. It's part of their growing up and getting trained to be good citizens."

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**HAGEE**

*From page A3*

ident Trump and our First Lady. May you be completely healed and restored to good health immediately!!"

A woman named Wendy Towlerton wrote on the Facebook page: "Dear Heavenly Father, on bended knees I am praying for the President, First Lady and Pastor John Hagee. Please heal them today and wrap your loving arms around them."

Hagee is founder of John Hagee Ministries, a megachurch on the North Side with more than 22,000 members. His sermons are broadcast in the U.S. and Canada. He's an ardent supporter of Israel and founder and chairman of Christians United for Israel.

A Cornerstone biography of Hagee says he has been in ministry for more than 60 years. He was born in Baytown, near Houston.

In July, Hagee, his ministry and four parents of students attending his Cornerstone Christian Schools sued San Antonio and Bexar County officials, challenging an order to delay the start of in-person instruction in schools until after Labor Day to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

The suit argued that the order by the Metropolitan Health District "unconstitutionally infringes on the religious freedoms of private religious schools."

The controversy became moot after Gov. Greg Abbott said local health agencies lacked authority to close classrooms in anticipation of an outbreak.

In 2017, Hagee had a private meeting with Vice President Mike Pence in Washington to discuss the U.S.-Israel relationship. The visit included a stop in the Oval Office "to say hello" to President Donald Trump, a Hagee spokesman said at the time.

In church on Sunday, Matt Hagee asked the congregation to pray for his father and Trump, "as he indeed is struggling with this as well."

In his prayer, the younger Hagee called on God to "put his hand upon the physical body of our pastor and upon the physical body of our president, and that they would be healed in the mighty name of Jesus."


"No weapon formed should prosper. No virus has the authority over the name that is above every name, and it is that matchless name that we speak today, knowing that it conquers every sickness, every disease. Every issue and challenge in our life is defeated because Jesus Christ has given us victory."


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**POLITIFACT**

*From page A3*

are higher – nearly 70 percent of children under 4 were vaccinated for the flu each of the past 10 years. For all children 17 or younger, an average of 56.6 percent received a flu shot for each of the past 10 years.

Part of the reason more older adults and younger children get flu shots is because they tend to be in doctors' offices at higher frequencies than younger adults, which puts them in front of physicians who encourage them to get vaccinated.

"Adults aren't like kids; it's not like you go to the doctor every three months or every six months," said Dr. Jewel Mullen, associate dean for health equity at the University of Texas' Dell Medical School. "At best, maybe some go once a year. So those opportunities are missed."

Mullen said the reasons that vaccine numbers are so low are dependent on several factors including a combination of misinformation about influenza infections, the vaccine and how frequently shots are necessary.

Cost can also be a factor, Mullen said. Flu shots are generally free with most medical insurance, but some plans require co-pays and the cost of a flu shot without insurance can range from \$40 to \$70, or more for high-dose vaccines.

Ideally, Piedra said, roughly 80 percent of all people would get flu shots each year.

"Not only would that offer greater direct protection, but you'd have greater indirect protection," he said. "Direct protection is if you receive a vaccine, you receive a direct benefit of the vaccine. Indirect means those who have not been vaccinated, but they receive an indirect benefit when they are surrounded by those who have been vaccinated. This reduces the risk that the virus will be released and transmitted through that community."

**SOMERSET**

*From page A3*

cation Agency intervened.

But by the year 2000, the fighting seemed to have been put to rest. In 2016, the board was a finalist, along with that of Alamo Heights ISD, for a statewide honor by H-E-B's Excellence in Education awards.

Salas is a retired former civil service worker at Kelly AFB and his six children graduated from Somerset ISD. He said he'd like to remain on the board to oversee construction of the district's fine arts center, a project funded in last year's \$20 million bond election.

"I'm 80 years old and I still feel like I can do my part in the community," Salas said.

De Luna said he would have no problem losing to Salas, but in studying to take his place, he grew passionate about the idea of helping students as a trustee.

"If he wins, that's great. More power to him. I



**Francisco "Franky" De Luna, 55, from left, and Frank Munoz, 51, want to bring fresh perspective to the Somerset ISD board, but Leo Salas, 80, said he isn't ready to retire after 26 years on the board.**

couldn't be happier for Mr. Salas. But rest assured I'll be running again in the next four years," De Luna said.

Munoz said people in the community encouraged him to try to unseat Salas.

"Back in his heyday, I think he did some good for the district and a lot of good for the community, but I think it's time to pass the torch to someone who's en-

ergetic," Munoz said.

If elected, De Luna wants to turn more board attention to classroom necessities. In meetings he attended the past three years, he heard a lot of talk about new playgrounds and better parking for the football stadium, but would rather prioritize spending in the classroom, he said. De Luna also said he'd like to place extra

focus on special needs and foster children.

A manager at Buttercrust, where he has worked 37 years, De Luna is a 1983 graduate of Somerset High School and has two children in the district and a daughter who graduated last year.

Munoz wants to improve board communications with community members, who he said often feel like their input falls on deaf ears because of the limited interaction allowed during board meetings. Munoz is a senior project manager at Intertek PSI, which conducts geotechnical and materials testing.

A 1987 Somerset graduate, he has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M University San Antonio. He is now pursuing a master's in business administration. Munoz has two children in the district and a step-son who graduated from Somerset.

Early voting starts Oct. 13 and ends Oct. 30. Election Day is Nov. 3.