

CD 18 Potential Nominee Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Cortlan Wickliff

If you currently hold or have previously held public office, please list and describe those positions here.
N/A

Are you currently a resident of the 18th Congressional District?
No

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

If you are not currently a resident of CD18, which Congressional District do you reside, and how long have you lived there?
CD9 5 yrs

Background, Education, and Qualifications

High School attended and date of graduation
TX Academy of Math & Science 2007

College attended, degree obtained, major, and year of graduation
Rice University, B.S. in Bioengineering, 2010

Graduate or other degrees obtained and year of graduation
Harvard Law School, JD, 2013; Texas A&M University, PhD Interdisciplinary Engineering, 2016

Any Board Certifications. If you are an attorney, please list the states in which you are admitted to the bar and years admitted.
Licensed Attorney in State of Texas; Certified Compliance and Ethics Professional

What uniquely qualifies you to represent the constituents of CD18 as their Representative in Congress?
There are few people who have my level of experience and understanding of science, research, and law. I am both an attorney and an engineer with a PhD. Despite only being 33 years old, I have over two decades of public service experience leading initiatives, over a decade of legal experience representing everything from startups to Fortune 500 companies, and over a decade of experience as an engineer. I know how to solve problems, and have been doing my part to bring jobs, education, and healthcare to Texans for my entire career.

More than any of that, I was born and bred in Texas with strong ties to the Greater Houston Area community (including being the nephew of Barbara Jordan's campaign manager when she won CD18). And unlike most of the other candidates, I understand the gravity of the moment for CD18 and the country as a whole:

The 119th Congress will not be business as usual. This is going to be the most consequential Congress of our lifetime, and it will be the job of this Congress to secure and safeguard democracy and access to the "American Dream" for an entire generation. The first 2 years of Harris's presidency is when she is most likely to have the support to pass sweeping reforms, and we cannot afford to waste the opportunity

to make positive change. Thus, CD18 does not need to send a “candidate” who is going to waste the next 2 years campaigning for reelection; they need to send a congressman who will fight for the district & the country with everything they have and without distraction. I am committing to be that for CD18 with a simple promise – if this committee puts me on the ticket, I will commit to not seeking reelection in 2026 and will support wholeheartedly whoever the district votes for to make sure that they have the best start to their congressional career.

I do not make this statement lightly. I believe that this is the best means for supporting CD18 and preserving the integrity of Barbara Jordan’s seat. When history is being made, and the values of our country require steadfast defense, the person in Barbara Jordan’s seat cannot be derelict in their duties. And anybody telling you that they can do the job of representing the CD18 during this most tenuous Congress while trying to effectively secure their position in 2026 is either lying to you or themselves.

Send me to DC to be your congressman, and let the candidates spend the next two years campaigning for 2026 in Harris County.

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

My best quality is my ability to quickly understand a wide variety of subjects to a high enough level to explain them to anyone. This is the reason I was able to start college at 15 years old and attain both a law degree and a PhD in engineering in less than 6 years. Among the business community in Texas, I have built an excellent reputation because of this ability to digest very complex things and capture them simply in contracts, policies, and statements.

My least favorable working habit is that I have an almost obsessive need to finish things I start. When I was seven I set out to get a Law Degree and a PhD in engineering before my 26th birthday. After finishing the law degree, I had the opportunity to go make way more money if I didn’t continue to get my PhD. I took a significant cut just to make sure I finished the academic journey I started. Whether it is goals, books, projects, or games, I feel a strong impulse to finish what I start and will neglect eating and sleeping to finish.

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

No; this is the first occurrence where I sincerely believed that the best way to serve my community was to pursue a particular elected office. Typically, I have prioritized working with elected officials and advocated for my communities as the best form of service I could give. Examples of this have included official appointments like my appointment to the Independent Police Oversight Board and the Mayor’s Millennial Advisory Board, and unofficial advisory/volunteer roles like my work with the Texas Workforce Commission, Economic Development groups around the state, The Governor’s office and the Texas Education Agency.

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

Economic development: Because of my reputation in the state and my interdisciplinary background, both government officials and business leaders routinely ask me to help with economic development initiatives, which have included:

- Negotiating agreements (including tax abatements and community benefits agreements) to bring tens of millions of dollars with the construction, manufacturing, and new developments to communities around Texas.
- Volunteering with organizations like the Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions, and regional economic development groups (including the greater Houston partnership) for over a decade
- Advocated for programs that would bring thousands of jobs to underserved communities in Texas

- Worked with and developed second chance programs for previously incarcerated people to attain job training and employment
- Worked with economic development groups around the state to bring companies and jobs to the state of Texas; we successfully convinced numerous companies to relocate headquarters and domestic operations to the state bringing thousands of jobs to Texas communities.

Education: Starting at the age of seven, I began tutoring students and helping peers improve their grades. As I got older, the programs became bigger and more expansive. I believe that regardless of what I am doing or where I am in life, it is my responsibility to help people coming up behind me. And I have most consistently done that through education initiatives including:

- I organized & funded a 4,000+ mile statewide academic tour to 50+ high schools, colleges, and community events in 25+ cities/towns across the entire state of Texas (including Houston, Texarkana, Amarillo, El Paso, Brownsville, San Antonio, etc.). On this tour, I spoke to tens of thousands of students giving them guidance and motivation to apply to college and pursue careers in STEM
- Developed and advised on job training programs to expand opportunities for high-paying jobs among underserved communities
- Organized numerous pre-college and Pre-engineering programs at middle schools, high schools, colleges, community events, and churches with the goal of increasing representation in college, STEM degrees, and STEM careers
- Advised on and helped with Texas's inaugural "Interns Unite" statewide program
- Volunteered and presented at numerous educational events at middle schools, high schools, colleges, community events, and churches

Appointments: I have been appointed to various state and local boards.

- Served on Texas's Science and Engineering Fair Advisory Board
- Served on Houston's Independent Police Oversight Board
- Served on Houston's Millennial Advisory Board
- Served on various educational advisory boards and conference planning committees

Community repair: In response to major disasters that impact my communities and clear needs within the community, I routinely volunteer through churches, public non-profits, or personal initiatives to help communities recover and rebuild. Some of these efforts have included:

- Worked with university faculty to develop and supply Personal Protective Equipment to health workers at the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Organized and participated in food drives after major disasters in the Greater Houston area
- Volunteered with numerous marches, voters' rights, and civic engagement events
- Organized and participated in multiple voter registration campaigns/events
- Organized and participated in multiple community beautification projects (including cleanup efforts after natural disasters)

Affiliations, Tributes, and Awards

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

Texas Bar Association (also legislative/regulation, university, African American, and corporate Texas bar associations), Greater Houston Partnership (GHP), Houston Lawyers Association, National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Rice University Alumni Associations, American Bar Association, Black Law Student Association (BLSA), and Society of Corporate Compliance & Ethics

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

Yes, I have held leadership positions in some of these groups:

NSBE – Region 5 Pre-College Initiative Chair, Rice University Chair, Rice University Vice Chair

BLSA – Harvard Law School Internal Vice President

American Bar Association – Lt. Governor of 1st Circuit – CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, & VT

GHP – Rice University Representative

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

Commendation from the Governor of Texas for outstanding leadership & community service

Youth in Action awards in recognition of my pre-college initiative programs

Honored with a proclamation and day in Liberty County in recognition of my community outreach and educational initiative efforts

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?

My legislative goals are to secure legislation that will secure reproductive rights for all Americans, bolster antitrust laws (this reduces the cost of living), reform the Supreme Court (binding code of ethics, term limits, and periodic reappointment requirements), strengthen agency enforcement, make the tax code more equitable (including removing student loan repayment deduction limitation to reduce student debt) and pass some forms of healthcare reform to cap medical costs.

My goals for the district are to use my position and connections within corporate America, the state, government, and economic development groups to bring more economic development dollars, jobs & job training to CD18, strengthen our SBE/WMBE/DBE programs, promote small businesses, and reduce unemployment/underemployment in the district.

My personal goal is to write, sponsor, and co-sponsor more bills and legislation than any other person in the 119th Congress.

I do not believe that anyone can properly serve CD18 in this 119th Congress if they are spending their term trying to campaign for reelection back in Harris County instead of working for CD18 in Washington DC. So, I am willing to commit to not seeking reelection in 2026 so that I can fully dedicate myself to being the congressman CD18 deserves and focus on the important job of representing CD18 in the 119th Congress.

Thus, I am not waiting for another term nor am I pacing myself. I am going to dedicate myself fully to doing everything I possibly can for the district in two years. I personally believe that, although these are aggressive goals, VP Harris can lead us to the congressional majority we need to achieve them in the 119th Congress. And it is my job to do whatever it takes to make the most out of the opportunity the top of our Democratic ticket is going to provide us with.

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

I would most like to serve on the “Education and the Workforce” Committee and/or the “Commerce, Science, and Transportation” Committee – My background in business, economic development, and public-private-partnerships over the last 15 years combined with my experience as an educator and university administrator would give me an ideal skillset for these committees. Additionally, my unique combination of engineering, legal, policy, and business backgrounds means that I can contribute to the committee while most efficiently advocating for my district. Also, by being on these committees, I can help organize our regional and local economic development groups to be more proactively responsive to things like the CHIPS and Science Act so we can secure high-paying jobs for CD18 and Harris County as a whole.

Also, I would like to serve on the Judiciary Committee – the committee would be most directly responsible for some of the policy reforms most necessary to secure democracy and our quality of life. This includes looking at our antitrust enforcement, constitutional amendments, separations of powers, and the judiciary (including their codes of ethics).

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

When I was seven years old, I did a report on Dr. King and saw he graduated with his PhD at the age of 26. I admired him and what he accomplished, so I decided I was going to compete with him across generations and graduate with a Law degree and a PhD before I turned 26 years old. For nineteen years, I worked towards that goal, despite being told it was impossible by most of my advisors, family, and friends. I graduated with a Harvard Law Degree at 22 years old and finished a PhD in Interdisciplinary Engineering from Texas A&M in 3 years. I graduated & delivered the commencement address on August 12, 2016, and turned 26 years old 4 days later on August 16th.

My personal philosophy is to deliver on my word regardless of how difficult it is, improbable it seems, or impossible people say it is. That philosophy has allowed me to positively change the lives of thousands of families by creating jobs, delivering millions in economic development to communities, getting students into college/training programs, and personally training up several of the next generation of leaders. I did all of this without a formal appointment or position; I just saw a need and aggressively pursued what I believed needed to be done. So, when you send me to Congress, I am going to spend the next two years doing whatever it takes to deliver more resources, opportunity, and success to the district. I will be the most productive and active congressperson that D.C. or Harris County has ever seen, and I will accomplish more than anyone thought possible, because that is the bare minimum of what I do whenever I pursue a goal.

Why do you want to be a member of Congress?

I don't just want to be “a member of Congress,” I specifically want this appointment because I believe that I was uniquely made for this moment. Right now, our democracy is at stake and we need people who are willing to do the hard work of creating legislation for this exact moment. Whether Trump or Harris wins (but we need to make sure Harris wins), the future of our democracy and the quality of life of everyday Americans for the foreseeable future is riding on what happens over the course of these next two years.

The hope is that Harris will win with an overwhelming victory and secure the Senate and House for the next two years. If the 119th Congress fails to pass legislation to safeguard democracy, opportunity, and the American way of life, then we risk the 120th Congress flipping to Republicans. If somehow Trump wins, the democrats in the 119th Congress will be the last line of defense against the onset of an authoritarian government and the death of the oldest functioning democracy in the world.

I want this appointment because I am ready to step up to the table to do the work of securing our future and the future of our children in the 119th Congress. And more than that, I recognize that this moment is bigger than any one person. And we cannot send someone to represent Barbara Jordan's seat who isn't ready to step up and provide selfless service immediately.

From a personal perspective, my uncle Aloysius Wickliff ran Barbara Jordan's campaigns for her entire political career. One of my first memories is of being five years old and attending Barbara Jordan's funeral because my mom knew that, even though we didn't understand it then, we would one day count ourselves honored to have attended. I am not running for Congress because I want an elected office, and I feel any office will do. I am running for Barbara Jordan's seat, because I don't believe anybody else is ready to honor her, Mikey Leland, or Shelia Jackson Lee's memories, or Craig Washington's legacy by doing the work CD18, Harris County, and the Country needs in 119th Congress, and I know I am ready for the job.

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

When I look at the modern Democratic Party, I see a bunch of people (regardless of their personal religious beliefs) trying to do Christ-like good in the world. I know that when people see someone with my over-the-top credentials, scientific acumen, and background, they don't expect a devout Christian, but I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior at 5 years old and stand by it as the best decision in my life.

Thus, when I see a party dedicated to feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, advocating for those in need, healing people, and accepting those that society has shunned, I see an excellent reflection of Christ and the Christian tenet of "Whatever you [do] for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you [do for Christ]" (Matthew 25:35-40 NIV). And in my daily life, I too, try to treat others with the respect, kindness, and compassion that Jesus demonstrated for us.

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

The Supreme Court is losing legitimacy and becoming a partisan tool for extreme ideology – Congress needs to pass a binding code of ethics for the Supreme Court AND some form of term limitations (both an absolute term limitation and periodic reappointment procedures) on Supreme Court justices.

The growing wealth gap – Congress needs to propose sweeping tax reform that ensures that the tax code stops exacerbating the wealth gap.

Campaign Finance – The Supreme Court has gutted anti-bribery laws to a point where you are required to be cartoonishly blatant in order to run afoul of anti-bribery laws. We need to pass laws that place limits on wealthy/corporate donations. Without this, we will not be able to pass the legislation needed to actually help people in this country.

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

Approve more judges to adjudicate asylum claims and rebuild the healthy immigration system we used to have. The U.S. is not getting a per-capita boom in immigration; we are just mismanaging the process. We have enough attorneys ready to be judges to adjudicate these cases in a timely manner. This creates a clear path to residency or citizenship for everyday people and a process to deport anyone coming to do us harm.

Mandates that Homeland Security, the State Department, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services come up with a "user friendly" process. Right now the system is set up to penalize any clerical error with deportation and rejection.

Provide some form of legal protection for undocumented immigrants needing to seek medical attention or testify about or report criminal activities – It doesn't matter how much we strengthen hate crime laws if the victims cannot come forward to report crimes or seek treatment for injuries.

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

- Pass laws that protect reproductive rights immediately.
- Pass a constitutional amendment that protects the right to bodily autonomy in the long term
- Reform the Supreme Court, imposing term limits (and/or periodic requirements to be reappointed) and a binding code of ethics that will prevent the Supreme Court from ever becoming a partisan tool.

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

- Reform the Supreme Court
- Reform campaign finance laws & enforce antitrust laws
- Pass laws that cartel gerrymandering by imposing limitations on the number of counties that can be represented in one district AND limitation on the ratio between the perimeter of the district and the area of the district.
- Strengthen voters' rights protections with laws that establish a national minimal standard for elections with Justice Dep't oversight.
- Pass laws that secure agencies' rights to interpret and enforce legislation to undo the damage done by recent S.Court decisions.

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 would support loan forgiveness, but if that could not be passed, here are some more creative solutions to the student debt problem.

- Reauthorizing federal subsidies for student loans so that loans do not accrue interest while students are pursuing education and retroactively forgive student loan interest that has accrued on loans.
- There are already previously approved loan forgiveness programs that are terribly administered in a way that makes it impossible for borrowers to effectively utilize them. To fix this, conduct congressional hearings over the mismanagement of loan forgiveness programs and give the current national "clearinghouses" quotas they need to hit on loan forgiveness or be replaced.
- Pass laws that make all student loan payments 100% tax deductible without limit. Paying taxes on money being paid for student loan repayment is a problem because it can effectively double your student loan debt depending on your tax bracket and where you live. By making repayment, including interest, 100% tax deductible, borrowers will be able to pay off student loans cheaper, quicker, with less interest.

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 bring state/federal dollars, jobs, and public-private partnerships to the district, and support the growth of small businesses in the district.

I have been working in economic development in various capacities for over a decade. There is plenty of money already in the state to bring the types of jobs and job training necessary to combat poverty in CD18, but the money doesn't reach the district because of the partisan divide in the state. I will use my

prior experience working with statewide agencies on economic development to serve as a bridge across that divide for CD18. I have successfully navigated our red state capital for over a decade, securing jobs and opportunities for communities around the state of Texas and I can do the same for CD18.

I would pitch the underutilized land resources of CD18 as a basis for potential public-private partnerships. Additionally, I can work with the counties and cities to secure tax abatement agreements to bring more companies and training programs to CD18 as I have with other districts.

I would also work to strengthen the incentives associated with awarding federal contracts to SBE/WMBE/DBE programs. This will grow local businesses and build partnerships with national brands.

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

It's crucial that we urgently address the systemic issues driving up the cost of living.

-Make the tax code more equitable

-Update SEC regulations & enforce Antitrust laws. We cannot continue to get our necessities from anti-competitive monopolies.

-Campaign finance reform – Reduce corruption in government so they protect your interests

-A cap prices and profit margins for medically necessary supplies and treatments for both the pharmaceutical/biotech company and the hospital.

-Overhauling our agriculture incentive programs to incentivize planting and support medium to small-scale growers

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 support responsible gun ownership, but I feel that legislation is getting increasingly irresponsible with deregulation efforts. I support common sense gun laws requiring background checks and training to purchase certain types of firearms.

I would NOT support any type of general ban on firearms.

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.)?

Right now there are too many conflicts that could result in a world war. The US needs to de-escalate tension through diplomatic means. While I do not advocate direct military intervention, we still must maintain the strongest military globally as a deterrent to conflict.

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

I will bring state/federal dollars, jobs, and public-private partnerships to the district, and support the growth of small businesses (including SBE, WMBE, and DBE businesses) in the district. To accomplish this I will:

- Bolster small business growth in the district by strengthening our SBE/WMBE/DBE programs

- Working with the community college network and corporate partners to expand job training programs to cover more of CD18.

-Work with the GHP, TX agencies, & local officials to establish a pre-approved incentive plan for bringing businesses to CD18, and bring new business to CD18

-Use Federal resources to pressure utility companies (& incentivize them) to retrofit the utility lines (including high-speed internet, power, and water) that serve CD18. Right now, CD18's infrastructure is scaring away companies and costing us jobs.

-Push for federal dollars to be put into our transportation infrastructure (including roads, public transportation, etc.)

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

The Preservation and Protection of Democracy through comprehensive reform

Campaign Plans

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

Spend the 12 wks I will have leading up to election day getting in front of every CD18 resident I can to discuss a positive vision for the future and the opportunities we will work to bring to the community.

This will be accomplished through a combination of in-person, multi-media, and social media campaigning that will comprehensively push my messaging to all of the communities represented by CD18.

Additionally, I will work collaboratively with people up and down-ballot from my election to do as many joint events and community outreach events as possible. And I will coordinate with the Harris County Democrats to ensure that CD18 knows who I am and what I am about well before November 5th.

Additionally, my family has extensive ties to CD18 and the Greater Houston area in general. My family tree includes Monsieur Roland Wells (a well-known priest and former TSU Dean), Attorney Aloysius Wickliff (a Civil Rights attorney Barbara Jordan's Campaign manager), Sue & Marty Wickliff (Fixtures of the third ward community), Chester D.T. Baldwin (National Gospel Recording Artist), and James W. Dugat Sr. (better known as Sweet Daddy to his union brothers on the waterfront; he and his sons Johnny and James Jr. have been fixtures in the local unions). Additionally, I have hundreds of family members throughout the Greater Houston Area working in every industry, from healthcare to education and oil and gas to transportation. Using these family connections and community relationships will help spread my messaging faster and create a built-in network of people who can attest to my character.

How will you support down-ballot Democratic candidates?

-The national attention of the CD18 race and my national profile is going to make it easier for me to raise funds than some of the down-ballot races, so I will collaborate on fundraising efforts and create joint events out of my budget to draw attention to some of the down-ballot races.

-I will participate in all of the Harris County and CD 18 events scheduled so that I can draw attention to some of the other candidates

-Work with contacts in the media to get some of the more competitive down-ballot races more airtime, interviews, and coverage

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

\$125,000

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

When the final selection is made, I will have about 12 weeks to do fundraising before election day. Given the compressed timetable and the perceived "non-competitive" nature of this district in a general election, I think that this is an aggressive but achievable goal.

I will accomplish this by:

-Utilizing my personal network - Because of my track record of success, I have grown a substantial network of professionals, companies, and individuals who would support my campaign. This network includes nationally recognized on-air personalities, CEOs, other elected officials, partners at major law firms, national recording artists/entertainers, etc. Because of a lifetime of overdelivering when asked for guidance or help, I will be able to raise significant money within my preestablished national network of contacts. Additionally, some of these individuals will be willing to host fundraisers for me and some of the down-ballot democrats.

-Fundraiser and campaign events – part of my campaign strategy will be to host both public and private events to raise money and awareness about my campaign

-Establishing a grassroots campaign to both promote me to the public and secure funds for the campaign.

-And seeking endorsements from local professional and collective action groups

Democratic Credentials, Experience

When and why did you become a Democrat?

I have been voting Democrat since I got to cast my first vote in 2008 for President Obama. So I do not know that I ever was not a Democrat. However, I was solidified in my support of the Democratic Party when it became clear that the Democratic Party, as a whole, best embodied my Christian ideals and the Texas Democratic Party, specifically, most aligned with my unique combination of Southern and Christian values.

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

Ann Richards – Ann Richards was the truest definition of a Texas Democrat I have ever personally witnessed, whereas so many of the Democrats of my lifetime have been “Democrats who happened to live in Texas/the South.” Being from Texas was not incidental to her identity or politics; it was embedded in everything she did and every governing decision she made. Nobody ever heard Ann Richards talk and wondered where she was from or whether she loved her home and her fellow Texans

Everything about her exuded the Christian and Southern values I hold most dear. She was a straight shooter (both figuratively and literally), who knew how to talk directly to the hearts and minds of your everyday Americans. She championed diversity, equity, and inclusion 25 years before they were internationally recognized buzzwords. She stood at the forefront of women’s rights, civil rights, criminal justice reform, and economic development. And even after she left office, she never stopped serving the community.

There have been other great Texas statemen who died or retired before I was born, but in my lifetime, I cannot think of a Democrat I admire more than Ann Richards.

What involvement have you had in grassroots Democratic activities?

I have organized and participated in voter registration campaigns

I have organized and participated in group marches to the polls on early election days

I participated in rallies and did door-to-door canvassing.

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?

I wholeheartedly believe that I am the best pick for this position because I am the unique combination of someone who gets things done AND inspires others to do the same.

Most of the responses have been about what I have done and what skills I have. Beyond that, I am an inspiration to everyone I come in contact with. I have routinely stood in front of audiences numbering in the thousands (even a few numbering in the tens of thousands) and had them captivated by every word I say. I don't accomplish this by speaking in platitudes or delivering every address as a caricature of clips from leaders in previous generations. I inspire and captivate because I speak honestly from the shared circumstances (both positive and negative) that mark the human experience, and I speak to the shared dreams that we must work and build into reality.

I expect that I am not like any other candidate you will be considering. My story of losing my dad at ten years old, experiencing financial struggle, and still achieving my goals has been covered by local and national news outlets. My professional and academic journey set records, and my expertise extends far beyond the trial attorney experience most candidates have. My background, experiences, and possibly even my philosophies are going to be different than what you are used to seeing in politics. To that, I say, "If you want something done that's never been done before, get somebody you have never seen before."

My uniqueness will allow me to accomplish more in these next two years than most other congresspeople will accomplish in their entire career.

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?