

CD 18 Potential Nominee Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Jarvis Johnson

If you currently hold or have previously held public office, please list and describe those positions here.
Houston City Council, District B, State Representative District 139

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

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

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
The Chinquapin School 1990

College attended, degree obtained, major, and year of graduation
Texas Southern University 1996

Graduate or other degrees obtained and year of graduation
BS Speech Communications

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

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

I am a lifelong resident of the 18th District and began my journey in public service at the age of 21 by founding the Phoenix Outreach Center in Houston's Fifth Ward, dedicated to rebuilding the lives of children and families. As a former City Council member and current State Representative, I have consistently delivered on my promise to be a strong advocate for the people.

During my tenure as a City Councilman, I secured record amounts of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds for the district, facilitated the construction of the Deluxe Theater, and created numerous business opportunities for small, minority-owned businesses. As a State Representative, I have successfully passed over 50 bills, including legislation to eliminate the Confederate Heroes Day holiday, improve medical access for the uninsured, and reintroduce vocational education in schools to provide young people with pathways to employment or business ownership.

I have brought tens of millions of dollars back to District 139 and played a pivotal role in securing the largest state allocation for Texas Southern University (TSU). My record of accomplishments speaks for itself. The 18th Congressional District requires a leader with a clear vision and a proven track record of

success. My extensive political experience and dedication to long-term goals for our constituents make me the ideal candidate for this role.

I am the only candidate in this race with the proven capability to attract a broad demographic of voters to the polls. My election can serve as a catalyst for energizing new voters, thereby strengthening the Democratic Party's efforts to support Kamala Harris in her bid for the presidency of the United States.

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

Best Quality or Attribute:

My best quality is my strategic approach to planning and my ability to envision long-term goals. This forward-thinking mindset allows me to identify and capitalize on opportunities that benefit my constituents and ensure sustained progress for our community. My strategic vision has been instrumental in implementing successful initiatives and achieving significant milestones in my political career.

Least Favorable Trait or Working Habit:

One area where I am continuously striving to improve is managing the tendency to take on too many projects simultaneously. While my dedication to serving the community drives me to address numerous issues, I recognize the importance of focusing my efforts and saying no when necessary. This ensures that each project receives the attention and resources it requires for successful completion.

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

Houston City Council - 2016 - Won

Texas State Representative - 2015 - Won

Texas State Senate District 15 - lost by 61 Votes out of 18,950 votes casted

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

Phoenix Outreach Youth Center, DARE Plus, Black United Fund of Texas, Urban Gardens, A. Philip Randolph Institute, Sickle Cell of Houston, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Community Service

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.

Freshman Legislator of the year for the Texas House 2016

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?

During my first term in office, I aim to organize all elected officials within the 18th Congressional District to develop a strategic, comprehensive plan for the district's future. My immediate priorities include increasing funding for Texas Southern University and advocating for a reparations bill named in honor of Sheila Jackson Lee.

Before the completion of my service as a member of Congress, I intend to establish a cohesive and collaborative approach among local leaders to ensure sustained progress and long-term success for the district. Additionally, I will work tirelessly to secure significant federal support for educational institutions and social justice initiatives, thereby fostering a stronger, more equitable community.

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

If elected to this position, I would most like to serve on the House Committee on Financial Services, specifically focusing on the Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance, the House Committee on Homeland Security, and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Serving on the Housing Subcommittee would enable me to address critical issues related to affordable housing, urban development, and community revitalization, ensuring that all residents of the 18th Congressional District have access to safe and affordable housing.

The Homeland Security Committee is vital for safeguarding our district and nation against various threats. My participation in this committee would allow me to advocate for policies that enhance public safety, improve emergency preparedness, and strengthen our national security infrastructure.

Lastly, the Education and Workforce Committee is essential for advancing educational opportunities and workforce development. By serving on this committee, I can champion initiatives that increase funding for educational institutions like Texas Southern University, promote vocational training programs, and ensure that our youth are well-prepared for the future job market.

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

As a lifelong Democratic volunteer, elected official, and candidate for Congress, my philosophy will shape my service in several key ways:

Equality and Justice

I will advocate for civil rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and gender equality to reduce systemic inequalities and promote fairness.

Social Welfare

I support programs that provide healthcare, education, and social safety nets, championing initiatives for the most vulnerable and ensuring opportunities for all.

Economic Fairness

I will push for fair wages, workers' rights, and progressive taxation to create a level playing field and promote economic opportunities for everyone.

Environmental Stewardship

I will combat climate change and promote sustainability through renewable energy, conservation, and policies to reduce our carbon footprint.

Education

I will advocate for affordable higher education and investment in early childhood education and public schools, ensuring every child has a chance to succeed.

Healthcare for All

I believe healthcare is a human right and will work to expand coverage and reduce costs, ensuring everyone has access to care.

Democratic Participation and Good Governance

I will promote transparency, integrity, and citizen engagement, encouraging democratic participation and ensuring accountable governance.

Aligned with the Democratic Party's principles, my philosophy will guide my actions and decisions to create a more just, equitable, and compassionate society for all.

Why do you want to be a member of Congress?

I seek to become a member of Congress to effect meaningful change in our community by focusing on three key priorities: redistributing capital to benefit the working class, enhancing infrastructure, and securing educational funding for our youth.

Firstly, I am committed to bringing capital back to the community, ensuring that resources are allocated where they are most needed to support and uplift the working class. This involves advocating for policies that directly impact local economic development and job creation.

Secondly, improving our infrastructure is crucial for addressing critical issues such as flooding and disaster relief. I aim to secure federal support to enhance our community's resilience against natural disasters, ensuring that we have the necessary resources and infrastructure to protect and support residents during emergencies.

Lastly, I am dedicated to securing increased funding for education. By prioritizing education dollars, we can provide our youth with the resources and opportunities they need to succeed academically and prepare for future careers.

My goal is to leverage my position in Congress to drive progress in these areas, ultimately fostering a stronger, more resilient, and equitable community.

I aim to be a consensus builder, following the exemplary leadership of those who have held this position before me, including Sheila Jackson Lee, Craig Washington, Mickey Leland, and Barbara Jordan. Like these esteemed leaders, I am committed to fostering collaboration and unity to address the needs of our community effectively.

By leveraging their legacy of inclusive and principled leadership, I will work diligently to build bridges across diverse groups, create meaningful dialogue, and drive bipartisan solutions. My goal is to continue their tradition of impactful leadership, ensuring that all voices are heard and that our collective efforts result in tangible benefits for the community.

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

As a lifelong Democratic volunteer and elected official, the principles of the Democratic Party deeply resonate with my personal philosophy in several key ways:

Commitment to Equality and Justice

The Democratic Party's emphasis on equality and justice aligns with my belief in the dignity and rights of every individual. This includes advocating for civil rights, LGBTQ+ rights, and gender equality.

Social Welfare and Community Support

The party's commitment to social welfare reflects my belief in supporting the most vulnerable through healthcare access, education, and social safety nets.

Economic Fairness

I support the Democratic stance on economic justice, promoting fair wages, workers' rights, and progressive taxation to ensure economic opportunities for all.

Environmental Stewardship

The focus on environmental protection and combating climate change aligns with my commitment to preserving our planet for future generations through renewable energy and conservation efforts.

Access to Education

I believe in the Democratic principle of providing quality education for all, supporting affordable higher education and investment in public schools.

Health Care for All

The Democratic Party's view that healthcare is a human right mirrors my belief in ensuring access to healthcare for everyone, regardless of their financial situation.

Democratic Participation and Good Governance

The emphasis on democratic participation and transparent governance reflects my commitment to integrity, transparency, and active citizen engagement.

These principles guide my work, shaping my efforts to create a more just, equitable, and compassionate society.

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

1. Term Limits for Supreme Court Justices, Federal Judges, and Members of Congress:

It is imperative to implement term limits for Supreme Court justices, federal judges, and members of Congress to ensure a dynamic and accountable government. I propose introducing a constitutional amendment that establishes a fixed term for these positions, fostering a system of regular renewal and preventing the entrenchment of power. This reform will promote a more responsive and representative judiciary and legislature, better reflecting the evolving values and needs of our society.

2. Women's Reproductive Rights:

Protecting women's reproductive rights is crucial for ensuring gender equality and personal autonomy. I advocate for robust legislation that safeguards a woman's right to make decisions about her own body, including access to safe and legal abortion services. Additionally, I propose increasing funding for

comprehensive reproductive health care and education, ensuring that all women, regardless of their socioeconomic status, have access to the necessary resources and support.

3. Protecting All Americans from Tyranny Within Our Country:

Safeguarding the rights and freedoms of all Americans is fundamental to our democracy. I propose a multifaceted approach to address this issue, including the enforcement of civil liberties protections, the strengthening of anti-discrimination laws, and the promotion of transparency and accountability within government institutions. Furthermore, I will champion efforts to enhance public trust in our democratic processes, ensuring that every citizen feels secure and empowered in their rights.

By addressing these critical issues, we can build a more just, equitable, and resilient nation for all Americans.

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

Congress, with the support of the President, can better and more humanely control illegal immigration by adopting a comprehensive and strategic approach that addresses the root causes of migration and promotes stability in neighboring countries.

Firstly, rather than solely focusing on border security and enforcement, the United States should invest in initiatives that help stabilize the economies of countries from which people are fleeing. By allocating a portion of the tens of billions of dollars currently spent on border control towards economic development and humanitarian aid in these regions, we can create conditions that reduce the need for people to leave their homes in search of freedom and security.

To ensure the effectiveness of this approach, countries receiving aid must adhere to guidelines set by the United States, aimed at promoting transparency, good governance, and sustainable development. This would include measures to combat corruption, improve infrastructure, and create job opportunities, thereby addressing the factors that drive migration at their source.

Furthermore, we must rethink our immigration processes to make them more efficient and humane. This includes reforming the asylum system to ensure timely and fair adjudication of claims, expanding legal pathways for migration, and enhancing support for migrants during the transition period.

By shifting our focus from merely keeping people out to fostering stability and prosperity in their home countries, we can achieve a more effective and compassionate immigration policy. This approach not only aligns with our values but also ensures a sustainable and successful outcome for all parties involved.

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

Get rid of all hypocrites called republicans

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

Get rid of all hypocrites called republicans

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

States across the country allocate tens of millions of dollars annually to universities, yet tuition continues to rise. It is essential to address this disparity by implementing measures to curb tuition increases and protect students from predatory lenders.

To mitigate rising tuition costs, Congress should establish caps on annual tuition hikes and require universities to provide transparent and detailed justifications for any proposed increases. Additionally, states and federal agencies must work together to ensure that higher education funding is used effectively to alleviate the financial burden on students rather than contributing to escalating costs.

Furthermore, it is crucial to implement robust safeguards against predatory lending practices. This includes enacting legislation to regulate and oversee private loan providers, ensuring that students are not misled or exploited by deceptive loan terms. By promoting responsible lending practices and increasing awareness about the risks associated with private loans, we can protect students from falling into financial traps.

By taking these actions, we can help ensure that higher education remains accessible and affordable, while also safeguarding students from financial exploitation.

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?

Cities across the country manage substantial budgets for contracts and grants. To maximize the benefits of these resources, it is imperative that local contractors and businesses from within the city or district are prioritized for these opportunities. By ensuring that grants and contracts are awarded to local entities first, we can promote economic growth within the community, ensuring that dollars are reinvested locally and that jobs are created for residents.

In addition, a focus on developing fair and decent housing stock is crucial. Adequate housing attracts businesses, as the presence of quality residential areas is a key factor in business location decisions. When cities provide sufficient and affordable housing, businesses are more likely to establish themselves in the area, which in turn creates job opportunities for residents.

Moreover, by fostering a robust job market and providing economic opportunities for young people, we can significantly reduce the likelihood of engagement in criminal activity. When individuals, particularly youth, have access to stable employment and financial resources, they are less inclined to resort to criminal behavior.

Thus, prioritizing local contractors, improving housing, and creating job opportunities are essential strategies for fostering economic development, reducing crime, and enhancing the overall well-being of the community.

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

While I am not an advocate for excessive government interference in private business, it is essential for the government to scrutinize corporations that receive tax breaks and bailouts while reporting record-breaking profits. The failed promise of trickle-down economics has demonstrated that such benefits do not necessarily extend to consumers or the broader public.

To address this issue, we must halt corporate bailouts and eliminate unjustified tax breaks for profitable corporations. It is imperative to ensure that government assistance is not disproportionately benefiting

large corporations at the expense of taxpayers. Instead, we should focus on policies that promote equitable economic growth and ensure that the advantages of government support are shared more broadly.

By implementing these changes, we can create a more transparent and fair economic system where government support is directed towards initiatives that truly benefit the public and foster genuine economic opportunity for all.

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)?

As Vice Chair of the Homeland Security Committee in the Texas State House, I worked diligently to enact regulations and legislation aimed at restricting access to assault-type weapons for minors and individuals with severe mental impairments. It is imperative to implement stringent regulations to control access to firearms, given that the United States, despite being the greatest country in the world, has the highest rate of gun-related deaths. Alarming, firearms are now the leading cause of death among children.

This troubling statistic is a grave reflection of our nation's challenges with gun violence. To address this issue, we must enforce comprehensive regulations that prevent dangerous weapons from falling into the wrong hands. By doing so, we can work towards reducing gun violence and protecting the safety and well-being of our communities.

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.)?

While there are many examples of inhumane practices abroad, it is crucial to recognize that millions of people within our own country face severe hardships. Each night, countless individuals go to bed hungry, many are unhoused, and a significant number struggle with mental health issues. These pressing domestic needs must be addressed with the resources and attention they deserve.

While national security and protecting our country from external threats remain essential, we must also ensure that our foreign aid policies do not overshadow the urgent needs of our own citizens. It is important to prioritize addressing hunger, homelessness, and mental health within the United States and particularly within the 18th Congressional District.

Before continuing to allocate foreign aid, we should first focus on effectively addressing these critical issues at home. By doing so, we can ensure that our efforts are not only globally responsible but also domestically impactful, ensuring that every American has the support and resources needed to thrive.

I am committed to ensuring that our foreign aid policy is inclusive and addresses the needs of all countries requiring assistance, particularly those in Africa. It is essential that our foreign aid efforts extend to nations across the African continent that are in critical need of resources to support development and stability.

Our foreign aid strategy should be equitable and comprehensive, recognizing the diverse challenges faced by different regions. By supporting countries in Africa, we can contribute to their growth and development, foster international goodwill, and address global issues such as poverty, health crises, and infrastructure deficits.

A balanced approach to foreign aid not only reflects our values of global solidarity and humanitarianism but also strengthens international partnerships and promotes global stability. Ensuring that aid reaches those who need it most, including in Africa, aligns with our commitment to a just and effective foreign policy.

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

I am committed to continuing the work I have dedicated myself to in the 18th Congressional District since I was 21 years old, beginning as the Executive Director of Phoenix Outreach Youth Center. My efforts have consistently focused on working with parents and children to foster successful lives. As a City Council advocate, I secured increased infrastructure funding and established second-chance programs to provide employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals.

In my role as a state legislator, I have championed substantive housing initiatives and acted as a strong advocate for those without a voice, all while creating economic opportunities for residents within the district. My record of accomplishments reflects my unwavering dedication to these goals, and I am committed to carrying this work forward as a member of Congress. My experience and achievements demonstrate my ability to effectively serve and advance the interests of our community.

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

As a member of Congress, my signature issue will be ensuring healthcare access for people with sickle cell disease and other chronic illnesses. I will also address concerns of young people and Black men who feel overlooked by the Democratic Party. Here's how I plan to do this:

Healthcare Access: Introduce legislation for comprehensive coverage, research funding, medication access, and early diagnosis support.

Job Security: Advocate for job training programs, local hiring incentives, and fair labor rights.

Homeownership: Expand first-time homebuyer programs, prevent predatory lending, and invest in affordable housing.

Business Loans: Provide access to low-interest loans, business resources, and simplify loan applications.

Criminal Justice Reform: Support fair sentencing laws, rehabilitation programs, and community policing.

By addressing these issues, I aim to make the Democratic Party more inclusive and responsive to all constituents.

Campaign Plans

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

To convince voters in CD18 to support me before November 5, 2024, I plan to address and prioritize the issues that matter most to them. My track record speaks for itself—through my work as a city council member and state representative, I have consistently increased my vote totals from previous elections.

This success demonstrates my ability to effectively engage with and address the needs of the community. I will continue to build on this success by focusing on the concerns and priorities of the voters.

How will you support down-ballot Democratic candidates?

Supporting down-ballot Democratic candidates is crucial. As the Congressional representative for the 18th District, I plan to collaborate closely with all elected officials in our district. This includes not only donating funds but also working together on a comprehensive plan to advance our shared goals.

I believe that working together can significantly impact our success across the ballot, from top to bottom. Additionally, it is important for me to support Kamala Harris in her campaign. To do this, we need to increase voter turnout in our district. Addressing concerns of those who feel disenfranchised will be key to achieving higher voter numbers and securing wins for all Democratic candidates.

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

In a traditional race, fundraising is crucial due to the campaign's duration. However, in this race, where time is limited, money is not the most critical factor. The key is reaching the precinct judges and demonstrating my work and commitment. While money is not entirely irrelevant, it's less important here because there will be no yard signs, commercials, placards, or flyers. Instead, the focus is on effectively communicating with the 89 precinct judges and showcasing the impact of my work.

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

Democratic Credentials, Experience

When and why did you become a Democrat?

I have been a Democrat all my life. My grandfather and great aunt were deeply involved in the Democratic Party, and their values profoundly influenced my family. Growing up, I witnessed my family's dedication to Democratic principles, with my mother frequently block walking and campaigning for candidates like El Franco Lee, Governor Mark White, and Ann Richards.

These experiences instilled in me a strong belief in Democratic values and the Democratic platform from a young age. My commitment to these principles has only strengthened over the years.

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

There have been many impactful Democrats in my lifetime, but the one who has most impressed me is Mickey Leland. Mickey's dedication to grooming the next generation of leaders has had a lasting impact. Many people who were part of Mickey's camp went on to achieve great things, becoming state representatives, city council members, school board members, and state senators.

Mickey Leland understood the importance of building a future through the leaders who came after him. His ability to connect with and mentor future leaders was impressive, and the accomplishments of those he mentored speak volumes about his influence and legacy.

What involvement have you had in grassroots Democratic activities?

Since I was a young boy, I've been deeply involved in grassroots Democratic activities. I have block walked for numerous candidates and participated in many Democratic Party events. My involvement has

included everything from block walking and voter registration drives to fundraising for the party. I've also personally donated money to ensure the Democratic Party's financial health.

I believe that grassroots efforts are the most important because they help communicate vital issues directly to the community. These activities not only support candidates but also engage and mobilize voters, which is crucial for the success of the Democratic Party.

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

No

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?

Leadership is defined by actions, not promises. My track record speaks for itself. As a young man of 21 and a senior at Texas Southern University, I founded a nonprofit Phoenix Outreach Youth Center. Working with Phoenix, I recognized the need to support not just children but their families. My organization provided resources for parents, including job training, job preparedness, and job placement.

I contributed to the DARE program to ensure young people had productive activities in the afternoon. I believe in mending the gap between police and communities, starting with building bridges between police and children to foster mutual respect and understanding.

As a City Council member, I focused on community-building through housing, creating opportunities for residents to stay in their communities. Additionally, as a business owner, I opened a restaurant in my district, intentionally hiring local residents to provide jobs and opportunities within the community.

I have extensive campaign experience, having participated in multiple campaigns, from Mickey Leland to El Franco Lee, Rodney Ellis, Garnet Coleman, and Governor Mark White. I've been involved in campaigns both as a young man and an adult, demonstrating my dedication and experience in serving the community.

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 would like to answer this question during the live interview