

CD 18 Potential Nominee Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Letitia Plummer

If you currently hold or have previously held public office, please list and describe those positions here.
Houston City Council, At Large Position 4

Are you currently a resident of the 18th Congressional District?

Yes

If you live in CD18, how long have you resided there?

2 ½ years

If you are not currently a resident of CD18, which Congressional District do you reside, and how long have you lived there?

Background, Education, and Qualifications

High School attended and date of graduation

High School for Health Professions, 1988

College attended, degree obtained, major, and year of graduation

Spelman, BS Biology 1992

Graduate or other degrees obtained and year of graduation

Baylor College of Dentistry, DDS, 1999

Any Board Certifications. If you are an attorney, please list the states in which you are admitted to the bar and years admitted.

Doctor of Dental Surgery

What uniquely qualifies you to represent the constituents of CD18 as their Representative in Congress?

As a healthcare professional and dentist, I understand the complexities of our current public health crisis. High prescription drug costs force many Americans to choose between medications and essential needs. In Congressional District 18, nearly 1 in 14 people live below the poverty line, often prioritizing health over food. Rising mental health issues and substance use disorders among youth demand expanded mental health funding and services to help them lead healthy lives.

Environmental degradation disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities, leading to serious health problems like asthma and heart disease. In neighborhoods like Kashmere Gardens, hazardous facilities near homes affect residents' life expectancy. This environmental injustice must be addressed to protect community health.

The cancer cluster in the Fifth Ward highlights the need for accessible and affordable health services. Individuals battling cancer deserve various treatment options without financial ruin. We must ensure that cancer treatment is within reach for everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status.

As an advocate for health equity, I am uniquely positioned to address these pressing issues. As your representative in Congress, I will champion healthcare access expansion, promote mental health and substance use treatment, reduce prescription drug costs, and support research-based interventions. As a City of Houston Council Member, I regularly engage with federal, state, and local governments on these issues. My healthcare background provides a distinctive perspective on our challenges, and I am committed to driving meaningful change for our community.

What is your best quality or attribute? What is your least favorable trait or working habit?

One trait that defines me, even if it sometimes annoys others, is my relentless persistence. I am steadfast in my commitment to never give up, regardless of the challenges or obstacles in my path. This unwavering determination can be perceived as stubbornness or even as a source of frustration for those around me, but it is an integral part of who I am. I believe that true progress and meaningful change come from perseverance, and I am willing to push through resistance and setbacks to achieve the goals that matter most to me and my community.

What prior elective office have you run for and what was the result?

In 2018, I ran for TX-Congressional District 22. I lost in the Runoff Election

In 2019, I successfully ran for Houston City Council At-Large position 4 and took office in 2020. I was reelected in 2023 and have been in office since.

Describe any community service you have been involved with over the past ten years.

I have been involved with the community in various capacities. I created a non-profit called Career Smiles. In my capacity as a Council member, I spend most weekends working with community services such as the Houston food bank, community gardens, free dental screening with UT Dental School at community events.

Affiliations, Tributes, and Awards

Are you a member of or affiliated with any professional organizations? Please list here.

Have you held any leadership positions with those groups, and if so, what was your position?

Have you received any honors or recognitions that may be relevant to the positions of United States Representative? If so, please describe here.

-Women Under 30

-She Said, She Led

Philosophy and Issues

Should you become the Representative for CD18, what do you hope to accomplish during your first term in office? Before the completion of your service as a member of Congress?

I will address health disparities affecting communities of color, particularly in areas like the Fifth Ward's cancer cluster. Cancer rates in black communities are significantly higher, with breast, lung, and prostate cancers requiring targeted interventions. To combat these disparities, I propose increasing funding for cancer research focused on racial disparities, expanding access to early detection and screening programs, and ensuring affordable treatment facilities. Additionally, I will advocate for stricter regulations on industrial pollution in vulnerable neighborhoods, having already engaged with the Environmental Protection Agency and healthcare professionals on this issue. Areas like Kashmere Gardens should not be burdened with hazardous facilities emitting dangerous toxins.

Another critical issue is the maternal mortality rate among black women, which is tragically higher than other demographics. To address this, I will work to increase access to comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care, particularly in underserved areas including supporting community health centers, enhancing Medicaid coverage for maternal health, and promoting the use of culturally competent doulas and midwives. I will also push for establishing maternal mortality review committees to investigate and address the root causes of these deaths.

Additionally, I am committed to supporting the Biden Administration's Cancer Moonshot program to cut cancer rates and mortality by at least 50% over the next 25 years, ensuring these benefits reach every community.

If you are elected to this position, on which committee(s) of Congress would you most like to serve and why?

As a healthcare professional, my expertise and experience would make me invaluable on the House Ways and Means Subcommittee for Health, which oversees critical health-related issues, including healthcare payments, delivery systems, and health research. My professional background in patient care, healthcare administration, and financial aspects of healthcare services equips me with the comprehensive understanding necessary for evaluating bills related to Medicare and Medicaid. I bring practical insights into how health programs impact patients and providers, assessing legislation from those directly affected.

As a dentist, I understand health insurance systems and healthcare costs, contributing effectively to discussions on tax credits and deductions related to health insurance premiums and expenses. My commitment aligns with the subcommittee's goal of overseeing healthcare payments and delivery systems, promoting equity, and addressing disparities in healthcare access and outcomes. In Houston, I serve on the City's Health board, providing cost-saving measures and proposing health services for employees.

My expertise and experience also make me an invaluable asset to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. This subcommittee determines funding allocations for essential programs impacting health, education, and workforce development. My background in healthcare provides practical insights into the needs and challenges faced by providers, patients, and educational institutions, ensuring informed decisions about resource allocation.

My hands-on experience allows me to advocate for adequate funding for healthcare workforce support, health education, and access to quality services. My familiarity with health policy and administration helps assess program effectiveness and advocate for impactful funding. My commitment to improving public health and equitable healthcare access aligns with the subcommittee's goals, ensuring that funding decisions are guided by a comprehensive understanding of the healthcare landscape and community needs.

In what way do you believe your individual philosophy may impact your service as a member of Congress?

My philosophy of serving the people is deeply rooted in my commitment to putting their needs above everything else. This commitment is not new; it has been a guiding principle throughout my career as a dentist. Having taken the Hippocratic Oath, I have pledged to uphold the highest standards of care and ethics. This oath includes a solemn commitment to society and my colleagues, ensuring that trust is built and exploitation is avoided. These principles have shaped my professional conduct, fostering a practice grounded in empathy, integrity, and a steadfast dedication to the well-being of my patients.

As a member of Congress, I intend to carry these same values into my public service as I have done on City Council. I believe that the core tenets of the Hippocratic Oath—commitment to society, trustworthiness, and the avoidance of exploitation—are as crucial in governance as they are in healthcare. This philosophy will significantly impact my service by guiding every decision and action I take. My priority will always be to serve the people of CD-18, ensuring that their needs and voices are heard and addressed. By maintaining a focus on ethical conduct and compassionate leadership, I aim to build trust with my constituents and colleagues. This approach will help create policies that truly benefit the community, fostering a more just and equitable society where every decision is made with the best interests of the people at heart.

Why do you want to be a member of Congress?

My commitment to addressing the critical issues facing Congressional District 18 drives my dedication. I'm unapologetically bold and always ready to propose innovative ideas for the community's benefit. I was the first in Greater Houston to advocate for police reform, standing firm despite opposition from many elected officials, with unwavering support from the people. I also championed apartment inspection reform, focusing solely on community needs. This is the representation needed in Congress—prioritizing the well-being of the people and pushing for necessary changes.

As a woman, I believe we are at a crucial juncture for reproductive rights. The overturning of *Roe vs. Wade* necessitates mobilizing women, especially women of color, to vote and be heard. Currently, reproductive rights, particularly for women of color, are threatened by racist and discriminatory policies. It's essential for a healthcare professional who is a woman of color to confront these injustices in Congress.

Texas, among other states, imposes stringent restrictions on reproductive rights, contributing to a national health crisis by limiting access to essential services. These laws have led to dangerous outcomes for women, emphasizing the need for comprehensive healthcare reform that includes protecting reproductive rights.

As someone who shares the background and perspective of the community, I am uniquely positioned to represent their interests. Black women are a significant voting bloc in the U.S. With the potential for the first Black and Asian American woman president, it's crucial for women of color in CD18 to have a compelling reason to vote. I am committed to being that reason and advocating for the community's most pressing issues.

In what ways do the principles of the Democratic Party inform or reflect your personal philosophy?

The principles of the Democratic Party deeply resonate with my personal philosophy of serving the people and prioritizing their needs above all else. The Democratic Party's commitment to social justice, economic equity, and inclusive governance aligns perfectly with my belief in advocating for the underrepresented and marginalized communities. My record in public service, marked by initiatives such as advocating for police reform and addressing habitability issues for renters, reflects the party's dedication to creating a fair and equitable society. Furthermore, the Democratic Party's emphasis on healthcare for all, educational opportunities, and protecting reproductive rights underscores my own commitment to ensuring that every individual has access to the resources and support they need to thrive.

What are the three most important issues Congress must deal with and what is your proposal for doing so?

Congress must address healthcare for all Americans. I propose a public health care option to guarantee universal, affordable, high-quality care, reduce prescription drug prices, and eliminate deductibles for essential services. Expanding funding for mental health and substance use treatment and eliminating racial and geographic health inequities are crucial. Strengthening Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act with a public option will create a comprehensive healthcare system for everyone, including CD-18 constituents.

Economic equity and job creation are essential. I advocate raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, ensuring equal pay for equal work, and enhancing workers' rights to unionize and bargain collectively. Investing in infrastructure, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing will create millions of well-paying jobs. Supporting small businesses, especially those owned by women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and veterans, will drive economic growth and inclusivity.

Education is the foundation of our future. I support universal early childhood education and affordable, high-quality childcare to give every child a strong start. Investing in public K-12 schools to ensure a world-class education for all children, regardless of ZIP code, is crucial. Making higher education affordable and accessible, including student debt relief, will empower future generations. Opposing policies that disadvantage communities of color and underserved communities, and promoting lifelong learning and skills development, will prepare workers for the evolving job market.

Beyond these priorities, comprehensive immigration reform, addressing climate change, and safeguarding voting rights are critical to building a just and equitable society. Healthcare, economic equity, and education are foundational pillars supporting the progress and well-being of all Americans.

How can Congress (with Presidential support) better and more humanely control illegal immigration across the Southern Border or elsewhere?

As a Democrat, I advocate for a compassionate, integrated, and legally stable immigration policy. I firmly oppose family separation and protested against the Trump administration's inhumane detention practices. Our immigration policy should focus on humane treatment and support rather than punitive measures. Key elements include:

1. Creating a clear and fair pathway for undocumented immigrants to acquire citizenship. While the Biden administration's protection of U.S. citizens' spouses is positive, we need a compassionate asylum process for those fleeing violence and persecution.
2. Establishing legal means for undocumented immigrants to stay in the country, even if citizenship is not immediately attainable. This approach provides legal stability and supports integration.
3. Facilitating the transition from temporary visas to permanent legal status. Temporary visa holders significantly contribute to the U.S. economy and society and deserve stability and security.
4. Expanding legal immigration pathways to promote diversity, strengthen the workforce, and address demographic challenges. Welcoming more immigrants who wish to contribute benefits our nation.
5. Opposing increased deportations and harsh penalties for businesses hiring undocumented workers. Such measures destabilize local economies and harm communities. A fair and just immigration system is essential.
6. Opposing the expansion of the border wall with Mexico. Instead, investing in technology-driven border security measures that respect human rights and foster cooperation with neighboring countries is crucial. This includes using UAVs, ground sensors, automatic license plate readers, and biometric identification systems.

Our immigration policy should reflect our values of compassion, integration, and legal stability.

What, if anything, should Congress do to restore and protect abortion rights and rights of reproductive autonomy?

To restore and protect abortion rights and reproductive autonomy, Congress must take decisive action to uphold the right to safe and legal abortion as established by *Roe v. Wade*, ensuring it remains accessible to all women, regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location. This includes passing federal legislation that codifies these rights, thereby preventing states from enacting restrictive laws that hinder access to reproductive health services. Congress must also oppose any efforts to restrict access to reproductive health services, including abortion, contraception, and comprehensive sex education, ensuring that women have the freedom to make informed decisions about their bodies.

Furthermore, Congress should support policies that provide comprehensive, evidence-based reproductive health education in schools and communities. This includes guaranteeing access to a full range of reproductive health services, such as prenatal and postnatal care, family planning, and preventive services. By investing in these areas, lawmakers can create a robust support system that empowers individuals with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions about their reproductive health.

What do you plan to do to protect and expand voting rights and protect the basic tenets of democracy?

As a strong Democrat, my plan to protect and expand voting rights, as well as to safeguard the basic tenets of democracy, begins with a firm commitment to defending and expanding the Voting Rights Act. This pivotal legislation must be fortified to ensure every American can exercise their right to vote without

facing barriers, including voters in CD-18 who often find themselves purged from voter rolls. We must begin by addressing and dismantling practices that suppress voter turnout, particularly among marginalized communities, that have included restricting mail in ballots and reducing voting schedules and centers, thereby eliminating populations like seniors, and blue collar workers from voting.

Additionally, I will advocate for robust protections against discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, and religion. These protections are essential to creating a society where everyone is treated equitably and with respect. I will champion the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, ensuring they have access to the resources and protections they deserve.

What policies and initiatives will you advocate to reduce student debt? What would be your approach to making higher education more affordable and accessible?

I will advocate for a multi-faceted approach that addresses both the burden of existing debt and the high cost of obtaining a degree. First, I support comprehensive student debt forgiveness programs that target those most in need, particularly low-income borrowers and those in public service fields. This will help alleviate the financial strain on graduates who are struggling to repay their loans. In CD18, where 21% of incomes fall below the poverty line, student debt relief is vital.

In addition to debt forgiveness, I propose implementing policies that reduce the cost of higher education upfront. This includes increasing federal and state funding for public colleges and universities to lower tuition rates, expanding Pell Grants, and providing more substantial financial aid packages to students from low- and middle-income families. By doing so, we can make higher education more attainable for all.

Moreover, I will push for the expansion of community colleges and vocational training programs, offering more affordable pathways to quality education and good-paying jobs. These initiatives should be coupled with efforts to ensure that higher education institutions are held accountable for their tuition costs and the outcomes of their graduates, promoting transparency and efficiency in the use of funds.

What policies will you advocate to reduce poverty in our district? What are your strategies for economic development to lift individuals and families out of poverty?

I will advocate for policies addressing income inequality and economic opportunities for all residents. My top priority is raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, ensuring all workers earn a living wage. This change will significantly impact the 52,802 households currently below the poverty line and the 58,432 households earning below \$25,000 annually. Increasing the minimum wage will lift many families out of poverty and provide financial stability.

I will support policies ensuring equal pay for equal work and enhance workers' rights to unionize and collectively bargain. These measures are crucial for economic equity and empowering workers. Additionally, I propose investing in infrastructure, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing to create millions of good-paying jobs. These investments will benefit the 60,371 households earning between \$25,000 and \$50,000, and the 77,875 households earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Supporting small businesses, especially those owned by women, people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and veterans, is essential for driving innovation and economic growth. I propose policies to reduce the cost of higher education by increasing funding for public colleges and universities, expanding Pell Grants,

and providing more substantial financial aid for low- and middle-income families. Making median household income of \$58,805, making higher education more affordable will empower individuals to secure better-paying jobs, reducing poverty and fostering economic mobility in our district.

What can be done to lower the price of basic necessities such as food, shelter, healthcare, and other costs of living?

We must maximize the Inflation Reduction Act's provisions and introduce new legislation for long-term solutions. The Act reduces family costs by lowering prescription drug prices, expanding affordable healthcare, and offering tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements. Fully implementing these measures will ease financial burdens on households.

Additionally, long-term affordability requires enhanced food supply chains and reduced food prices through local agriculture support, improved transportation infrastructure, and addressing labor shortages in the food industry. Federal investment in sustainable farming and regional food hubs can lower costs and increase food security. Policies to ensure affordable housing should include expanded funding for public housing, tax incentives for affordable housing development, and rent control measures.

Healthcare cost reduction remains a critical priority. Building on the Inflation Reduction Act, we should introduce legislation to further reduce essential healthcare costs, expand access to preventive and mental health care, and support comprehensive reforms that include a public option.

By maximizing current legislation and introducing targeted, long-term policies, we can lower basic living costs and improve the quality of life for CD18 constituents.

What is your view about the necessity (or lack thereof) for gun safety legislation and what proposals would you support (and which, if any, of them would you oppose)?

Gun safety legislation is crucial to ensure that no American feels unsafe at work, in worship, at leisure, or in schools. Since the Uvalde tragedy, about 652 school shootings have resulted in 38 deaths and 111 injuries, demonstrating an urgent need for action. I advocate for comprehensive gun safety measures to protect citizens while respecting responsible gun ownership.

Strengthening background checks for firearm purchases is critical. It's unacceptable that obtaining a gun is often easier than getting a driver's license. Rigorous background checks will help keep firearms from terrorists, domestic abusers, violent criminals, and individuals showing signs of danger.

Treating gun violence as a public health crisis involves addressing its root causes through targeted policies and research. I support mental health counseling in schools and communities. We must balance gun owners' rights with public safety, promoting responsible ownership and safe storage practices.

Texas, with the second-highest mass shootings in 2023, highlights the need for effective legislation. By encouraging safety and responsibility, we can uphold the Second Amendment while ensuring public safety. It is essential to enact sensible gun safety laws to protect our communities and prevent further loss of life.

The U.S. has used foreign policy to fight inhumane practices abroad and also to further our security and economic interests. What goals should the U.S. be furthering through foreign policy, if any? What tools should the U.S. use in accomplishing those goals (i.e., economic sanctions, military intervention, etc.)?

The U.S. should use its foreign policy to combat inhumane practices abroad while also advancing our security and economic interests. One of our primary goals should be promoting global peace and stability through diplomatic efforts, such as advocating for an immediate and lasting ceasefire between conflicting parties like Israel and Hamas. Supporting a negotiated two-state solution in the Middle East exemplifies our commitment to peace-building processes and the protection of human rights. By focusing on meaningful progress and providing a political horizon for the Palestinian people, we can work towards a durable peace that benefits all parties involved.

To achieve these goals, the U.S. should employ a combination of diplomatic tools, including economic sanctions, targeted financial measures, and international cooperation. These can be effective in pressuring regimes and organizations that engage in or support terrorism and human rights abuses. Military intervention should be a last resort, reserved for situations where all other options have been exhausted, and immediate action is necessary to protect innocent lives. Prioritizing diplomacy and cooperation is essential to build alliances, foster mutual respect, and work towards a world where terrorism, whether state-led or people-led, is unequivocally opposed, and peaceful resolutions are the norm.

How, specifically, do you plan to help the people of CD18?

To help the people of Congressional District 18, I will prioritize listening to the diverse needs of our community and implementing policies that address critical issues such as healthcare, economic opportunity, and education. With a total population of 768,562 and significant racial diversity, including a high proportion of Black and Hispanic residents, I will focus on creating inclusive solutions. One pressing concern is the Fifth Ward Cancer Cluster, which requires immediate attention. I will advocate for comprehensive healthcare initiatives that expand access to affordable, high-quality care, particularly targeting areas with high health disparities. This includes increasing funding for cancer research and treatment centers and ensuring all residents, especially those 52,802 households below the poverty line, receive necessary medical support.

Addressing habitability issues for renters is another critical priority. With 142,603 renter-occupied housing units, ensuring safe and decent living conditions is essential. I will push for stronger tenant protections and increased funding for housing inspections to address substandard living conditions. To increase economic opportunities, I will support initiatives to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour, provide robust support for small businesses, and invest in infrastructure projects that create good-paying jobs. With a median household income of \$58,805, these measures will help lift many out of poverty and reduce the 21.1% poverty rate. Additionally, by promoting 21st-century education, including universal early childhood education and affordable higher education, we can equip the 218,966 people aged 18-34 and others with the skills needed for the evolving job market.

What do you plan to make your signature issue as a member of Congress and how do you plan to address it?

My primary focus is equitable healthcare access, addressing the stark disparities within CD-18's diverse community of 768,562 residents. This includes the urgent issue of the Fifth Ward Cancer Cluster, disproportionately affecting residents.

I will advocate for increased federal and state funding to enhance healthcare infrastructure, particularly in underserved areas. This means boosting support for community health centers, improving access to preventive care, and investing in advanced medical research and treatment facilities. Implementing a public health care option will ensure affordable healthcare for all, easing the financial burden on the 52,802 households living below the poverty line.

I will also push for legislation expanding mental health and substance use treatment services, aiming to eliminate racial and geographic health inequities. Strengthening Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act, while including a public option, is key to my policy. My goal is to create an inclusive, equitable healthcare system addressing the specific health challenges of CD 18, ensuring every resident can live a healthy and fulfilling life.

Campaign Plans

How will you convince voters of CD18 to support you before November 5, 2024?

As we approach November 5, 2024, I will remind the voters of CD18 of the historic opportunity we have before us. Just as 2018 became the year of women with many women being elected to office, this year we have the chance to vote for the first female president who is a woman of color. This moment is monumental in our nation's history, and CD18 can contribute to this legacy by also electing a qualified woman with a proven record of working for the people. I have consistently championed issues that matter to our community, such as healthcare, economic equity, and education. My commitment to addressing the needs of the people, not special interest groups, makes me the most suitable to fight for the people of CD18. We can make history and ensure our voices are represented in Congress.

How will you support down-ballot Democratic candidates?

To support down-ballot Democratic candidates, I will actively collaborate with grassroots organizations to run coordinated campaigns. This will involve organizing bloc walks, making phone calls, and engaging with voters to ensure they understand the importance of supporting Democratic candidates at all levels. We will work together to create a unified front that will strengthen our collective impact. I will leverage resources and network to amplify the efforts of local candidates, ensuring that we build a strong, cohesive team dedicated to advancing Democratic values and policies that benefit all residents of CD18. This will help us secure victories up and down the ballot.

How much money do you expect to raise for your campaign?

I am currently seeking the nomination, and as such, I am not engaging in fundraising activities at this time. If I am selected as the nominee, then we can discuss fundraising efforts further.

How do you plan to raise the amount of money you have indicated in the previous question?

Not applicable See answer above.

Democratic Credentials, Experience

When and why did you become a Democrat?

I have always been a Democrat as the values that the Democratic Party hold are the ones that were instilled in me as I was growing up.

Which Democrat in your lifetime has most impressed you and why?

Growing up, I was surrounded by remarkable individuals who shaped my understanding of public service and advocacy. Among them, Congressman Mickey Leland stood out as a towering figure. He wasn't just a distinguished public servant; he was my Uncle Mickey, a close family friend whose presence in our home inspired me. From a young age, I was captivated by his dedication to addressing hunger and poverty, both domestically and internationally. By twelve, I eagerly stuffed envelopes for his campaigns, always listening to his conversations about missions in Ethiopia and Sudan. These moments planted the seeds of my commitment to public service.

Uncle Mickey's tragic death in a plane crash in August 1989, just before I attended Spelman College, was devastating. Yet, his legacy influenced my values as a Democrat. Witnessing his passionate work for the voiceless taught me the true meaning of public service. Uncle Mickey's life instilled in me a deep-seated belief that our efforts as Democrats must focus on creating meaningful change for the most vulnerable. His legacy continues to inspire my dedication to addressing issues like hunger, poverty, and inequality.

What involvement have you had in grassroots Democratic activities?

My involvement in grassroots Democratic activities has been extensive and impactful. I have organized and led voter registration drives at my events, ensuring that more people in our community have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process. Additionally, I have actively participated in bloc walking with candidates, engaging directly with voters and discussing the issues that matter most to them. I have also made phone calls to mobilize supporters and ensure high voter turnout. Furthermore, I have hosted and joined the campaigns of other Democratic candidates, raising funds and providing support to help them succeed. This hands-on approach demonstrates my commitment to strengthening our party at the grassroots level and ensuring that we elect leaders who truly represent the needs and values of our community.

Have you ever been a Republican or voted in a Republican primary? If so, when and why did you become a Democrat?

I have never voted in the Republican primary nor have I ever been a Republican.

Is there anything else about your background, experience, philosophy, leadership qualities, or skills as a campaigner which you would like to bring to the attention of the Democratic precinct chairs of the 18th Congressional District of Texas?

I am seeking nominations based on my extensive work and accomplishments. I would like to highlight key aspects of my efforts that demonstrate my steadfast commitment to advocating for the people. The following provides a snapshot of different moments in my public service:

Police Reform:

[Houston City Council member calls for reduction in police positions, tougher oversight and more training | Community Impact](#)

Safe and Habitable Housing:

[Fighting crime means cleaning up crime-ridden Houston apartments \(houstonchronicle.com\)](https://www.houstonchronicle.com)

Cancer Cluster :

<https://www.houstontx.gov/council/4/newsletters/Cancer-Cluster-Newsletter-English.pdf>

[Fifth Ward Cancer Cluster Summit: Key takeaways after lawmakers meet with experts | FOX 26 Houston](https://www.fox26.com)

Equitable Transportation :

[Houston area residents blast 'disastrous' METRO decision to shelve University Corridor rapid transit project – Houston Public Media](https://www.houstonpublicmedia.com)

Food insecurity:

[Pop-Up Kitchen Launches To Serve Unemployed Houstonians And Seniors – Houston Public Media](https://www.houstonpublicmedia.com)

Grace Period for Evictions :

[Despite Broad Support, Mayor Turner Won't Budge On Houston Eviction Grace Period – Houston Public Media](https://www.houstonpublicmedia.com)

HISD Takeover :

[City councilmember concerned that possible loss of more than 100 HISD principals could have detrimental long-term effect \(click2houston.com\)](https://www.click2houston.com)

Environmental Justice:

View public comments to the TCEQ regarding a Rock Crushing facility near LBJ : [TCEQ eFiling \(texas.gov\)](https://www.tceq.texas.gov)

Current projects and issues :

[2024-July-English.pdf \(houstontx.gov\)](https://www.houstontx.gov)

Grassroots support:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/ZC7LMXf7HBsa9zTK/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

[Weather Resilience :](https://www.houstonchronicle.com)

[Residents hope extreme weather resources coming for Kashmere Gardens \(houstonchronicle.com\)](https://www.houstonchronicle.com)

Is there any other question which we have not asked you but which, in the interests of understanding why you would be the best person to succeed Sheila Jackson Lee, you would like to address?

I have consistently worked on the same critical issues that the Late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee championed throughout her distinguished career, demonstrating my commitment to carrying on her legacy of impactful legislation. Congresswoman Jackson Lee was a staunch advocate for civil rights, as seen in her efforts with the Emmett Till Antilynching Act and H.R. 40, which aims to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans. Similarly, I have focused on addressing systemic inequalities

and advancing racial justice within our community which include police reform, weather resiliency and safe and Affordable Housing. Her dedication to criminal justice reform, exemplified by the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and the Ending Qualified Immunity Act, aligns with my own efforts to enhance police accountability and transparency in the city of Houston.

Additionally, Congresswoman Jackson Lee's work on gun control and public safety, such as the Sabika Sheikh Firearm Licensing and Registration Act and the Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act, mirrors my advocacy for stronger firearm regulations to protect our community. Her support for women's rights, healthcare, and economic justice, as reflected in bills like the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and the Rent Relief Act, resonates with my commitment to expanding healthcare access, supporting economic equity, and safeguarding women's rights. By continuing her work on these pivotal issues, I am dedicated to upholding and advancing the legacy of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, ensuring that the needs of our community remain at the forefront of legislative efforts in Congress.