



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Gilda Garza Files for McKinney At-Large City Council Race**

MCKINNEY, TX – District 1 City Council representative Gilda Garza has filed paperwork to declare her candidacy for an At-Large position on the McKinney City Council. By entering the At-Large race, Garza joins what is expected to be a very competitive race.

In announcing her candidacy Garza said, “I have been a strong voice on the City Council as a representative for District 1, and I’m excited about the opportunity to represent the entire City. As a member of the City Council I’ve been involved in making many important decisions for all of McKinney and I’m looking forward to seeing-through many of the projects I helped initiate. We’re currently at a critical point in our development and I want to make sure that we’re able to maintain our momentum despite the global financial crisis, and still provide the quality of life that brings people to McKinney.”

First elected to the McKinney City Council in 2001, Garza brings eight years of experience to the race. As a member of the Council, Garza has championed underserved areas of the community and encouraged the City to strive for a balance of services to all residents. Among the many accomplishments during her tenure are:

- Significant street and sidewalk improvements in her district and other areas of the City
- Additions and upgrades to McKinney’s parks, as well as improvements to lakes and waterways
- Completion of major infrastructure projects including the Senior Citizens Center, the Aquatics Center at Old Settler’s Park, McKinney Performing Arts Center (MPAC) in the downtown historic District and establishment of the day labor site
- Economic development efforts resulting in new businesses such as two cancer research centers, The Cooper Center, Dr. Pepper Star Center and expansion of the Medical Center of McKinney, with the addition of two proposed hospitals and a hotel/convention center in planning stages

- Transportation improvements including re-development of the US 75/121 exchange, widening of US 75 at Highway 380, planned widening of Custer Road and Wilmeth Road and additional and extended routes by C-CART

As part of her official duties, Garza has served as a liaison to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Library Board and the Veteran's Memorial Board. As the only ethnic minority and the sole woman for seven years during her tenure, she has also provided needed diversity to the Council.

In regard to her philosophy as a public servant, Garza said, "I've always been committed to providing balanced services throughout the City, open and honest government and making sure that every resident feels valued and respected and I will continue to be guided by those principals."

A lifelong resident of McKinney, Garza is a member of St. Michaels Catholic Church, LULAC Council #608 and of the Women's Alliance of McKinney (WAM). She is a graduate of Citizenship McKinney (class of 2000 – 2001), was the first female president of the McKinney LULAC chapter and has been recognized as one of Collin County's top Hispanic community leaders. Garza is employed at the North Texas Job Corp. She is also a proud mother and grandmother, with a strong network of family and friends in McKinney and surrounding communities.

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