

A Native of Houston, Texas, and small business owner, Jarvis Johnson has been a steadfast leader for North Houston since 2005. First elected to serve District 139 in the Texas House of Representatives in 2016, which includes the Acres Homes, Independence Heights, Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, Greater Inwood, to name a few. Jarvis has championed foster care reforms, affordable housing policy, sickle cell disease care, and supported public education, teachers, and our retirees.

As an alum of Texas Southern University, Jarvis has used his position on the powerful Appropriations Committee to fight for equitable funding for HBCUs. Notably, he secured over 1.0 million dollars to support Booker T Washington High School in District 139 during the 86th Legislative Session. Additionally, he secured a historic 143 million dollars in extra funding for Texas Southern University during the 86th Legislative session.

During his tenure in the Texas House of Representatives, Representative Johnson has served on the Culture Recreation & Tourism, Urban Affairs, Appropriations, Homeland Security and Public Safety. Rep. Johnson is currently the Vice Chair of the Homeland Security & Public Safety and Community Safety Select Committees, as well as serving on the Appropriations Committee.

Among Johnson's many legislative achievements include establishing a Sickle Cell Taskforce, authorizing the Houston Land Bank in Texas Statute and expanding their ability to provide affordable housing, and expanding legal representation for foster youth, to name just a few. Before he served in the Texas House of Representatives, Johnson was one of the youngest members elected to the Houston City Council. Elected to serve District B in 2005, he brought economic opportunities to the district and fought diligently to increase jobs.

Representative Johnson is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Most importantly, he is the proud father to two beautiful children, Nalyah and Jarvis Johnson, II.

- VICE-CHAIR OF TWO PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEES AND WORKED WITH THE FAMILIES OF THE UVALDE VICTIMS TO PASS THE BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT
- STOOD UP FOR HARRIS COUNTY, and led the fight against the HISD takeover and the attack on local control (bill removing election administrator and overturning harris county elections)
- FOUGHT FOR SCHOOLS IN YOUR DISTRICT AND SECURED \$1 MILLION FOR BOOKER T WASHINGTON AND \$143 MILLION FOR TSU, \$6 MILLION FOR PVAMU.
- PASSED IMPORTANT LEGISLATION TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN HOUSTON AND ENABLED THE HOUSTON LAND BANK. Right now, because of your legislation the Houston Land Bank with community partners are designing a community center for Acres Homes, something the community has been advocating for for years.
- PASSED A BILL WITH Oak Forest Deeds for Change to allow an easier process to remove racists language from deeds

Flooding Projects

\$550 million for the Gulf Coast Protection District to fund “Ike Dike”-related projects and meet requirements from federal partners in this \$34 billion project. (budget)

\$625 million to the Texas Water Development Board to replenish the Flood Infrastructure Fund. (budget)

88th Legislative Session

For Seniors

- **HB 1275** – Removes barriers for disabled and homebound seniors by allowing them to receive secure state-issued personal IDs by phone or through the DPS website. Additionally, allows DPS to create a procedure for disabled and homebound seniors to voluntarily surrender their driver's license. **(Rep Plesa)**
- **HB 25** – Creates a Wholesale Prescription Drug Importation Program in Texas that will require the state to work with state drug wholesalers to import safe, eligible, and cheaper prescription drugs from Canada. **(Rep Talarico)**

For women & families

- **HB 12** – Expands postpartum Medicaid coverage from 6 months to 12 months for women in Texas. **(Rep Rose)**
- **HB 242** - Provides legal protection for those who donate and distribute feminine hygiene products in good faith, thus encouraging more donations and ensuring that these products are available to those who need them. **(Rep Howard)**
- **HB 916** – Expands the supply of prescription contraceptive drugs (birth control) so that individuals can receive a 12-month supply at one time versus the current 3-month supply. **(Rep Ordaz)**
- **SB 379** – Ensures that items such as tampons, pads, menstrual cups, certain underwear, washes, douches, adhesive bandages, gauze pads, and medical tape are exempt from tax. **(Rep Howard)**

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Bad Legislation YOU Worked Against

Attacks on Voting:

In this session, Republicans continued their work from the last session by further eroding what little control Harris County has left in administering elections. Two bills, in particular, will have devastating effects on elections in Harris County: SB 1933 and SB 1750. [SB 1933](#) grants the Texas secretary of state the authority to investigate election “irregularities” after complaints are filed – but only in counties with more than 4 million people. As of now, that category includes only Harris County. [SB 1750](#) abolished the election administrator position in Harris County and transfers all duties to the county tax assessor-collector, interfering in county administration.

Rep. Johnson worked to publicly rebuke these harmful pieces of legislation both in Austin and alongside officials in Houston. On the floor, Rep. Johnson worked to help the bill author and other state legislators know that there are already provisions in the law for a county to remove their officials if they think they are not doing a good job. The state choosing to be the sole decider on removing an elections administrator is a massive overreach. Unfortunately, despite these efforts, the bills were signed into law

Gun De-Regulation:

Despite the horrific massacre of 21 lives in Uvalde, Texas, Republicans utilized this session not to avert future massacres, but to instead remove the right from local officials to protect these tragedies from coming to their own doorsteps. [HB 3137](#) prohibits local elected officials from adopting or enforcing regulations related to requiring an owner of a firearm to register or license their firearms or obtain liability insurance coverage for damages resulting from negligent or willful acts involving the use of the firearm.

Rep. Johnson fought against this legislation every chance he got. As the Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Community Safety, Rep. Johnson heard firsthand from the loved ones of victims of gun violence, including the Uvalde families. Their foremost goal was to pass legislation that sought to raise the age to purchase assault rifles from 18-21. Unfortunately, despite the small ask, their legislation failed to pass. When HB

3137 made it to the House floor, Rep. Johnson snuck an amendment that resembled the language of the Uvalde bill onto the bill for a vote. The amendment failed by a vote of 61 yeas and 80 nays. By getting this amendment on the floor for a vote, the families were able to gain the record vote they so desperately sought.

Attacks on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Tenure in Higher Ed:

Following the attacks Republicans made on public education last session, this session they came with two particularly devastating attacks against institutions of higher education. [SB 17](#) will ban diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) offices in Texas public institutions of higher education and [SB 18](#) will hyper-regulate tenure essentially leading to an overhaul and possible ban of tenure.

To minimize the impact of these bills, Rep. Johnson submitted amendments seeking to ensure that professors and those employed by universities can have a public platform to share their grievances. However, the bill author refused to compromise and the bills went on to be signed by the Governor into law. Both of these policies will do nothing more than hurt our universities, our students, and our entire state.

87th Legislative Session

Bills YOU Passed

HB 1315 Requires the appointment of a guardian or attorney ad litem for the duration of the time a child spends in the conservatorship of DFPS. The intent is to ensure that children in the conservatorship of DFPS have at least one person (GAL or AAL) advocating for them through the PMC process.

HB 80 Requires that no youth in foster care can be given fines or fees for a class-c misdemeanor, and Judges may prescribe community service in the place of fines and fees that might otherwise be charged to foster youth. Community service in place of fines decreases the interaction with the criminal justice system for foster youth and ultimately aid in breaking down the foster care to prison pipeline. The burden of a fine

disproportionately affects a foster youth as opposed to youth with similar disciplinary issues that is not in the foster care system.

HB 700 Requires the Department of Family and Protective Services to work with the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to develop a plan to make the Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) class worth college credit. By having the HECB develop a plan to make PAL courses worth college credit, not only will the PAL curriculum receive a thorough review by post-secondary education specialists, but a pathway for ensuring that all foster youth eligible for PAL classes also become eligible for a tuition waiver will come into focus.

SB 1679/ HB4065 Creation of an urban land bank by municipalities with a population over 2 million. This bill resolves statutory inconsistencies and allows the Houston Land Bank to take control of its own management and development. This bill would help to revitalize Houston and make the best use of the available land.

HCR 86 Helps support equitable access and availability to therapeutic options for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) patients, such as bone marrow transplantation, gene therapy, and genome editing for SCD patients in the State of Texas. Texas has approximately 7100 residents who live with SCD, which is estimated to be the third highest-ranking state by population for SCD in the nation. Supporting equitable access to these therapeutic options would help address the health inequities and inequalities that plague this vulnerable population.

APPROPRIATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- More than \$3 billion in federal funds for continuing disaster recovery related to 2017's Hurricane Harvey, including \$1.4 billion for short-term and community housing projects, \$1.6 billion for infrastructure and mitigation projects and \$221.4 million for coastal projects.
- \$1.7 billion for flood control and mitigation projects
- \$200 million to extend, improve and maintain coastal barriers, storm surge gates, seawalls and levees.
- \$600,000 for Booker T. Washington Aeronautics Magnet Program
- \$400,000 for Booker T. Washington Vision Community Project

- \$6,000,000 for Prairie View A&M University Healthy Houston Initiative
- \$4,000,000 for Texas Southern University's maintenance projects

86th Legislative Session

Bills YOU passed

HB 1191 creates more transparency on the foster care-to-prison pipeline in Texas. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice currently drafts a report that highlights if an inmate was, at any point in their life, in the foster care system. HB 1191 would add a data point to that report, differentiating if an offender, who was at one point in the foster care system, is entering the prison system for the first time. This data point will highlight the age a former foster youth first comes in contact with the criminal justice system as an adult. This will increase the transparency of the State's criminal justice system, and will ensure stakeholders and advocates have easy access to this data.

HB 2229 creates more transparency on the foster care-to-prison pipeline in Texas. In the 85th Legislative Session, Representative Johnson passed legislation (HB 932) that requires the Texas Department of Juvenile Justice to create a report that highlights if a juvenile inmate is presently in or was at any point during their life in the foster care system. HB 2229 adds a data point to the existing report differentiating if a juvenile offender is entering the prison system for the first time. This data point will reveal the exact length of the Foster Care-to-Prison pipeline by highlighting the age that a current or former foster youth first comes in contact with the juvenile justice system

HB 3405 creates the Sickle Cell Task Force under the authority of the Executive Commissioner of Health and Human Services. This task force will study and advise relevant state agencies on raising awareness of sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait. Additionally, the task force is charged with creating a statewide sickle cell surveillance mechanism to be implemented by DSHS. The surveillance tool will be used to track the level of treatment offered to those with SCD from infant care through adulthood.

HB 3394 creates specialty license plates for Sickle Cell trait and disease. These plates not only will raise awareness and combat the historical negligence of sickle cell disease but also grant money for organizations that provide services for the sickle cell community.

HCR 117 designates September as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, bringing attention to the too-often forgotten disease.

85th Legislative Session

SB 2105 will require the Texas Education Agency to provide information on all CTE partnership opportunities with business, industry, and professional development and learning programs (internships, industry mentorships, summer learning, after-school learning, career-based student leadership) that are available regionally. Instead of generalized classes that teach basic construction, this bill will open the door for programs tailored to the specific industries located in the community — increasing realistic CTE opportunities for students across the state of Texas as well as the incentive for partnerships between school districts and local industry.

HB 136 amended Texas' Public Education mission to include the addition of Objective 11; placing a focus on Career and Technology Education

HB 796, joint authored by Rep. Johnson, seeks to improve the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's work-study mentorship program by pairing eligible college students with local businesses in order to give them practical training and skills for the fields they wish to pursue.