

CD 18 Potential Nominee Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Corisha Rogers

If you currently hold or have previously held public office, please list and describe those positions here.
Haven't held office before.

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

Yes

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

30 years

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

N/A

Background, Education, and Qualifications

High School attended and date of graduation

High School for Law and Justice (Graduated 2012)

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

Houston Community College

Graduate or other degrees obtained and year of graduation

N/A

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

N/A

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

I'm ready to take on the job; my organizing experience speaks to my ability to listen to my community, heed their concerns, and act. As a community organizer, I have put in the work necessary to take care of my district. I understand my district. I am positioned to help the district grow in voter turnout and ready to bolster political involvement. My devotion to my district is why I am uniquely qualified to represent CD18.

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

My best quality is having a positive attitude and like the people in CD18, I am able to demonstrate grit and resilience in the face of challenges. Whether it is the changing climate or finding our new normal post-COVID, the people of CD18 and I share a can-do, will-do attitude. On the other hand, this quality also means I hyper-focus on the issue and have to remind myself to take time to take care of myself. Reminding myself to take care of myself means I show up more prepared for my community and I am working on incorporating more self-care.

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

Running for an elected office is a new challenge for me, and it is one I'm ready to face. I have worked for several candidates such as: Sylvester Turner, Lizzie Fletcher, Lina Hidalgo, Molly Cook, and Dozens of

other candidates who ran for office through the Harris County Democratic Party and Clubs in Action. What I've learned from these campaigns mirrors what I've learned being in CD18: talking to your neighbors is critical. If someone wants to impart change, they have to also be the person willing to have conversations with people who are unsure of what they should do. Knocking on doors and making phone calls empowers people. In order to grow the Democratic Party, we need a candidate with a commitment to working with community members. I am ready and willing to listen to the folks in CD18.

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

For 10 years, I've been working with the Third Ward, OST/South Union Community through Agape Development. This work involves assisting people in receiving childcare and engaging them with programs and services that uplift the community. I work with the teen program, providing crucial transport and mentoring young teens in the Third Ward and South Union Area. I do this because I want to engage our youth and show them that its possible for them to do the work I do, and how its needed that they get involved to make sure our community is being represented in the political realm.

Affiliations, Tributes, and Awards

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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?

For my first term in office, I hope to review the work that Congresswoman Jackson-Lee was working on and build relationships locally with the ones I already have established and the ones that our former congresswoman had. From there, I will work to engage and build relationships with our colleges in DC. I'll follow this up with town halls within the community, where I will narrow my community's needs and work with fellow legislators to implement and pass bills to support my community and protect the nation.

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

I aspire to work on the following committees:

-Committee on Homeland Security: This involves working on technologies that are crucial for our country. I would like to provide a different perspective and make sure that our country is mindful of our constituents and the modern issues they face in the cyber world.

-Committee on Judiciary: This involves working on Immigration policies, ensuring that we can improve the immigration process. We can reduce the number of undocumented immigrants if we improve the process for people to become citizens. I've personally had a friend who was born and raised here, and took over

20 years for them to become a proper citizen. We must improve upon this to avoid people not feeling that this process is pointless.

-Transportation and Infrastructure: As the name suggests, I would like to work with the government to implement better public transit options to our district. METRO serves its community on a base level, but more needs to be done to ease the congestion in our area. Improving congestion goes beyond expanding freeways. If people have better public transit, people can accomplish much more. I want to add more frequent buses and add routes that lead to the airport.

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

I feel that my individual philosophy will help long-time candidates get a better perspective and provide a proper breakdown of why issues matter to my community and to the people at large. I feel that our Congress is already full of lawyers, doctors, and other big-name and high-paying jobs. We need more perspective from people who are effected by the policies created by Congress, and I believe that I can accomplish this task by grabbing as much community input as possible.

Why do you want to be a member of Congress?

In order to respond to the current direction of our state government, we need a strong leader to fight back and invoke national attention to protect our basic human rights. I also want to use this position to help future candidates who will run against the current fabric of our state government, all while keeping my community's input at the forefront. I also want to be a beacon of hope for my community, showing those who are intimidated by the political process that they can do this and they should get involved as soon as possible.

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

I fundamentally believe that all people are equal and the Democratic Party reflects that wonderfully. I actively work to protect my Black and Brown Communities, along with the LGBTQIA community, while championing policies that move to further expand our country into a society where healthcare can be for all, where voting means everyone can vote at their convenience, where Abortion is Healthcare, and Big Companies and Rich Individuals pay their fair share of taxes.

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

Congress must pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. The work I've done in the Texas Legislature solidified that we must act on a Federal level to protect voting rights. I would work off of the previous bill and bring it back to the floor or write an entirely new bill that would cover automatic voter registration, create an online voter registration, implement drive through voting, eliminate any requirements to Vote by Mail, and have a nationwide criteria on purging voter rolls to prevent partisan politics from purging people who are qualified to vote. Along with this, I would champion adding protections that would prevent the "death by a thousand cuts" approach that is gutting voting rights.

Abortion Protection: I will work with Congress to codify Roe and enhance protections.

Education Support: I will work with Congress to increase the overall funding of our Education System. The amount of money that goes into our defense budget versus the amount awarded to education is absurd. I would propose either redirecting some of the military funding to our education or requiring the companies who bid for government contracts also invest in education to lower their bidding amount.

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

Congress must improve the process for Immigration. Currently, the immigration process takes years for individuals to become proper citizens. Expanding and improving this system is key to humanely processing immigrants who cross the border. We should make it so immigrants have faith that the government will respond to immigration requests in a timely manner.

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

Congress should work to codify Roe V Wade, and implement protections to ensure that established legal precedents aren't easily overruled by partisan agendas. Congress should work with the presidential administration to ensure that states who wish to control a woman's body have actions taken against them for not respecting a human's bodily autonomy.

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

plan to work with the congressional body and the Presidential Administration to bring back up the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to restore and improve voting rights for the people in my district and nationwide.

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 research methods to improve the transparency between loan agencies and students. We should make sure students know what they are getting involved in and how long the debt can last. Almost like cigarette packages have the warnings on their packaging, at the top of each application, there should be a warning saying "This can result in years-long debt; make sure to plan accordingly" or implement policies that would force an increased cap on interest rates. I will also work on a new system to forgive student loans.

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?

Increase more employment opportunities in the district, and have companies implement more transparency in their hiring process to prevent the application process from just leaving people in the dark about where they are in the application process. Work with organizations that are committed to improving employment options, especially those who have felony convictions, as this is a huge barrier for people to find meaningful employment.

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

I will work to prevent companies from causing "Shrinkflation," where they reduce the product but inflate the cost. A company can't have both record profits and also blame inflation for increasing the cost of the product

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)?

I feel that more gun legislation is critical to prevent mass shootings. We need better background checks on gun ownership and not allow domestic abusers to continue having a gun. I would accept many proposals that act to tighten the loose standards on gun ownership and for efforts to reduce the amount of illegal guns that are making their way through our country. We can both control the flow of gun ownership without denying the people their 2nd Amendment rights.

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 goals of the US should be to work with our international allies to guide them from committing inhumane actions and we should punish them with sanctions and cutoff of supplies when they violate those terms. We should also not allow foreign governments to influence our local politicians by having a PAC dedicated to moving their agenda and shifting the narrative on what's actively going on in their country.

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

I plan to be a bigger presence in CD18. I will have my congressional offices open for community engagement and challenge members of my staff to be out in the community doing true conversations with members at events and local community meetings so that I can understand the needs of the district. I will also have a website that allows you to follow the policies that I'm working on and provide resources for new, younger advocates to join the cause.

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

My signature issue as a member of Congress is voting advocacy. The key to strengthening our district and improving the quality of life for members of our district is making sure their votes are counted in an efficient way. I feel that by strengthening this process, a stronger voting block will exist to prevent politicians who are only picking the position for self purposes. With a strong voting block, we can prevent a lot of the issues we have been going through, such as the I-45 Expansion, Fifth Ward Cancer Cluster, and Regentrification.

Campaign Plans

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

I'm a young, progressive looking to make waves in congress. I think my inclusion into the field along with other organizing activists such as Molly Cook and Lauren Ashley Simmons will drive turnout for a new generation of candidates committed to making their districts better here in Harris County.

How will you support down-ballot Democratic candidates?

By being there for them, willing to walk or knock as many doors as it takes to make our down-ballot candidates through to the finish line.

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

Between \$600k-\$1mil

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

I already have a list of contacts to start contacting if I were to win this and a few people dedicated to donating to me if I were to win the nomination. I'm not afraid of call time and ready to put in the calls needed to meet my fundraising goals.

Democratic Credentials, Experience

When and why did you become a Democrat?

Because this party actively fights for the rights of people of color. While the opposition has done everything in their power to show they are beyond borderline racist.

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

Barbra Jordan, when I was young I was often compared to her. From there I learned about her and the efforts she fought for which motivated my involvement in politics. The event that sealed the deal is that my Political Science teacher who was a lawyer, recommended me to go for politics because of the huge influx of Lawyers in the field. From there I've dedicated myself to being involved because of the work that I learned that she accomplished and the work that continues to need to be done.

What involvement have you had in grassroots Democratic activities?

Ever since graduating college I've done:

Planned Parenthood- worked with them to sign up for the ACA and for Wendy Davis Gubernatorial Run

Sylvester Turner- Mayoral and Bond Election Run

Lizzie Fletcher- Congressional Race that flipped Democrat

Mike Bloomberg- Worked as a Regional Organizing Director and Manager of the Houston Office

Texas Freedom Network- Worked as the Regional Field Manager with youth organizing and state legislative work, working for voting rights and LGBTQIA protections

Molly Cook for Senate- Worked as their data director

Andrea Beall for Judge- Worked as their data director

Harris County Democratic Party- Worked in 2018 as an Organizer for when Harris County Flipped Blue and returned in November 2023 to push for a strong win in November 2024

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

Never

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?

N/A

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 highlight that out of all of the candidates running for office, I am the only one that has experience in the community and the willingness to take on this job to serve the congressional district for its long term growth since the district is growing so much. This isn't a title for me, it's a stage in life that I'm ready to serve into.