



**DALLAS REGIONAL DAYS**  
**AT THE TOP OF THE TEXAS TRIANGLE**  

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**DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER**

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**Sunday, Nov. 17-Tuesday, Nov. 19**

**Honorary Host Committee:**

**Senator Royce West , SD 23**



Royce West was first elected to the Texas Senate in November 1992. Since taking office, he has represented the 23rd Senatorial District on behalf of the citizens of Dallas County in the Texas Legislature. During his tenure, Senator West has been named by *Texas Monthly* as one of the 25 most powerful people in Texas politics, been selected for the magazine's biennial "Ten Best Legislators in Texas" list, and has twice been named as an "Honorable Mention." Senator West has also received mention on the Associated Press' "Movers and Shakers" list, as well as the *Texas Insider's* "Best Legislators" list.

Senator West is Vice Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee and is a member of Senate committees on Education Finance, and Transportation. He was appointed to the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting after the 86th Legislative Session (2019). Following the 85th Legislative Session (2017) Senator West was appointed to the Texas Commission on Public School Finance and the Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security. During the 83rd Legislative Session (2013), the senator served on the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting and the Joint Committee on Oversight of Higher Education Governance, Excellence & Transparency.

Senator West's key initiatives include the creation of college admission opportunities for all students, including the establishment of the University of North Texas at Dallas, Dallas' first state-supported, four-year university, a new law school in downtown Dallas, and a Pharmacy school. Increasing financial aid for college students and funding for the TEXAS grants programs have been priorities for Senator West as well. His legislation created the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M University; increased funding



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for at-risk youth programs, awarded greater compensation to victims of violent crime, established new standards for child care, enhanced enforcement of protective orders and made better use of criminal justice resources through legislation that created a system of progressive sanctions.

As one of the original authors of the Top 10% Rule that provides automatic admission to state universities for Texas high school students who graduate at the top of their classes, Senator West has continued his advocacy for the program and has successfully lead efforts to oppose those who would abolish it.

Senator West passed the original legislation that placed in-car video in Texas law enforcement patrol vehicles. In 2015, he continued this precedent of equipping law enforcement with up-to-date technology by passing comprehensive legislation that established statewide policy on the use of body-worn cameras and provided funding to assist police and sheriffs' departments with the costs of a body camera program.

Senator West's advocacy for public safety and criminal justice reform continued during the 2017 Legislative Session with his work to pass a bill which will provide grant money to law enforcement agencies for the purchase of high-grade, bulletproof vests. SB30 will instruct citizens and officers on how they should respond during traffic stops and other interactions. Updates to the state's driver training manual will include similar information. In addition, other legislation passed by Senator West during the 85th Session will require Texas law enforcement agencies to record the interrogations of those arrested on felony charges.

To promote inclusiveness in the procurement practices of state agencies in working with Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs), Senator West created the "*Doing Business Texas Style - Spot Bid Contract Fair*" and regularly sponsors procurement workshops and seminars. And with the goal of creating greater employment opportunities for Dallas County residents, in 2015 Senator West instituted the *D23 Goes 2 Work* Job Fair, which connects employers with those seeking work.



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In addition to his senatorial duties, Senator West is the managing partner in the law firm of West & Associates, L.L.P. He is also a caring father to his children, a grandfather and devoted husband to Carol R. West, CPA, as well as an active member of Concord Church Dallas.

**Senator Brian Birdwell , SD 22**



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Brian Birdwell is a native Texan, decorated military veteran and lifelong conservative Republican proudly representing Texas Senate District 22. Born in Fort Worth, Brian is a graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he earned a Master of Public Administration degree.

As the Distinguished Military Graduate of the Lamar Army ROTC program in 1984, Brian was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army and served a 20-year career with numerous training deployments and two operational deployments. In 1990, he deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for Exceptional Meritorious Achievement. In 1998, he deployed to Central America as the Joint Operations Officer for Joint Task Force Aguila to execute humanitarian relief operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. In 2001, Brian was serving on the Department of the Army staff at the Pentagon as the military aide to the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

On September 11, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 77 was crashed just yards away from his second floor Pentagon office, Brian was critically wounded and severely burned. Of the burns that covered more than 60 percent of his body, nearly half were third degree in severity. Today, following 39 operations, months of hospitalization and numerous skin grafts, Brian has made a miraculous recovery. Despite physical limitations, he testifies not



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only to his physical healing, but the ultimate miracle of grace through Christ. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received that day. Upon retirement in July 2004, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

From 2004 to 2017, Brian and his wife, Mel, operated Face the Fire Ministries, a non-profit organization they jointly founded to support critical-burn survivors and wounded service-members and their families. In 2004, the Birdwells jointly authored *Refined by Fire: A Family's Triumph of Love and Faith*, which chronicles their life-changing ordeal. Through the years, Brian has been profiled in numerous national and regional media outlets.

Brian was first elected to the Texas State Senate in a June 2010 special election, and has since been re-elected by his constituents five times, averaging more than 85 percent of votes cast. In his seven legislative sessions Brian has consistently received critical acclaim and top ratings from numerous pro-life, pro-business and conservative organizations, including National Federation of Independent Business, Texans for Fiscal Responsibility, Texas Eagle Forum, Texas State Rifle Association/National Rifle Association, Young Conservatives of Texas, Texas Alliance for Life, Texas Right to Life, Americans for Prosperity, Concerned Women for America, Texas Heritage Alliance and Texas Conservative Coalition, among others.

Brian is proud of his diverse and impactful legislative accomplishments, including filing and passing legislation broadening access to higher education, strengthening eminent domain laws protecting landowners, expanding self-defense rights of law-abiding gun owners, strengthening legislative oversight of state river authorities, increasing technical- and associate-degree options for high school graduates and adult students, serving Texas veterans and their family members, and authoring the strongest border security package in Texas history—the Stronger Border, Safer Texas Act. In 2017, Brian led the successful effort to make Texas just the eleventh state in the nation to pass a resolution and corresponding legislation calling for an Article V convention of states. Brian chaired the Sunset Commission for the 2018 interim and 2019 Regular Session, which made numerous improvements to state agencies. One of the most critical reforms which Brian carried was the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission bill, which reformed several antiquated



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provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Code, among other significant changes as well as other agencies.

Brian serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development, which provides oversight to the Railroad Commission, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and the Workforce Commission. Senator Birdwell also serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Border Security and as a member of the Senate Committees on Business & Commerce, Education, State Affairs, and the Select Committee on Redistricting. Since 2013, Brian has served as Chairman of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz's 22-member U.S. Service Academy Nominations Board.

The Birdwells have been married for more than 30 years and reside in Granbury. They have one son, Matt, a 2013 graduate of Texas Tech University, and a daughter-in-law, Ann Marie, who reside in Tarrant County with the Birdwell's two grandchildren.

**Senator Kelly Hancock, SD 9**



First elected to the Texas Senate in 2012, Kelly Hancock represents Senate District 9 in Tarrant County. He previously served in the Texas House of Representatives and remains an advocate for core conservative values of limited government and lower taxes.

Throughout his legislative career, Senator Hancock has worked diligently to keep government out of the way of Texas' job-creators and plan ahead for the growth associated with our state's thriving economy. He has also passed model legislation to protect consumers from surprise medical bills and give Texas the most conservative state spending cap in the nation.

As a consistent advocate for key issues such as property tax reform, education freedom, and border security, Senator Hancock has earned recognition as a "Courageous Conservative," a "Champion of Small Business," and a "Lone Star Conservative Leader."





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A graduate of Baylor University, Senator Hancock possesses an extensive business background and runs his family-founded distribution company. His commitment to public service began shortly after the birth of his first child. As a parent dedicated to a strong education system, Senator Hancock spent the next 13 years serving on his local school board.

He and his wife, Robin, have been married 37 years and have three children: Chloe (Greg), Skylar (Aaron) and Harrison (Parker). They proudly welcomed their first grandchild in 2018 and are now proud grandparents to six tiny Texans!

**Senator Angela Paxton, SD 8**



Angela Paxton was elected to the Texas Senate in November of 2018 and represents fast-growing Senate District 8, a district that is home to professional sports headquarters, dozens of Fortune 1000 companies, countless entrepreneurs and small businesses, top-rated public schools, and is joined by rural communities to the east that feature Texas charm and recreation. A secondary math teacher and school counselor for more than 20 years, she is the first educator elected to the Texas Senate in over two decades. Senator Paxton describes her job in three words: Listen. Learn. Lead.

Senator Paxton is an adopted child and the first person in her family to graduate from college. She earned an undergraduate degree in Mathematical Science from Baylor University and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Senator Paxton leverages her expertise as an educator, interest in technology, experience as a small business owner, and deep roots in Senate District 8 to advocate for her constituents and lead on policy that elevates educational and economic opportunity and human dignity.



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Senator Paxton currently serves as the Vice Chair of the State Affairs Committee and as member of the Senate committees for Finance, Education, Local Government, and Nominations. She is also the Chair of the Senate Republican Caucus, where she works with the other Republican Senators to advance our conservative priorities. Senator Paxton and her husband, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, met as students at Baylor University and have been married since 1986. They have four grown children and three grandchildren and are members of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano.

**Senator Tan Parker, SD 12**



Tan Parker is a businessman, who grew up in North Texas working in his family's restaurants while volunteering in his community. He married his college sweetheart, Beth, and they moved to Flower Mound, raising their daughters, Lauren and Ashley. While family comes first, Tan considers working for the betterment of Texas the highest honor of his professional life.

Previously serving in the Texas House, Tan held leading committee roles on policy matters vital to our state. His leadership was instrumental in the unanimous election by his colleagues as chair of the House Republican Caucus during the 84th and 85th legislative sessions.

Tan's legislative success touches a broad range of issues facing Texans and serves as a reflection of open dialogue with his constituency. His legislative accomplishments represent his extensive work fostering Texas' economic vitality and protecting our most vulnerable.

Tan graduated from the University of Dallas and earned a Master's degree from the London School of Economics before building a distinguished private sector career in technology and private equity. He also created the book, *Making Government Work*.

The bedrock of his service is exemplified through passionate advocacy for community and fighting for common-sense, conservative policies that strengthen Texas' prosperity.



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**Representative Angie Chen Button , HD 112**



Angie Chen Button is currently serving as State Representative for House District 112 which includes portions of Garland, Richardson, Rowlett, Sachse, and Dallas in Dallas County. She currently serves as Chair of the International Relations and Economic Development Committee and as a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Representative Button worked for Texas Instruments (TI) where she promoted American products internationally as an International Marketing Manager. She is also a CPA with Masters' degrees in Public Finance and Management Sciences.

Before her election to the Texas House, Rep. Button had a long record of public service and community involvement in the Metroplex. She was a member of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board and an Executive Committee Member of the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC). She served in leadership positions with chambers of commerce, citizen coalitions, and for other civic and non-profit organizations. She has also been part of the Dallas Assembly, the Dallas Summit, and the Women's Museum Advisory Board.

Representative Button was born in Taipei, Taiwan. As a child, her seven-person family lived in a 300 square foot, one-room hut without a kitchen or running water. She credits education with bringing her a better life. Rep. Button met her husband Darcy as a graduate student at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD). They have lived in Richardson and Garland for 30 years and are the proud grandparents of two. Angie's life has been the American dream-Texas style.





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**Representative Nicole Collier, HD 95**



Nicole Collier is a respected attorney, small business owner, grandmother and mother of three who has spent her life working to obtain the American Dream. As a single mother of two children before finishing high school, she was bolstered by both her faith and her family to continue her education. Nicole is a graduate of the University of Houston and Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, now the Texas A&M University School of Law. For the last 20 years, Nicole has been a strong advocate for individuals and families, and has now taken her skills to the Texas Capitol.

Nicole is the first woman to represent Tarrant County's House District 95, and in November 2022, she was re-elected to her sixth term in office.

In the prior session, Nicole served as chair of the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence, which made her the first woman in Texas history to chair the committee since it was formed in 1879. Nicole has also served as chair of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus. In the 88th Texas Legislature, she was chosen to serve as Second Vice Chair to the House Democratic Caucus. Additionally, Nicole was re-appointed to serve on the House Committee on Public Health and newly appointed to the House Committee on Culture, Recreation & Tourism.

Nicole draws her legislative priorities from input from the community. She has filed legislation that focuses on affordable housing, renters' rights, access to quality healthcare, and criminal justice reform. Her outstanding legislative achievements have garnered numerous awards, including, more recently, the Roy Wilkins Civil Rights Award from the NAACP, and the Regional Legislator of the Year Award from The National Black Caucus of State Legislators.



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**Representative Jeff Leach, HD 67**



State Representative Jeff Leach proudly serves the citizens of House District 67 in the heart of Collin County. Now serving in his sixth term, Representative Leach has consistently proven himself to be a committed conservative and effective leader in the Texas Capitol and has worked tirelessly to ensure that Texas remains strong for future generations. Over the years, Jeff has worked diligently to tackle our state's skyrocketing property taxes while making historic investments in and reforms to public education. In 2019, he authored and passed the landmark legislation giving way to "Proposition 4" - the constitutional amendment banning the imposition of a state income tax on individuals. Jeff has also worked tirelessly to advance legislation to secure our porous border, protect children from harmful and irreversible gender modification procedures, been a champion for innocent life, reined in rogue district attorneys, supported our active and retired teachers, reformed Texas' energy grid, strengthened our water infrastructure, secured the integrity of our elections and safeguarded your fundamental rights and freedoms.

During the 88th Legislative Session, Representative Leach was appointed by Speaker Dade Phelan to serve a third term as Chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence. Additionally, Representative Leach was selected to serve on the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence. As Chairman of the House's major legislative committee with oversight of the Texas justice system, Representative Leach worked to improve our state's judiciary and advance sound reforms to civil practice and procedure. Specifically, he successfully authored legislation giving Texas judges a much-needed pay raise without raising legislator pensions, bolstered our state's judiciary with the creation of 17 new courts across the state – including two in Collin County – and implemented various reforms to improve access to courts, higher pay for jurors and consolidated court fees to promote fairness and transparency.

Born and raised in Plano, Representative Leach graduated from Plano Senior High before attending Baylor University. He earned his law degree from Southern Methodist University's



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Dedman School of Law, and currently practices at the law firm of Gray Reed & McGraw LLP in Dallas. Named a "Rising Star" by Texas Super Lawyer, Jeff specializes in complex commercial and civil litigation, construction law and real estate. Most recently, Representative Leach was named as a "Friend of the Judiciary" by the State Bar of Texas and was recognized as a "2019 Legislator of the Year" by the Texas Civil Justice League. Jeff serves on the Board of Trustees for Houston Baptist University, on the Texas Judicial Council and as a board member of the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute. In January 2021, he was appointed to serve on the Board of Directors of the Prestonwood Pregnancy Center. Jeff and his wife Becky, a speaker, writer and artist, are the proud parents of Brady, Charlotte and Landry. Jeff and Becky are active members of Cottonwood Creek Church.

**Representative Chris Turner, HD 101**



State Representative Chris Turner has served Tarrant County in the Texas Legislature for six terms, representing parts of Arlington and Grand Prairie.

As a state representative, Chris has worked to increase opportunity for all Texans. Chris created the Veterans Cash scratch-off ticket that has raised more than \$150 million to aid Texas veterans. He also authored the constitutional amendment to create a 100% property tax exemption for surviving spouses of servicemembers killed in the line of duty. He played a pivotal role in the passage of payday lending ordinances in both Arlington and Grand Prairie and has authored laws that safeguard consumers from unexpected utility rate hikes and tenants from unscrupulous landlords.

In 2019, Chris brokered the deal to end the stalemate on Texas' major school finance legislation by crafting a statewide teacher pay raise plan that was ultimately supported by both the House and Senate. As chair of the House Committee on Higher Education during the 86th Legislature, Chris was instrumental in passing several transformative higher education policies, including sponsoring SB 25, which improves the transferability of college credits among institutions of higher education.



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In February 2021, Chris was appointed to serve as Chairman of the House Committee on Business & Industry. Chris also serves on the House Committee on Redistricting and the House Committee on Higher Education.

Chris served as Chair of the House Democratic Caucus from 2017-2022, where he lead members with a comprehensive strategic approach to advance better public policy.

A lifelong Texan, Chris grew up in Dallas and has lived in Tarrant County for more than 20 years. Chris is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and works as a communications consultant when he is not working in the Legislature. Chris and his wife, Lisa, live in Grand Prairie with their rescue dogs, Cassie, Cora and Cleo.

**Representative Toni Rose, HD 110**



State Representative Toni Rose is serving her 6th term in the Texas House of Representatives. She represents the 110th District, which encompasses the vibrant communities of Oak Cliff, Pleasant Grove and Balch Springs in Dallas County. Representative Rose is a proud alumna of Paul Quinn College. Her legislative focus includes mental health reform, access to affordable healthcare, and criminal justice reform.

Throughout her legislative career, Representative Rose has received widespread recognition for outstanding legislative work. Texas Monthly Magazine ranked her among the 10 Best Legislators in its '2023: Best and Worst Legislators' list. Additionally, the Texas Tribune has hailed her as the most influential woman in the Texas House.

Representative Rose serves as the Vice Chair of the following committees: House Subcommittee of Article II Appropriations, House Committees on Calendars and Human Services. She's also a member of the Redistricting Committee and the newly formed House Select Committee on Health Care Reform. In her leadership role on the Appropriations Committee, Representative Rose has led the charge for many important budgetary items. These include providing free breakfast to every child who qualifies for reduced-price meals,



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expanding re-entry services to give individuals returning from incarceration the support needed to rebuild their lives, and increasing funding for Healthy Community Collaboratives to expand services to persons experiencing homelessness throughout the state.

Representative Rose also secured budget resources for mental health initiatives, including funding for the Texas Behavioral Health Center at UT Southwestern, the new psychiatric state hospital in Dallas.

Her laser focus on improving healthcare outcomes has driven her to pass numerous health care bills, including legislation that extends postpartum pregnancy benefits from two months to 12 months. This legislative remedy will enable new moms to receive medical and psychological care for an extended timeframe. Representative Rose also is responsible for legislation boosting the medical treatment of patients with Sickle Cell Disease. In this regard, her legislation strengthens medical school curriculum requirements to include a sickle-cell focus and improves the education of healthcare professionals. Another of her important healthcare wins encompasses legislation modifying regulations enabling more Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers to operate in Texas. These centers are vital to parents of medically complex children because they offer parents the ability to work outside of the home and provide children an opportunity to interact and learn with other children.

Her other achievements include extending Dallas County's ability to transport senior citizens to county health and wellness events, designating December 1st as Rosa Parks Day in Texas, and establishing a Statewide Interagency Aging Services Coordinating Council to develop five-year strategic plans for the state's aging population.

Representative Rose currently serves as Financial Secretary of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. She also is the Deputy Whip of the Texas House Democratic Caucus.

Additionally, she holds memberships in the following professional organizations: NAACP Dallas Branch, League of Women Voters of Dallas, Paul Quinn National Alumni Association, Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, United Negro College Fund, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, National Council of Negro Women, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her former roles and appointments include





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Chair of the Texas House Democratic Campaign Committee, 1st Vice Chair of the Texas House Democratic Caucus, Secretary of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and Treasurer of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women).

Representative Rose continues to be a fierce champion for District 110 and the State of Texas.

**Representative Valoree Swanson. HD 150**



Valoree Swanson was sworn in as the State Representative for House District 150 on January 10, 2017. A sixth-generation Texan and mother of four grown children, Valoree has strong Texas family roots. After years of homeschooling and sports with her two biological children, she and her husband, Vern, adopted two teenage girls from CPS. Prior to raising children, Valoree worked in commercial real estate, after getting her Bachelor's of Business Administration from Baylor University. Valoree's oldest daughter is a former criminal prosecutor, and her son is a petroleum engineer. Devout Christians, Valoree and Vern have been members of WoodsEdge Community Church for 13 years, where they have served in various ministries. Valoree has been involved in the community for years as a children's Bible study and Sunday school leader, a children's sports team representative and referee, a member of various boards, and in ministries serving the elderly.

Valoree was politically involved at an early age. By her own admission, she loves to campaign and is a fierce competitor. She has volunteered during every election cycle in innumerable campaigns and capacities over the years. The (party) Party of Texas recognized Valoree for her tremendous volunteer work in campaigns and other organizations, by awarding her the 2015 Volunteer of the Year for the entire Senate District 7. She served as State (party) Executive Committeewoman for Senate District 7 from 2006-2014, as Precinct Chair for 23 years, and was elected to many (party) Party committees.





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**Representative Rhetta Andrews Bowers. HD 113**



Representative Bowers was elected to serve House District 113 in the Texas House of Representatives on November 8, 2018. She made history as the first African American of Caribbean descent elected to represent this district. Her mother was a native Texan and father was from St. George's, Grenada. House District 113 includes parts of Rowlett, Garland and Mesquite and Seagoville.

Bowers was drawn to activism at an early age, following the example of her mother, a prominent community leader, and her father, a nationally recognized surgeon. She is an alumna of Spelman College and Texas Southern University, earning her bachelor's degree in Telecommunications, with an emphasis in Broadcast Journalism.

Upon graduation, she began a career as a broadcast journalist in public television working at PBS headquarters and for WETA-TV 26/Radio 90.9, in the District of Columbia. She moved on to commercial television once she returned home to Texas to work at KCEN-TV 6 in production and was later promoted to news producer. Bowers has held many positions within the television industry, but it was her job as the educational services coordinator for KERA TV 13/Radio 90.1 that resonated most with her and fueled her dedication to supporting and improving education.

Throughout her adult life, Representative Bowers has always invested time and energy into her community. Bowers is an advocate for children and education. She is a former educator and has volunteered many hours on Garland Independent School District PTA and Band Boosters and executive boards. She maintains an active membership at St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church and is a lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She served on the Rowlett Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for 8 years. Bowers was also a member of the Rowlett Community Investment Task Force, an ad hoc committee for several years, and helped with the recovery of the city, after the devastating tornado that caused major devastation in December of 2015. In addition,



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Representative Bowers co-founded the Dallas Women's March and co-chaired the event from its inception and has been a founding member of the organization since 2016.

During the 86th Legislative Session, Bowers served on the House Committees for Corrections, Juvenile Justice & Family Issues, and Local and Consent Calendars. Representative Bowers champions women and children's rights, juvenile justice issues, working towards eliminating the school to prison pipeline, and uplifting marginalized communities in every level of government. She has been recognized across the state for authoring House Bill 3435, which declares March 1st as "Texas Girls in STEM Day," a day designated to highlight women in STEM and encourage and expose young girls, with support from local school districts and organizations, to embrace and enter fields relating to science, engineering, technology, math and the arts.

During the 87th Legislative Session, Bowers continued her commitment of supporting human rights by filing the Texas CROWN Act which protects against discrimination based on race-based hairstyles by extending statutory protections to hair texture and styles such as braids, locs, twists, and knots in the workplace and public schools. Bowers also filed multiple bills to provide additional resources to people experiencing homelessness and to aid those whose life's work is helping them.

In the 88th Legislative Session, Bowers, emerged as the Prime Sponsor and Champion following through on her commitment, passing the Texas CROWN Act, as House Bill 567, along with House Bill 568, which provides trainings for peace officers for interactions with people with Alzheimer's or other dementias. She proudly serves on the House Committees for Criminal Jurisprudence, Homeland Security & Public Safety, the Speaker's Select Committee on Community Safety, and as Vice Chair of Local and Consent Calendars.

Representative Bowers has been honored for her public service by several organizations as the recipient of the following awards: the 2019 Bands of Hope "Trailblazer Award", the Afiya Center's "Legislative Achievement Award", Texas Southern University's "Distinguished Alumna of the Year", Greater North Dallas Business and Professional Women's Club "Woman of the Year," and named the Texas Legislative Black Caucus 2019 "Freshman of the Year." In 2021, she received the "Humanitarian Award" from the Alpha Sigma Lambda



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chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. In 2022, Bowers was a recipient of the Roy Wilkins Civil Rights - NAACP Image Award for breaking quorum to fight for the freedom to vote with her colleagues in the House Democratic Caucus, Texas Legislative Black Caucus, and Mexican American Legislative Caucus. She also received the Changemaker Award for Political Leadership from Dallas' New Leadership Council in 2022. In 2023, the first year that Juneteenth was celebrated as a National Holiday, she was a Juneteenth Honoree of the Rowlett Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Commission. She is also a proud 2023 recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award, signed by President Joseph R. Biden.

Though she is a proud native Houstonian, Representative Bowers has resided in Rowlett with her husband MSG (ret.) John P. Bowers, Jr. and their 2 children for more 20 years and proudly calls House District 113 home.

**Representative Jessica Gonzalez, HD 104**



Jessica González is currently serving her third term as State Representative for House District 104.

Jessica has dedicated her time in the Texas House of Representatives to expanding voting rights, protecting the civil rights of LGBTQ+ Texans, reforming our criminal justice system, and increasing access to affordable housing. Jessica serves as a member of the House Committee on Business & Industry, a member of the House Committee on Urban Affairs, Vice-Chair of the Texas House LGBTQ+ Caucus, and

Chair of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators Human and Civil Rights Task Force.

Jessica earned her Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice from The University of Texas at Arlington. She later attended Western Michigan University-Cooley School of Law, where she held top student leadership positions, clerked at the Voting Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division for the U.S. Department of Justice, and graduated at the top of her class.



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In 2011, Jessica was selected as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Law Graduate Fellow in Washington, D.C. She served as a Legislative Assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives, handling an extensive policy portfolio. She was also selected as a White House intern, where she worked on immigration-related issues.

Jessica's white paper titled "New State Voting Laws: A Barrier to the Latino Vote?" earned her a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for her dedication to addressing current public policy concerns. Her commitment to protecting the rights of voters led to her service as the Nevada Voter Protection Director for President Obama's re-election campaign in 2012.

Today, Jessica practices personal injury at her law firm, Gandara & González, PLLC, located in House District 104.

Jessica uses her diverse educational, professional, and policy experience to fight for the residents of House District 104 and all Texans. During the 87th Legislative Session, she was recognized as Texas Monthly's Bull of the Brazos, received the Matt Garcia Public Service Award from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and was named one of USA TODAY's Women of the Year.

**Representative Terry Meza, HD 105**



Representative Terry Meza grew up in Irving, Texas, at the heart of District 105. She is a proud graduate of Irving High School and commuted from Irving for all her higher education activities at UT Arlington, the University of Dallas, and the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. Representative Meza began her career as a teacher at South Grand Prairie High School, teaching at all levels, from elementary school to university. She also worked as the director of a nonprofit organization, overseeing programs in economic

development, small and minority business support, neighborhood revitalization, historical preservation, workforce development, and job placement. Before serving in the Legislature, she ran her own solo legal practice for nearly 20 years.



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In the 2019 legislative session, Representative Meza served on the Agriculture Committee, the Human Services Committee, and the Resolutions Committee.

She has been honored with several awards for her work, including:

- The Hunger Leadership Award from Feeding America for her work on the Human Services Committee during the 86th legislative session.
- A Community Service Award from the American Muslim Women Physicians Association in 2019.
- The Dr. Mae Jackson Award for Outstanding Democratic Woman in Public Office in 2020.

She lives in Irving with her former neighbor from Austin, a cat named Cake ("Que-Que").

**Representative Jared Patterson, HD 106**



From a blue-collar home in rural Texas to representing one of the fastest growing areas in the United States, Jared Patterson found purpose during the tragic events of 9/11 and has since dedicated himself to a life of service. A proud graduate of Texas A&M University, Jared was first elected to Texas House District 106 in 2018, which covers north central and eastern Denton County. He is a full-spectrum conservative who champions fiscal responsibility, individual liberty, life, and the fierce spirit of independence which has made Texas the greatest state in the nation.

During his time in office, Rep. Patterson has been an author on legislation to increase border security funding, lower property taxes, protect children from radical indoctrination, support first responders, and safeguard our pets. In 2021, Jared played a key role in the passage of legacy conservative victories securing our Second Amendment rights with Constitutional Carry and protecting life with the Texas Heartbeat Act. In 2023, he passed HB 900, known as The READER Act, which protects Texas schoolchildren from explicit material.



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Representative Patterson chairs both the House Select Committee on Protecting Texas Liquefied Natural Gas and the Joint Committee to Study the Effects of Media on Minors. He also serves on the powerful House Calendars Committee and the Committees on Transportation and Licensing & Administrative Procedure. Jared is the Chairman of the Texas House Republican Caucus Policy Committee. Additionally, he is a member of the Texas Cyber Security Council, the Energy Council and the Innovation & Technology (IT) Caucus. He is the Secretary of the Texas Aggie Caucus and is a board member for the Texas Conservative Coalition.

Jared and his family reside in Frisco and are members of the First Baptist Church of Frisco.

**Representative Salman Bhojani, HD 92**



Born in Pakistan to a large family, Representative Salman Bhojani immigrated to Texas as a teenager. He worked three minimum wage jobs to help support his family—climbing the ladder from convenience store cashier to successful business owner, attorney, Euless City Councilman, and Mayor Pro Tem. After becoming a naturalized citizen, Rep. Bhojani earned degrees from the University of Texas at Dallas, Southern Methodist University, and Oxford University.

After finding a home in Euless with his young family, Rep. Bhojani made national headlines when he was elected to the Euless City Council, becoming the first person of color to hold elected office in Euless. In 2023, Rep. Bhojani was sworn in as one of the first Muslims and the first South Asians to serve in the Texas Legislature and is the first person of color ever elected to represent House District 92.

Rep. Bhojani serves on the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence and the House Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services. He also serves as the Chairman of the Criminal Procedure Subcommittee on the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence.





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Rep. Bhojani is proud to call Texas home. He lives in Euless with his wife, Nima, and his children, Aarish and Raisha. He enjoys traveling, running, hiking, playing ping pong, and spending time with his family.

**Representative Richard Hayes, HD 57**



Rep. Richard Hayes represents Texas House District 57, which was created by the 87th Texas Legislature in 2021. District 57 comprises a swath across mid-Denton County and includes all of Corinth, Hickory Creek, Lake Dallas, Shady Shores, Oak Point, Lakewood Village, Ponder, Dish, Paloma Creek, and Savannah; most of Little Elm and Hackberry; and parts of Denton, Argyle, Highland Village, Northlake, New Fairview, Copper Canyon, Cross Roads, and Frisco.

Rep. Hayes serves on the House International Relations & Economic Development Committee, and the Urban Affairs Committee. He is a member of the Texas House Republican Caucus Policy Committee, Freedom Caucus, Energy Caucus and the Manufacturing Caucus.

A Texas native and real estate and business trial lawyer, Rep. Hayes is founding partner of Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, L.L.P., a respected law firm serving the North Texas region since 1985.

Rep. Hayes is a strong advocate for reducing government bureaucracy, significant property tax reduction, parental school choice and curricula reform, and securing Texas' southern border. A strong Second Amendment supporter, Richard is a Life Member of the Gun Owners of America and the National Rifle Association.

One of fewer than 350 Professional Registered Parliamentarians in North America, Rep. Hayes has served as Parliamentarian to the Republican Party of Texas. A Life Member of the Republican National Committee, Rep. Hayes is a member of the Republican National Lawyers Association and the Council for National Policy Board of Governors. In addition, Rep. Hayes has served as Chair of the Denton County Republican Party.



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Rep. Hayes has long recognized that quality leaders of tomorrow require mentoring today. As a youth, he gained valuable leadership skills, guidance, and direction in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), so part of his community give-back has been long service to BSA in various capacities, from scoutmaster to Council officer. In addition, Rep. Hayes has provided leadership tools to many high school and college students through his volunteer coaching of local parliamentary procedure teams; his students have won both national and state championships.

Today, Rep. Hayes serves on the North Texas State Fair & Rodeo Association Board of Directors and the Board of Advisers of St. Mary's University School of Law, with prior appointment by Gov. George W. Bush to the Texas Woman's University Board of Regents. In addition, he has served on boards of the Denton Public Schools Foundation, North Texas Mobility Corporation, Denton Chamber of Commerce and Denton Kiwanis Club.

Rep. Hayes earned his B.B.A. degree from Texas Christian University, M.B.A. from Texas A&M University, and J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law. He served as a briefing attorney for Adrian Spears, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, and as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney in the Bexar County District Attorney's Office in San Antonio.

Rep. Hayes and his wife, a licensed R.N. and retired public school nurse and teacher, have been married for 48 years. They have five children, one of whom serves on the Houston City Council, and eight grandchildren. The Hayes are members of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Denton.



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**Representative Mihaela Plesa, HD 70**



Representative Mihaela Plesa is a lifelong Texan who is proud to serve the residents of Texas House District 70, which covers portions of Dallas, Plano, Richardson, and Allen. She is the first-generation daughter of Romanian immigrants who fled Soviet communism to pursue the American Dream.

Rep. Mihaela Plesa owned and operated her own small business in fashion merchandising and design, focusing on Texas-made products, while helping other entrepreneurs start and grow their own small businesses. Ultimately, she felt compelled to serve her community in a more meaningful way and sold her successful business to pursue a legislative career. Before running for the Texas House, Plesa served as a legislative director for three regular sessions, four special sessions, including redistricting during 2021. During her tenure as a legislative director, Plesa worked to pass legislation that expanded the Texas' Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force, expanded Medicaid to Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC), and passed a constitutional amendment that was overwhelmingly ratified by the voters to deliver property tax exemptions to gold star families (Prop. 8, 2021). Representative Mihaela Plesa is proud to stand on her legislative record of bipartisan achievements for the people of Texas.

During the 88th Legislative Session Representative Plesa's top legislative priorities include increasing public-school funding, reducing property taxes, addressing recapture that siphons millions of dollars from Plano ISD, economic development that uplifts small businesses and hardworking families, and making childcare affordable.

Rep. Plesa is the proud product of Texas public schools. She earned her diploma from Newman Smith High School, a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas, and a master's degree from Southern Methodist University. Representative Plesa is proud to be the first democratic woman elected to represent Collin County in the Texas Legislature, and the first Romanian-American elected in the great state of Texas.



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**Representative Nate Schatzline, HD 70**



Nate Schatzline is a proud Christian, and a devoted husband and father of two boys. He is a former pastor, the founder of For Liberty & Justice, an organization that is dedicated to mobilizing the local church to see reformation in government, and he serves as the director of operations for The Justice Reform, an anti-human trafficking organization based out of Fort Worth, Texas.

Nate grew up along with his sister, traveling the world with his mom and dad who were ministers, authors, and business owners. He attributes much of his success to growing up in a loving home where he was taught to work hard, put family first, love people, and honor God in everything he does. He graduated with his bachelor's degree from Southwestern Assemblies of God University, in Waxahachie, Texas, which is where he met his sweetheart and wife of 9 years, Adrienne. He then went on to graduate Summa Cum Laude with his Master's Degree in Political Science at Liberty University. Nate says that his wife Adrienne is his best friend and greatest supporter, and his two boys, Jackson and Anderson, are the pride and joy of his life.

Over the last nine years, Nate and Adrienne have served as pastors and have lead a youth and young adult movement dedicated to discipling the next generation of Christ-followers. In addition to his time in ministry, Nate has served as a professor of economics, and has served multiple political campaigns including Republican Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne's 2020 campaign for Congress. He has also been an overseer of a public school mentorship program that is responsible for mentoring hundreds of at-risk students in multiple cities, and teaching students that they are not the product of their environment, but that they were born on purpose with a purpose.



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**Representative Venton Jones, HD 100**



State Representative Venton Jones (Dallas) is currently serving his first term in the Texas House of Representatives. District 100 serves parts of South Dallas, West Dallas, East Dallas, Buckner Terrace, Victory Park, and Oak Cliff.

Representative Jones serves as a member of the House Committee on Public Health and the House Committee on Corrections. In addition to his committee appointments, He serves as the Legislative Chairman of the Aggie Caucus, member of the Texas House Democratic Caucus, the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus, the Texas Energy & Climate Caucus, and the Legislative Study Group. Representative Jones was honored by his peers in the Texas House by being named the LGBTQ Caucus “Freshman of the Year” during the 88th Legislative Session.

Professionally, Representative Jones is a non-profit CEO, Texas Realtor, and a demonstrated servant leader. He is the Founder and CEO of the Southern Black Policy and Advocacy Network (SBPAN), where the mission of the organization is to improve health, social, and economic conditions impacting Black communities in the U.S. South. Since the beginning of his career, Representative Jones has been a tireless advocate working to improve healthcare access, fighting for marginalized communities and middle-class families, and protecting voting rights.

Representative Jones received his Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health from Texas A&M University, his Master of Science degree in Health Care Administration from The University of Texas at Arlington, and also holds a global certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP).

In his free time, Representative Jones enjoys karaoke, do-it-yourself home improvement projects, gardening, and spending time with family and friends. In addition, he is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and a lifetime member of the NAACP.



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**Additional State Leaders in Attendance:**

**General Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham**



**Dr. Dawn Buckingham’s family were among the first settlers to Texas nine generations ago, and that tough, independent, pioneer spirit is deeply rooted in her personality.** True to her Texas roots, Dawn’s commitment to service began early, serving as a volunteer firefighter, and attending the Texas A&M Fire School. She is also an avid hunter, outdoorswoman, and steward of the land.

Dawn made history in 2016 as the first Republican elected to the Texas State Senate from Travis County, and the first woman to represent Senate District 24. She later made history again in 2022, winning a statewide election to become our state’s first female Land Commissioner.

Dawn came from humble roots—growing up on a ranch near the Texas coast. However, she has never settled for less than her dreams. Wanting to attend college, but without the money to do so, Dawn lived at home, working two jobs to pay her own way through UT-Austin. With endurance of spirit, she graduated Magna Cum Laude and debt-free.

During college she met the love of her life and husband of 33 years, Ed Buckingham. Dawn and Ed both went on to receive medical degrees from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston before having two children and starting successful medical practices within their specialties.

Dawn Buckingham truly embodies the American Dream. Through hard work, a “never quit” attitude and perseverance, she has risen above her circumstances to become a self-made small business owner, serving others in her profession and as an elected official, and always giving back to her community.

Dawn describes herself as “the happiest Land Commissioner ever,” as every day she defends our state’s rich history, oil and gas industry, and our national border with Mexico.





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As the chief steward to thirteen million acres of state land, Dawn acts as the largest land owner and mineral owner in the state in her capacity as Land Commissioner. The oil and gas revenue generated by mineral rights on these lands fund education and many veteran programs.

In her role as Land Commissioner, she is also vital to Texans recovering from disasters, and to the health of our coast.

Dawn's greatest love is the Shrine of Liberty, the Alamo. Every day she works tirelessly on a large project to make a visit to the Alamo worthy of the significance of the events that happened there and to ensure the Alamo is standing proudly for years to come so our future generations can know and love our proud history.

**Senator Drew Springer , SD 30**



Senator Drew Springer is Christian and a lifelong conservative Republican who fights to preserve Texas values, promote economic development and works to end excessive regulations that stifle business. Drew is a firm believer that life begins at conception and supports measures to limit or eliminate abortion. A staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, as our state representative, Springer has fought to decrease the limitations of law-abiding gun owners from protecting themselves and their loved ones.

Drew was raised, educated, and works in Senate District 30. He grew up in Parker County, is in the Weatherford HS Hall of Fame, graduated from the University of North Texas with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He spent fifteen years working for a railcar company as an accountant and eventually overseeing three divisions as president. He left to join his father's financial services business in Parker County, where Drew has specialized in agricultural managed futures for over a decade. Drew and his wife of 30 years, Lydia, reside in Cooke County. They have three children, a daughter-in-law and one grandson.



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**Senator Carol Alvarado, SD 6**



Senator Carol Alvarado is proud to serve Texas Senate District 6 in Harris County and was first elected in a 2018 Special Election.

In 2008, she was elected to the Texas House of Representatives and served five terms representing District 145. She served as the Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee and Co-Chair of the Select Committee on Transparency in State Agency Operations.

Now in her third term in the Texas Senate, Carol serves on the Senate Committees on Administration, Natural Resources and Economic Development, Nominations, Transportation and the Special Committee on Redistricting. Carol also serves as the Chair of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus.

Carol's primary legislative focus has been on economic development, public health and public education. She has championed legislation aimed at strengthening our state's workforce, helping small businesses succeed, creating tools to recruit businesses to relocate to Texas, regulating the use of e-cigarettes for children and criminal justice reform.

Carol is an advocate for women's health and reproductive rights and has passed legislation to assist victims of sexual abuse. She is also a strong advocate for voting rights and ensuring access to the ballot.

As a member of the Houston City Council from 2002-2008, Carol led the effort to make restaurants smoke free, stopped the shipping of more hazardous chemicals through our neighborhoods, and had air quality monitors installed in neighborhoods near chemical plants.

Carol is a native Houstonian and longtime resident of Houston's East End. She holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Houston and is a member of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church.



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**Representative John Lujan, HD 118**



Representative John Lujan was first elected in 2016 to represent House District 118 in the Texas House of Representatives and was re-elected to serve southern Bexar County in November 2021. Lujan serves as the Vice-Chair of Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee and as a member of the Transportation Committee. Previously, Lujan served on the Higher Education, Licensing & Administrative Procedures, and Health Care Reform Committees. Lujan also serves as a member of the Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs.

Representative Lujan was born in San Antonio where his mother was a local public-school principal, and his father was a Southside minister. He learned from his parents at a young age the importance of serving others.

After graduating, Lujan served the San Antonio community for five years as a Deputy in the Bexar County Sheriff's department before accepting a job with the San Antonio Fire Department, a position he held for over 25 years. While serving as a firefighter, he worked closely with elected officials at all levels of government to advocate for additional tools and training for first responders to help them better serve their communities.

Today, Representative Lujan is a business owner who helped grow a small local IT firm into a thriving business that employs over 550 people in the Bexar County community.

John and his wife, Freda, have been married for 40 years and live on a small ranch in South San Antonio. They are proud parents of five boys, three of whom are adopted.

Representative Lujan volunteers as a board member with Southside Cardinals Youth Sports League and is a Sunday School teacher at Southside Baptist Church, where his family attends church.



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**Representative Jolanda Jones, HD 147**



JOLANDA "JO" JONES rose from a childhood of poverty and tragedy to membership in numerous Halls of Fame, a CNN Hero, a 4-time national track and field champion, a basketball All-American, a Rhodes Scholar nominee, a successful businesswoman, author, and an unapologetic human rights activist, a Houston City Council member and school board Trustee. This respected analyst has interviewed with Roland Martin, Tom Joyner, and Jacque Reid and is on the cover of Curve Magazine.

Today, Jolanda serves as a Texas State Representative for House District 147.

She has a proven track record of leadership, commitment, charitable work, and teamwork and is a highly sought-after public speaker. Jolanda was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, at the University of Houston's Epsilon Lambda, in the Fall of 1987. She is a current dues-paying member of Mu Kappa Omega!

Her single mom raised Jolanda after her dad committed suicide in her presence. She was confronted with multiple evictions, houses burning down, bullying, rape, domestic violence, being shot at, seeing dead bodies, lack of food, gas, water, and electricity, and being bullied. She overcame the murder of her brother, aunt, and numerous cousins, the SIDS death of her niece, and survived death threats related to her legal practice.

Jolanda has distinguished herself legally, garnering prestigious legal awards. Her courtroom expertise helped shut down Houston Police Department's Crime Lab that faked lab results that convicted innocents and allowed the guilty to go free. She defeated a powerful politician by reuniting an African mom with her child whom that politician had stolen. Her legal acumen has won multiple murder cases and serious felonies. Her business is 24 years old.

She has been the moral conscience and the voice of the disadvantaged and disenfranchised in every elected body she has served. She is a go-to person who fights for



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and stands up to those who seek to oppress. She grew up in a union household and believes in the invaluable power of unions.

Jolanda has and continues to improve the lives of her constituents and helps create jobs and opportunities for small and minority businesses. She is a different kind of businesswoman committed not only to business but to her family and humanity by bending the arc of the moral universe towards justice.

To date, Jolanda has saved five lives. One: a gunshot victim. Two: an SUV rollover victim who was ejected on the freeway. Three: a hit-and-run victim. Four: a victim passed out on a busy street. And her fifth and most notable save, for which she won a HERO Award, was that of a teenager whose car fell approximately 100 feet off of a freeway interchange, caught fire, and exploded seconds after Jolanda and her son extricated her. Jolanda ran to safety 50 meters with the teenager in her arms.

If someone is in danger and Jolanda is near, she will be the person who rushes in to save whoever needs saving. Jolanda feels compelled to save people due to the many times she was a victim of circumstance and in need of help, combined with her mother's teachings that she must have the courage to do what is right when it's easier to do wrong and that she must help people who, but for her help, would be helpless.

Jolanda is a TV personality on CBS's Survivor Pa- Lau and was the star of WEtv's Sisters in Law. Her second book, *Owning My S.H.I.T!* (Suffering Hardship Internalizing Trauma), is an Amazon bestseller. She also coauthored *ScholAthlete's Survival Guide ~ Essential Study Skills for the Scholar Athlete*.

Jolanda is most proud of her amazing son, Jiovanni, who is a Dean's List college graduate and lawyer.



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**Representative Terri Leo- Wilson, HD 23**



Terri Leo Wilson started her life in public service after a distinguished career in education. Graduating Summa Cum Laude, with undergraduate degrees in Elementary and Special Education, and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University Commerce, she brought a wealth of expertise to her roles as a teacher, case manager, and department administrator. In this capacity, Terri predominantly served middle school students with special needs in Texas public schools.

Transitioning from the classroom to the Capitol, Terri's inaugural term as a state legislator was marked by remarkable achievements. Elected to represent House District 23, she quickly emerged as a formidable force, ranking as the most conservative freshman member of the 88th Legislative Session. Notably, in the Mark P. Jones' Rice University poll, Terri secured the 9th most conservative position among all legislators, a testament to her unwavering commitment to conservative principles.

Terri's effectiveness as a legislator was evident in her prolific output, surpassing the average House member in terms of legislation passed during their first session. Her dedication to advancing conservative values resonated with her constituents and colleagues alike, establishing her as an effective legislator.

Prior to her legislative tenure, Terri served with distinction on the State Board of Education (SBOE), elected to three terms. In this capacity, she volunteered her time and expertise, representing approximately 2 million constituents without compensation or staff support. Terri's leadership on the SBOE, including roles as Vice Chairman of the Board and Chairman of key committees, earned her recognition for her contributions to education and conservative advocacy. For Terri's work on writing curriculum ensuring that students understood the benefits of the free-enterprise system she received The American Exceptionalism Award from Americans for Prosperity.





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Terri's commitment to conservative causes extended beyond her legislative and educational endeavors. For over four decades, she has been a stalwart grassroots activist, tirelessly promoting the Republican Party of Texas Platform and Legislative Priorities. From her involvement in various party positions to her active participation in conventions, Terri is a steadfast advocate for conservative principles which earned her the Faithful Servant Award from the US Pastor's Counsel, Protector of the Family Award from the Foundation for Life, and the Texas Family Advocate of the Year Award from Concerned Women For America.

Recognized as a TFRW Tribute to Women Honoree and a recipient of the Texas Star Award from the Texas Women's Alliance, Terri has left a permanent mark on Texas politics and education. She proudly represents House District 23, which encompasses Chambers County and part of Galveston County. Currently serving on the Juvenile Justice & Family Issues and Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services committees, Terri Leo Wilson continues to champion conservative values and fight for the interests of her constituents with unwavering dedication and passion. Terri and her husband Dave reside on Galveston Island and have five children and five grandchildren.

**Representative Suleman Lalani, HD 76**



Representative Suleman Lalani, M.D. has been in private practice in the Sugar Land and greater Houston area for over two decades. In the early 90s, he arrived in the United States from Pakistan to begin his medical career and has spent his career working to close the gap in access to healthcare through his medical practice and charitable endeavors. Rep. Lalani completed his fellowship training at Baylor College of Medicine and has attended courses at Harvard Medical School and Columbia University College of Physicians. He is quadruple board certified in Internal Medicine, Geriatric Medicine, and Hospice and Palliative Medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. The American Board of Post-Acute and Long-term Care has credentialed him as a Certified Medical Director. He is among a top credentialed elite group of physicians nationwide with these qualifications. He has been recognized by



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the National Register of Who's Who for Excellence in Geriatric Medicine.

Rep. Lalani has served in leadership roles in professional, medical, faith, and nonprofit organizations. He has served as both an Ambassador to the United States Congress and as a board member for the Alzheimer's Association. His interest in caring for his patients, especially the elderly, continually leads him toward researching solutions to the common problems that elder members of the community face.

Rep. Lalani believes strongly in philanthropy and volunteer service. He served four years as Chairman of the Regional Committee of the Aga Khan Foundation USA, which operates under a mandate to alleviate global poverty and improve the quality of life for all. He is also involved with raising awareness and funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Alzheimer's Association. Locally he serves on the board of the Fort Bend Rainbow Room. This resource room is stocked with emergency and transitional supplies meeting critical needs for Fort Bend County's abused and neglected children and adults. He also serves as President of the Board of the Exchange Club of Fort Bend, America's premier service club, working to make our communities better places to live.

In November 2022 Rep. Lalani was elected to represent House District 76 which encompasses parts of Fort Bend County Texas, including the cities of Sugar Land, Stafford, Richmond & Meadows Place, and was created during the 2021 Texas Redistricting process. Though his first term he was assigned to senior House Committees and serves on the Higher Education, Natural Resources, and Resolutions Calendars.

As a physician, Rep. Lalani, has been spent decades caring for Texans while earning a reputation a leader in philanthropy for the greater Houston area. As representative for House District 76 in Fort Bend County, a district mirroring the enormous diversity of Texas itself, he brings the same emphasis on caring for Texans and philanthropy to the state capitol. Healthcare and public health legislation are major priorities for Rep. Lalani. Other areas of focus include supporting Texas education and Texas educators at all levels,



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commonsense gun policies, accessibility and transparency in government, and responsible stewardship of our state's natural resources.

Rep. Lalani is married and has three children. In his leisure time he enjoys reading, painting, playing racquetball, cycling, and traveling.

**Representative Vikkie Goodwin, HD 47**



Vikki Goodwin is serving her third term representing Texas House District 47 in western Travis County, which includes the outskirts of Austin, Bee Cave and parts of Lake Travis. In the 88th Session, she was successful in passing a number of bills that serve her district and the state. To address safety issues, she passed Cati's Act which is a drowning prevention law, and the Natalia Cox Act which is a violence prevention law. To address mental health needs, she passed a law that expands AcuDetox. And to ensure food security, she passed a law creating the Texas Food Security and Resiliency Council. Goodwin was a co-author of numerous other bills, and a sponsor of a Cottage Food Act which ran out of time and didn't get passed.

Rep. Goodwin filed a set of bills to address public school funding, gun safety, environmental protection and more. She was a co-author on a bill to increase state employee salaries and to provide a cost-of-living increase to retired teachers. In the next session, Rep. Goodwin will file the Affordable Rent Act, and will continue to advocate for the people of her district, the environment, a strong economy, and a sound budget.

Representative Goodwin is a small business owner, a real estate broker, and a community leader. After graduating from the University of Texas with a BBA—and the LBJ School of Public Affairs with a master's degree—Vikki remains in Austin where she raised her children who are now grown.



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A long-time resident of Shady Hollow, Vikki has been very active in her community, serving on various boards and commissions. Her volunteer work gave her insight into the need for various services in the community and strengthened her determination to help those who slip through the cracks, so often as a result of medical issues, student loans, or low paying jobs. Through her professional and philanthropic endeavors, Vikki knows which issues matter most to the residents of District 47 and was inspired to become an advocate for her community.

**Representative Ray Lopez , HD 125**



Reynaldo T. (Ray) Lopez, was elected to the 86th Texas Legislature on March 12th, 2019 to serve House District 125. District 125 encompasses much of San Antonio's culturally diverse West and Northwest Sides. House District 125 includes the City of Leon Valley, three independent school districts, and prestigious institutions of higher education: St. Mary's and Our Lady of the Lake Universities. District 125 has over 170,000 residents, many of whom are military or civil service employees.

In addition to years as a small business owner, Representative Lopez is an accomplished corporate professional with over 35 years of experience in the information and telecommunications industry. A retired Executive from AT&T, he led a team of technology professionals who were responsible for a multimillion-dollar business portfolio. His various responsibilities included managing relationships for AT&T's Signature Client Division. He identified key business drivers and fostered relationships with his clients, focusing on developing and executing effective long-term telecommunications strategies.

In conjunction with his professional experience, Ray has a longstanding, strong commitment to public service and helping others. Immediately following high school, Rep. Lopez joined the United States Armed Forces where he served 14 years in the Army Reserve. In 1990, he was elected to the North Side Independent School District's Board of Trustees where he was a champion for public education, serving as Board President.



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Representative Lopez strongly advocates for veterans, seniors, public education, and working Texas families. A graduate of Harlandale High School, there he met the love of his life and has been happily married for over 48 years.

In 2004, Representative Lopez was elected to the San Antonio City Council where he represented the people of Council District 6 for four consecutive terms until reaching his term limit. While on Council, Rep. Lopez helped to establish a paragon for senior care at the Alicia Trevino Lopez Senior Center, paved the way for PreK-4-SA campuses across the city of San Antonio, and cast votes based upon his values, his goals for the City of San Antonio, and the interests of his constituents.

Rep. Lopez has received wide recognition for his professional and civic accomplishments including being named to AT&T's Leaders Council & Circle of Excellence. He was also inducted into the Harlandale Independent School District Hall of Fame for his lifelong work in education and community service. For the 86th Legislature, Representative Lopez sits on Defense and Veteran's Affairs and Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Committees where he will tackle the difficult issues that affect veterans, children, and Texas families.

Ray and his wife Evelyn have four grown children: Vicky, Rey Jr., Angelo, and Christopher. Besides their hobbies of golfing, sailing, and skiing, Ray and Evelyn enjoy spending time with their family and spoiling their 14 grandchildren.

**Representative Barbara Gervin-Hawkins, HD 120**



Barbara Gervin-Hawkins is the State Representative for Texas's 120th House District, which includes parts of San Antonio and Converse, and encompasses Windcrest and Kirby.

She also serves as one of the founders of the George Gervin Youth Center, Inc. (since 1991) and George Gervin Academy (since 1994), a public charter that serves approximately 1,000 students throughout the Bexar County area.

A leader in the community since 1981, Barbara is a passionate educator and businesswoman holding a Bachelor's Degree in Business, a Master's Degree



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in Education, and finalizing her PhD in Leadership as well as holding certifications as a math teacher and as a principal. She is also owner-operator of I.C.E. Construction Services, LLC and currently holds the position of Special Projects Coordinator at the George Gervin Youth Center, Inc.

As the superintendent of the Gervin Academy, Barbara has helped over 1,800 high school dropouts attain their diplomas. As a business owner, she has completed over \$50 million dollars in brick-and-mortar projects, created over 322 quality affordable housing units including her most recent transformational project called Echo East, and developed a \$15 million-dollar annual operating budget that provides extensive wrap-around services to assist the most vulnerable populations.

Before Barbara was elected to the Texas House of Representatives, she served as a Zoning Commissioner for the City of San Antonio representing District 2; served on numerous boards and commissions including the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, Ella Austin Community Center, Casey Family Program for homeless youth and was selected to the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame and Whose-Who in San Antonio. Barbara holds numerous honors and awards as an effective community leader. She is always working to create opportunities for all San Antonians.

As a member of the Texas House of Representatives, Barbara currently serves on the House Appropriations and Ways & Means committees. She also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Article III Subcommittee. Additionally, she serves on the House Democratic Special Committee on Clean Air, Clean Water, & Climate Change. Barbara proudly serves as member of the House Democratic Caucus, in which she serves as Vice-Deputy Whip, Texas Veterans' Caucus, Women's Health Caucus, LGBTQ Caucus, Innovation and Technology Caucus, and Texas Legislative Black Caucus where in the 85th legislative session, Barbara was awarded "Freshman of the Year". In addition, she is also a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures and serves on their Redistricting and Elections Standing Committee.

Barbara is a proud mother of two adult sons, Robert and Nathan, both of whom have their master's degrees. She is a longtime member of Mount Zion First Baptist Church in San





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Antonio and is one of six children. Her older brother is NBA Hall of Famer George “Iceman” Gervin. She graduated from Martin Luther King High School in Detroit, Michigan and has lived in Texas since 1980.

**Representative Elizabeth Campos, HD 119**



Representative Elizabeth “Liz” Campos of House District 119 is serving her second term in the Texas House of Representatives. She represents the cities of San Antonio, Converse, Live Oak, Schertz, St. Hedwig, and Universal City.

In her first term, Representative Campos was selected as “Freshman of the Year” by the Texas House Legislative Study Group. She authored important legislation to improve the quality of life for seniors at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and independent living. Her legislation would require state certification of all institutions that care for persons with Alzheimer’s disease; protect personal funds of residents living in long-term care facilities; and leverage federal funding for independent living programs.

Campos also filed legislation to address homelessness and affordable housing in Bexar County. This legislation consisted of housing first initiatives; transitional housing pilot programs; housing mobility investments; and the creation of an affordable housing trust fund to provide incentives for the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing.

In addition to advancing her legislation, she also worked to expand Medicaid, fully fund public schools, and finance local infrastructure projects that generate jobs, create opportunity, and reduce poverty in our community.

Representative Campos is the first women elected to represent HD 119. She has thirty years of experience as a legal administrator at major law firms in San Antonio and previously served in the Texas Legislature as a House Constituent Coordinator, Senate District Director, and Senate Chief of Staff. As well as serving her community in the Texas House of Representatives, Liz Campos is a successful businesswoman, third generation



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plumber, and lives in Southeast San Antonio with her three German Shepherds Jojo, Mona, and Lobo.

For the 88th Legislative Session, Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phelan has selected Representative Campos to serve as Vice-Chair of the Public Health Committee. She was also appointed to the Human Services Committee and the House Redistricting Committee.

**Representative John Smithee, HD 86**



John Smithee descends from a pioneer Panhandle family that settled in the area in the early 1900's. John has spent his entire life living, working, and raising a family in Amarillo, graduating from Tascosa High School before completing degrees at Amarillo College and West Texas State University (now West Texas A&M University).

John then attended Texas Tech University Law School and soon after became a practicing attorney. He is a partner at Smithee & Russell, PC in Amarillo where he has been named a Super Lawyer every year since 2009 and has argued many cases before our Texas Supreme Court.

In recent years, John has been named to the Tascosa High Hall of Fame and recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of both Amarillo College and West Texas A&M.

Throughout his legislative service, John has been recognized as a strong conservative and advocate for the people of the Panhandle. Some of these honors include:

- √ Texas Eagle Forum "Freedom and Family" Award
- √ Texas Right to Life "Pro-Life Hero" Award
- √ Texas Press Association "Friend of the First Amendment" Award
- √ American Cancer Society "Advocacy in Action" Award
- √ Texas Association of Business "Fighter for Free Enterprise" Award



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During his time serving, he has passed legislation to create 911 service to Potter and Randall Counties, brought West Texas State University into the Texas A&M system, and secured funding for our growth and critical needs such as the Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine in Amarillo and a new mental health hospital.

John has been married to his wife Becky for 44 years and the couple shares three wonderful children and eight grandchildren. He has long served as an adult Sunday School Teacher at First Baptist Church Amarillo.

**Representative Pat Curry, HD 56**



A local business leader and entrepreneur, Pat Curry has created over one thousand jobs in McLennan County. Pat orchestrated the revitalization of Central Freight Lines in the mid 90s, making it the largest business in Waco and one of the largest employers in the county. Until recently, he owned and operated Rabroker A/C and Plumbing in Hewitt and owned, built, and managed Miracle-Ear Centers in Waco and throughout the country.

Following the West, Texas explosion in 2013, Pat and his team assisted in recovery efforts and donated more than 350 free hearing aids to local residents. Since then, he has traveled the globe to provide free hearing aids to those in need.

Pat is the youngest of seven children and was born and raised in Waco by Dr. and Mrs. Jim Curry. Both of his parents were from working class families and graduated from Waco ISD and Baylor University. Dr. Curry was a family practitioner whose mantra was to take care of everyone, whether they could afford it or not. Pat has held to that mantra throughout his career and personal life, supporting both local and national charities. His generosity extends to causes like the Miracle-Ear Foundation, Easter Seals, March of Dimes, Goodfellas, the Providence (Ascension) Hospital Foundation, and many of the local Volunteer Fire Departments.

After encouragement from family, friends, and local leaders, Pat announced his candidacy



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for Texas House District 56. As State Representative, Pat will fight to lower property taxes, create jobs and economic development, protect our conservative family values, defend the 2nd Amendment, support local agriculture, and protect the City of Waco's water supply. A farmer and rancher with multiple properties, including a ranch along the Southern border, Pat has seen the devastation of the federal government's open border policy firsthand. He is committed to securing the border and stopping the drug and human trafficking crisis in Texas.

A dedicated family man with strong Christian values, Pat is married to his college sweetheart, Alicia, and has four children. Growing up in Waco, Pat attended local public schools before attending Texas A&M and graduating with a BBA in Finance. Pat and Alicia reside on their ranch in Bruceville where Pat enjoys hunting and fishing.

**Senator-Elect Brent Hagenbuch, Senate District 30**



Brent Hagenbuch is the conservative candidate for Texas Senate, District 30 in north Texas. Brent is a committed Christian, business and community leader, veteran, and Republican activist.

Brent Hagenbuch is CEO and Owner of Titus Transport, a \$170 million a year leader in transportation services with 750 drivers delivering to 1,500 grocery stores across the country for large retail food chains. He is also the owner of Giddy Up Transport, a rapidly growing freight logistics firm. Brent's professional background also includes strategy and general management roles at McKinsey & Company and PepsiCo's Frito-Lay division as well as CEO of CompX.

He holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy, a MS in Civil Engineering from Stanford University, and an MBA from the Anderson School of Management at UCLA.

Brent knows that Texas remains the place that all America used to be. He will fight the woke cultural decline infecting corporate and government institutions, support law enforcement, and maintain Texas' commitment to border security. He is a fiscal conservative who will



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support smaller government but understands the need to invest in our future across education and infrastructure.

Hagenbuch served as an officer in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps during the first Gulf War era as a Company Commander in Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, as Officer in Charge of Construction at Concord Naval Weapons Station, and an instructor at the Civil Engineer Corps Officers School.

Brent's extensive community service includes: Board Director of Feed the Children, Member of UNT's Logistics Institute Advisory Board, LEISD Visionary Committee member, former Chairman of the Board of Amazon Christian Mission, former President of the North Texas Chapter of K-Life youth ministry and former Little Elm City Planning & Zoning Commissioner.

Elected as Chairman of the Denton County Republican Party in 2021, Brent focused his efforts on keeping Denton County RED by increasing the Republican vote, engaging candidates, and empowering the grassroots.

Brent has a beautiful family including Jean, his wife and partner of 39 years who is a former schoolteacher, son Adam who holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon and appears regularly in popular TV programs, daughter Nicole who is studying for a master's degree at UNT, and three grandchildren. The Hagenbuchs are active at Crossridge Church in Little Elm.

**Representative-Elect Brent Money, HD 2**



Money was born in Greenville, Texas. He attended Texas A&M University-Commerce, earning his bachelor's degree in 2001. He also attended Southern Methodist University, earning his law degree in 2006.

In March 2024, Money defeated Jill Dutton in the Republican primary election for the 2nd district of the Texas House of Representatives. In November 2024, he defeated Kristen Washington in the general election,



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winning 80 percent of the votes. He succeeded Dutton. He assumes office on January 14, 2025.

**Representative-Elect Joanne Shofner, HD 11**



As a 7th-generation Texan with East Texas roots, Joanne shares the District 11's conservative values of life, liberty, and freedom. She is loyally passionate about God, family, community, and the Lone Star State.

Joanne chose to serve her community through her enthusiasm for politics and now is the President of Nacogdoches County Republican Women. Through her leadership and with the help of her board, the club is now one of the larger clubs in Texas. Joanne also serves on the Nacogdoches Historical Landmark Preservation Committee as well as the finance committee at her church. Her small business as a trained Christian Life Coach is her passion as she helps empower women in recovery from traumatic experiences. She has also written and taught Bible studies and led women's retreats for 20 years. As a former manager for Hyatt Hotels, Joanne utilized her degree in hotel and restaurant management from the Hilton School at the University of Houston. Joanne Shofner is a leader, business owner, teacher and public servant.

Joanne and her husband David Shofner have a long history of being deeply involved in their church and East Texas community. They enjoy spending time with their combined families of seven children, their spouses and six grandchildren.





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**Representative-Elect Janis Holt, HD 18**



Janis is from Silsbee, a small rural town in Hardin County in Southeast Texas, where she has lived since 1993. She is a lifelong Republican, having cast her first vote in a presidential election for Ronald Reagan in 1980. Janis and her husband of almost 33 years are owners of Hi-Tech Air Purification Systems which provides air purification systems for homes, businesses and military installations. They also raise Angus cattle on their ranch.

Janis has been a dental assistant and a 4th grade schoolteacher. She is very active in her community where she has been a School Board Trustee for the Silsbee Independent School District since 2014. She currently serves as Board President.

Janis and her husband, Alton, have 4 married children and are the proud grandparents of four granddaughters and one grandson.

**Representative-Elect Matt Morgan, HD 26**



Matthew R. Morgan's Texas family roots date back nearly 200 years ago. Matt's ancestral family moved to Texas with Stephen F. Austin, as part of the original 300 in 1825. Stephen F. Austin is considered the founder of Texas as we know it today.

Matt graduated from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville with a bachelor's degree in business. Matt received two separate job offers; one was from an elite stock brokerage firm, and the other from a well-known insurance company. This was the pinnacle moment in Matt's career, for he picked the profession that would help others when they experienced a loss.

Matt is proud of being an Eagle Scout and was the recipient of the Young American Award. In 1993, he earned proclamation of a day in his honor through the City of Houston for service to his community. He former member of the board of directors for Lamar Little League and as a committee member for Cub Scout Pack 10 based in Richmond, TX.



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Devoted to his community, Matt helped build several homes through Habitat for Humanity. He also collected over 100K books for needy children for a literacy organization in Houston. To Matt's surprise, he met former First Lady Barbara Bush, who served on the organization's board of directors, and they have remained lifelong acquaintances until her passing.

Matt is currently a public insurance adjuster, licensed in Texas, Georgia, and Colorado. After years of working as an insurance adjuster for various top well-known insurance companies, Matt decided that he could better serve others if he only represented the policyholders. In 2015, Matt launched Morgan Elite Specialist Services, LLC. Matt advocates for his clients who are the policyholders of various insurance companies and have suffered losses.

He is happily married to his wife Jessica, and they have three children, Westley, Samantha and Christian. He is also the proud papa of their dog, Smokey.

**Representative-Elect Katrina Pierson, HD 33**



Katrina Pierson is a dynamic conservative leader who has inspired grassroots activists throughout the nation for over fifteen years. Katrina burst on the national stage on April 15th, 2009, when her inspiring speech at the Dallas Tea Party rally went viral. As a result of her grassroots work building the Tea Party Movement in Texas and across the nation, Katrina was formally recognized as one of the "Founding Mothers" of the Tea Party Movement. Her passion and ability to advocate for conservative principles in a relatable and compelling way led to frequent appearances on national and international news networks, including the Fox News Channel, CNN, MSNBC, and Newsmax, among many others.

Born to a single mother who gave birth to her at the age of 15, Katrina grew up in extreme poverty. Her environment was rife with challenges and struggles. Determined to build a better life for herself and her young son, she worked while putting herself through school. After obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Texas at Dallas, Katrina built a successful career in the healthcare industry.



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After her years of hard work effectively making the case for conservative causes, Katrina was asked by Donald Trump to serve as the national spokesperson for his 2016 Presidential campaign. In this role, Katrina further established her reputation for vigorously promoting conservative policies on issues such as border security, illegal immigration, gun rights, religious liberty, and election integrity.

In 2020, President Trump asked Katrina to lead the national coalition program for his reelection campaign. Her work in this role resulted in a record-breaking level of support for Trump among minority voters in the 2020 election and laid the groundwork for even broader engagement. Her unique background and life experience equipped her to reach new communities and significantly expand the Republican Party.

Her commitment to public service resulted in her appointment to the Texas Lieutenant Governor's Advisory Board, and to healthcare and transportation boards by local governments. Katrina's efforts to increase civic engagement and bring more people into the political process was officially recognized by proclamation during the 83rd Texas Legislature. In 2021, Katrina became a visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation, and currently serves on a board for a pro-life nonprofit organization.

In addition to her volunteer grassroots work, Katrina is also an entrepreneur who built her own public affairs and crisis consulting firm to help businesses, non-profits and conservative advocacy groups accomplish their goals.

Katrina is a Forney High School graduate. Her son attended Steadham Elementary School and Schrade Middle School in Rowlett, Texas.

She lives in Rockwall, Texas.



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**Representative-Elect Wesley Virdell, HD 53**



Wes is endorsed by President Donald Trump, Senator Ted Cruz, Congressman Chip Roy, Attorney General Ken Paxton, Governor Greg Abbott, Lt Gov Dan Patrick, and Ag Commissioner Sid Miller. He is also endorsed by several former and current State Representatives and local leaders to include County Commissioners and members of Law Enforcement.

Wes is currently the Republican nominee for HD53 and has been attending the Texas Capitol for 12 years fighting for gun rights and other conservative values. He helped to pass Constitutional Carry in 2021. In the 88th legislative session, as the Texas State Director for GOA, Wes played a critical role in stopping 152 anti-gun bills and passing 6 pro-gun bills.

Wes's priorities are to lower or eliminate property taxes, deregulate commerce, reduce government spending, and to protect local resources from outside interest. Wes helped deliver a portion of the Trump border wall in 2020 and has strongly advocated to secure the border.

Born and raised in the heart of Texas, He and his wife of 20 years, Sara, live in Brady, TX, and have three boys: Van, Madden, and Kingston.

Wes is a 9th-generation Texan and a 14th-generation American. His relative, Jonathan Lindley, was one of the Immortal 32 Gonzales Rangers that fought and died at the Battle of the Alamo.

For centuries, Wes' family has shown a passion for freedom, old-fashioned hard work, and taking a stand against tyranny. His 8th great-grandfather fought in the American Revolution, and his grandfather, Wayne Virdell, served in World War 2. Wes' other grandfather, Mel Whitley, was a leader in boat design for Glastron and designed the SSV hull, the Batman boat, the James Bond Live and Let Die boats, and many other famous boats.



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Wes followed his family's tradition of service and joined the U.S. Air Force in 2001. He reported to Basic Training two months after September 11, 2001. While serving in the U.S. Air Force, he worked on Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles and served as a Military Training Leader.

In 2008, Wes returned home to join the family business and started his own trucking business as well.

Driven by his belief that if we lose the 2nd Amendment, we will lose all other rights shortly afterward, Wes started attending the Texas Capitol in 2011 to fight for our gun rights and has been active at the Capitol since then. Before being selected as the Texas State Director for Gun Owners of America, Wes served as the Texas Hill Country Coordinator.

Wes' successful engagement fighting for our freedoms and his love for Texas values led to his political debut in a \$3.4M congressional race where he placed third out of ten candidates while spending the least per vote. He was later selected as a 2020 and 2022

State Delegate for the Republican Party of Texas and a 2020 and 2024 National Delegate for the Republican National Convention.

Wes Virdell is a workhorse and unapologetic conservative. He is committed to preserving our freedom and he will firmly oppose anyone seeking to undermine our way of life. You can count on Wes to stand up for you in the Texas Capitol and anywhere else it is needed.

**Representative-Elect Keresa Richardson, HD 61**



Keresa Richardson is an entrepreneur and conservative community leader. As CEO of the Lawton Group, Keresa, alongside her husband J.R., embarked on an entrepreneurial journey. They opened their first business 40 years ago from the ground up, starting with zero customers and zero employees. Their dedication to customer service and hard work has transformed their ventures into a thriving enterprise of Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Refrigeration and Pest Control companies serving businesses and consumers in DFW, Austin and San Antonio.





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Keresa has a passion for women in business and trades. Her role as a small business owner has given her firsthand insight into the daily challenges and tasks required to operate a successful enterprise, making her a strong advocate for the business community.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Keresa is deeply engaged in her community and her church. They consistently host charity and community events and their home is a sanctuary for missionaries on furlough in the US. She and J.R are not only proud parents to three accomplished grown children but also doting grandparents to five grandchildren. Their home is further enriched by the presence of their dachshund, Demi who believes she is the “leader of the pack”.

In addition to her professional and family life, Keresa is a cancer survivor, having beaten cancer into submission. Her personal battle with cancer has fueled her commitment to supporting cancer patients in their journey to wellness. Keresa understands firsthand the challenges and strength required to combat this terrible disease, motivating her to work towards a future where cancer is eradicated from our state and country.

Keresa Richardson’s story is one of resilience, compassion, and dedication. Her experiences as a business leader, community advocate, and cancer survivor have shaped her into a tenacious and compassionate individual. As she steps into the realm of running for Texas State House, she brings with her a wealth of knowledge, a deep understanding of community needs, and an unwavering commitment to creating a better future for all.

**Representative-Elect Andy Hopper, HD 64**



Andy lives on a small farm in Decatur, TX with his wife, Amanda where they raised their 3 sons. The family left suburban life in Denton in 2010 to pursue their dream of living in the country. They had a rough start while trying to figure out how to corral Limousin cattle, but eventually got the hang of the farming thing. The farm currently has a pecan orchard, fruit orchards, large gardens, laying hens, and seasonally is home to pastured chickens and turkeys. The family has also bred and raised Nubian dairy goats and Barbados Blackbelly sheep. Raising sheep taught them to prefer cows.





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Andy joined the Texas State Guard in 2014 as a way to serve Texas. He is currently a Chief Warrant Officer assigned to T6 in the TXSG HQ in Camp Mabry in Austin. Andy uses his background as a software engineer to develop recruiting, retention, and readiness management software currently in use by the Texas State Guard, and is in the process of being deployed to the Texas Army and Air National Guard. The T6 Software/Cyber Team has won three consecutive Best of Texas awards (2017, 2018, 2019). Andy's oldest son, SGT Grant Hopper, also serves the Texas State Guard in T6 Radio Communications at Camp Mabry in Austin and his youngest son, Ian, was recently sworn into the Guard.

Andy graduated from the University of North Texas in 2000 with a Master's Degree in Computer Science and a minor in History. He has taught as an adjunct professor at UNT and holds a US patent. Andy has worked in both the private sector and the defense industry as a software engineer for the last twenty-seven years. In November, 2020 Andy and Amanda joined a number of like-minded families in Wise County to found Wise County Conservatives, which quickly became one of the fastest-growing and most active grassroots organizations in North Texas. They also co-founded Trinity Conservative

Coalition, with Mike and Marika Olcott of Parker County Conservatives, which currently connects 9 independent conservative groups across 8 counties to facilitate activism. Andy served as the Republican Caucus Chair for Senate District 12 at the 2022 State Convention. Amanda served as the Precinct 3 Chair and the Activism Chair for the Wise County Republican Party until Andy ran in the 2024 Primary. Andy and Amanda are active members of Denton County Conservative Coalition and participate in the coalition for Grassroots America, We the People.

Andy and Amanda attend [Rise Church](#) in Decatur, Texas. As non-denominational Christians, they believe that the Bible is inerrant and God-breathed. The family's homeschool curriculum is founded on God and His creation.

The Hopper children were enrolled in Denton ISD until 2009 and Decatur ISD until 2012 when the family began homeschooling. Their oldest son, Grant, graduated from Texas Tech with a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 2023, and married Kathryn in late 2023. Their middle son, Sam, works full time as a video producer while also attending Tarrant County



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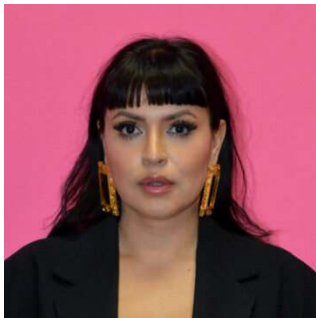
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Community College. Their youngest son, Ian, graduated high school in May of 2024 and currently attends Weatherford College in Wise County. Andy and Amanda feel lucky to have survived homeschooling 3 boys while keeping most of their hair and Amanda is thrilled she never has to teach Geometry again.

Andy and Amanda met in high school chemistry class. They married when they were twenty-years-old, on the same day that Andy graduated with his BS in Computer Science. Andy skipped the graduation since Hillary Clinton was the key-note speaker.

#### **Representative-Elect Linda Garcia, HD 107**



Linda García is a dedicated advocate for economic empowerment and community development, running for Texas House District 107. With 17 years of experience in the TV and film industry, Linda has played a pivotal role in shaping programming for the U.S. Hispanic market.

As a proud founder of *In Luz We Trust*, Linda is committed to helping individuals overcome financial trauma and build lasting wealth. Her acclaimed book, *Wealth Warrior: 8 Steps for Communities of Color to Conquer the Stock Market*, and her daily digestible content and workshops have provided invaluable financial education and resources to many.

Linda's achievements have earned her recognition from Latino Leaders Magazine and the City of Los Angeles. Her contributions have been featured in prominent media outlets including Yahoo Finance, Forbes, and Univision. Through her podcast *Investies*, she makes complex economic topics accessible and actionable for a broad audience.

Driven by her personal experiences and a deep understanding of economic and social issues, Linda is passionate about addressing key challenges in Texas. These include advocating for equitable education funding, expanding healthcare access, supporting women's reproductive rights, and promoting infrastructure development.



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Linda García's commitment to her community and her expertise in economic empowerment are central to her vision for a better future for Texas.