Hays County Candidate Information

For the 2024 Democratic Primary

(Prepared by WimDems)

**PLEASE NOTE: Candidates were asked by the Wimberley Democrats to supply a 100-word bio and answers to the following three questions:**

**1. In the past, some Republicans have run as Democrats and have not supported Democratic values after being elected. This makes us concerned. What can you tell us to assure us you are not such a candidate?**

**2. What are your plans for improving the office for which you are running?**

**3. How does your experience prepare you for this office?**

**Joseph Aragon**

I’m a 1st and 4th generation Texan, originally from the Houston area. I moved to the area in 2002 and decided to make it my home. I’ve been a Criminal Defense Attorney for more than 13 years, practicing in Hays, Comal, Bexar, Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Harris County. I have seen many things that need to be change in Hays County District Courts and if I am elected, I plan on speaking with all the people in power in Hays County to work on making meaningful changes to the way the Hays County Justice system operates.

1. To begin with, I have supported and Voted for President Obama, Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. Being the son of an Immigrant, I think the current Immigration system is entirely too complicated. I don’t see how this country moves forward without a broader pathway to citizenship, modernized, and acknowledging that Immigrants are a vital part of the American Economy.I believe this country should be working toward a Universal Healthcare system, addressing the climate crisis and education reform.In regards to the Judicial system, I think our previous president greatly contributed to the general distrust of governmental entities and made lots of these jobs harder. I think people want to believe that their courts are fair. I think I can apply Democratic values to the bench and work to restore some trust in the Courts.

2. Many other counties in Texas have implemented diversion programs to steer appropriate clients away from prison. Many other counties also try to stress the importance of addressing mental health issues, homelessness, poverty and providing access to resources in the community to help them. I plan to make the court more collaborative. This means meeting with the District Attorney, the Defense Bar, leaders in the community to see how we can help our community.

3. I’ve stood next to multiple Defendants as they have been found guilty, and received prison sentences that make sure they will never be released into society again. I’ve also stood next to Defendants as they are found Not Guilty by a jury of their peers. I’ve seen people change. A District Court Judge makes some very difficult decisions and I have seen the job done well, and not so well. My experience has given me a good reputation among Judges, court staff, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys and my clients. My experience has shown me that having respect for the system and people involved in it, go a very long way in having a well functioning court.

**Sarah Brandon**

Sarah and her husband, David, have been happily married for 37 years with their three children. In the fall of 2023, Sarah closed her law practice of 30 years, 27 of which were in Hays County, to commit her full attention to serving Hays County as a candidate for 483rd District Court Judge. While running her practice, Sarah actively volunteered for progressive causes for 25+ years in the Hays County Community - Hays-Caldwell Women’s Center, DSISD Dating Violence Mock Trial, Hays County Bench Bar, LGBTQIA+ organizations and Animal Shelters.

1. Now, more than ever we need judges on the bench who will represent our values. We cannot afford to have any more Abbott-appointed employees, particularly judges, in Hays County. I have lived Democratic values my entire life. My values speak through my 25+ years of volunteering for many progressive causes in Hays County. I don’t just talk progressive values; I live them.

2. Our courtrooms \*should\* be operational from 8-5pm, yet many of them sit dark and empty. As a result, we have courtroom dockets that are clogged up without any sign of relief. A clogged up docket slows down the wheels of justice, leaving those who need it stuck in limbo. We desperately need a back up docket system.

Our community deserves better - full stop. If elected, my courtroom will be open when it’s supposed to be open. My courtroom will run efficiently, effectively and, most importantly, fairly.

Another priority of mine is to establish a Family Violence Court. Families, particularly those with domestic violence, should not have their cases deprioritized on the docket, which is what’s happening now. Delaying justice in these cases keeps victims in potentially dangerous situations that can be avoided if we push for reform.

3. Everything I have done in my career to date has prepared me for this moment. I knew from a very young age I wanted to spend my life helping people.

I have served 30+ years as a courtroom litigator, 24 of which happened in Hays County. I have been a staunch advocate for a strong judiciary. I have pushed for fair and efficient courtrooms. I have held other legal professionals accountable to the law and for our legal ethics. I have been a mentor for students and young lawyers. I have worked closely with the judiciary and my legal community to acquire education to be better at our respective roles. I closed down a lucrative and successful law practice so that I could spend the next year watching Jury trials and sharpen my skills in all areas of the law, including criminal law. It’s been a long journey, and taking a seat on the bench is the final step.

**Elaine Brown**

Elaine attended Texas Tech University and received a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Tech School of Law. Elaine additionally received a Masters Degree in Psychology from the University of Houston-Victoria and became a Licensed Professional Counselor in 2011.

Elaine worked as an administrative law judge, a municipal prosecutor, as an attorney for legal aid and as an attorney in private practice. Elaine and her family relocated from Victoria, Texas to Dripping Springs in 2010 and she worked as both a mental health professional and an attorney in Hays county before her election to serve as the Judge of Hays County Court of Law #3 in 2022. Elaine is involved in community affairs and is a member of the Dripping Springs Lions Club and the San Marcos Rotary Club. She has served as the judge of the Hays County Court at Law #3 and the Mental Health Court since January 2023 and has been instrumental in the growth and development of the Mental Health Court.

1. I ran as a Democrat in November 2022 and I have consistently supported the ideals and values of the Democratic party.  My voting history has been  for Democratic candidates for the past two and a half decades.

2. I have improved many of the policies of the position of judge in the Hays County Court at Law #3, of particular note, are the improvements that I have made in the mental health specialty court.  We have grown from 5 participants to 20 during my time as judge.  Additionally, we have held training opportunities and symposiums to educate stakeholders and the public about the mental health court.  I have been instrumental in identifying and acquiring mental health resources and other necessary resources for the participants.  Through my participation as co-chair of  the Behavioral Advisory Team, I have helped to identify potential groups and stakeholders to serve as resources for the court and the community.

3. Before I took office, I had extensive experience both in the legal field and as a mental health professional.  My unique experiences have greatly benefited me in this role.

**Amanda Calvert**

I am a Texas native, Texas State University graduate and have been a public servant for the Hays County District Attorney’s Office for over 10 years, serving as the Administrative Felony Lead Supervisor.  My wife and I moved to Kyle in 2018 and in 2021 we adopted our son who is now a Junior at Hays High school. I love my community and wish to contribute to it on a higher level. I am educated and experienced and ready to take on the roll as the Justice of the Peace Precinct 2 Place 2.

1. I think the idea, like this question evokes, is looking at more than what letter is next to someone’s name but recognizing ‘who will uphold the things we value?’.  I, myself, have found people who will not support the Democratic values with their names on our ballot and conversely, to my surprise, people who will support the things will value on the Republican ballot. The Democratic values are not simply my values but critical to my livelihood. As multi-racial, woman and member of the LGBT community there is no other alternative to supporting the Democratic values.

2. The office I am entering is newly established. So, I believe laying a solid foundation of accessibility, competency, and efficiency will be key. In the beginning it will be important to observe, listen and consult with the people who have a plethora of experience, such as the other Justices of Peace  for the County and their court staff. It is also important to listen to the public and determine their needs. When we get to the point where we have ascertained what the needs are then we can find a way to make it happen. I intend to use technology to our advantage, eliminate any unnecessary or redundant tasks, maximize productivity, and service availability.

3. I was a Student at Texas State University where I achieved my BA in Political Science and minored in Sociology. I then attended their Graduate program for Legal Studies where I obtained my Paralegal Certificate. Since finishing school I have been working for the Hays County District Attorney’s office for over ten years as the Administrative Felony Lead Supervisor. I am familiar with how the county operates, how the criminal justice system works from start to finish, I am familiar with the local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys and needs of the public. I believe my education and experience have made me prepared to confidently take on this role.

**Nicolas Costillo**

I am a life-long resident of San Marcos and a proud graduate of both San Marcos High School and Texas State University, where I earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. Since 2014, I have been employed in administration and supervision positions with the Hays County District Attorney’s Office. Currently I am the Legal Assistant Supervisor for the Misdemeanor Division and have been in this position for the last seven years.

1. Since 2008, I have voted in every Democratic Primary Election. I grew up in a middle class household and I support the Democratic values in working hard to build a better America, by fighting to build an economy that works for everyone by lowering costs for working families and investing in the middle class.

2. I believe that across all aspects of the legal system there exists some form of backlog. I will compile a list of all cases that are over 5 years old for review with the State for the purpose of possibly resolving these cases. I believe that on-going training is viable to employee success and productivity. An office’s well-trained leadership and staff ultimately result in efficiency and expediency. The spending of taxpayer dollars is of concern to a large majority with transparency being a by-product. To ensure transparency, I will review the office’s work reporting procedures and implement any necessary changes to dispel any misconceptions.

3. My educational background with a degree in Criminal Justice along with my current nine-year employment in administrative and supervisory roles in the Hays County District Attorney Office created a deep and sincere interest in the justice system. My experience along with training in this office, has covered several aspects of the judicial system as well as management that I believe is an asset as a JP. My family has instilled within me attributes of empathy, commitment, courage, integrity and accountability that have played a major role in my development as a trustworthy leader and strong advocate. I believe involvement in our community is an important aspect and as such, currently serve in various organizations.

**Sally Duval**

I’m a 59-year-old native Texan, wife to my wonderful husband, Serge, and proud mother of two grown kids, Fred and Emily. As a businesswoman with a degree from UT Austin, I have worked as an investment analyst, an accountant, and a business consultant. I’ve been playing in the creeks, lakes, and rivers of the Hill Country since the 70’s when my folks bought some land out near Dripping Springs. My current job running the family oil business allows me time to run for office so that I can work to give my neighbors in Hays and Comal Counties the representation they deserve.

1. I have been a Democrat since the early 80's when Reagan began talking about restricting women's right to an abortion. It has never even occurred to me to vote for a Republican because, if they lack that basic commitment to protecting human rights, they can't be trusted on anything.  My folks were republicans and, after seeing them struggle with the Trump catastrophe, I managed to convince them both to vote for Democrats. I hope to be able to do the same thing with a bunch of other voters in 2024.

2. If elected to represent District 73 (Comal County and the western half of Hays County) in the Texas House of Representatives, I plan to improve the office by being a serious person who works to solve actual problems instead of just complaining about them. I'll go there to help get legislation passed that will help my district and all Texans.

3. My experience in the business world has taught me how to analyze problems and look for sensible solutions. My background in finance will help with working on budgets. My language skills will be useful in reading, understanding and hopefully writing & improving complex bills. I've had a lot of experience reading contracts and looking for loopholes and traps, which should come in handy. As a consultant, I helped teams learn how to collaborate better together so that work can get done more efficiently.  All together, I think I've got the right skill set to be an effective legislator.

**Jennifer Escobar**

I’m Jennifer Escobar, a proud native of South Austin where I not only grew up but also established my roots by raising my family. In 1999, I began working for my family’s business and then subsequently purchased this thriving tax resolution business, Escobar & Associates. Amidst the dynamic landscape of running a business, I successfully earned a business degree from Concordia University, Austin. Additionally, I obtained an IRS Enrolled Agent license, signifying my status as a federally licensed tax practitioner with the ability to represent taxpayers before the IRS. My journey as a business owner has not only equipped me with a solid professional background but has also cultivated my skills as a robust leader and an exceptionally adaptable individual.

1. I understand and have seen in my race that Republicans who see the County going blue are willing to run in the Dem primary to get elected. I know what they will do. And I know that after Election Day, I will still be pro-choice. I will still be supportive of the LGBTQ community. I will still be for protecting the unique and precious environment of Hays County. And I will always be for democracy.

2. there is room for improvement. I will strive to bring accuracy, attention to detail, and accountability to this vital office. For instance, if software truly is part of the reason for the errors and late prop tax notices, I will spearhead an evaluation of other options and will work with the commissioners court to budget for a new vendor, if warranted

3. I have 25+ years experience handling all kind of tax issues for individuals and businesses of all sizes. Half of those year have been as owner/operator. Income taxes, business personal property taxes, franchise taxes, and real property taxes, both timely and delinquent. My experience with tax, and in managing people and running offices, makes me the most well-rounded and qualified candidate in this race

**Vianna “Vee” Garza**

Vianna “Vee” Garza was born into a large Hispanic family with seven siblings. The expectation of hard work was present when she grew up. As a result, she was able to pry open closed doors and seize opportunities like this one, which she worked hard for. Early on, she discovered that she had a purpose that extended beyond herself, and that was to serve the public. She understands her strengths and is eager to utilize them in her quest to become the next Hays County Assessor - Collector. As she once quoted, “I am passionate about making a positive change in our community, and I am committed to working hard to achieve our shared goals.” In her current position as the Property Tax Supervisor at the Hays County Tax Assessor - Collector's office, Vianna will listen to your concerns and work tirelessly to address them. She has two boys who attend Wimberley ISD and are members of Boy Scouts Pack 127. As our county grows rapidly, it is very important that she continue to run the office smoothly without causing delays or interruptions. As a community member, she actively listens, helps, and educates. To provide her residents with the most efficient and honest customer service, she believes in continuous improvement. As Hays County's most qualified candidate, she will continue to work hard and dedicate herself to the county

1. Your concerns are understandable. My actions as a hard worker should demonstrate who I am as a person today. My priority as a public servant should be to serve the public, and I am grateful for the support I have gained from my party. The values I learned from my upbringing have guided me as I raise my own family here in Hays County. As a community member, I believe in women rights among other beliefs. As a candidate for the next Tax Assessor – Collector I believe in being fair, equal, respectful, and to lead my office with integrity.

2. As a strong leader, I will find effective and efficient ways to provide the public with the best possible customer service while keeping the highest degree of accountability. In my position as Property Tax Supervisor, it has been a privilege for me to implement my ideas and lead my team, as well as having the trust and confidence of my staff. Expanding our business is essential as our population continues to grow. As a candidate for Hays County Tax Assessor - Collector, I aim to provide the highest quality service to our residents. The availability of educational opportunities is one of the key components. It is important to be transparent and honest with our taxpayers about our efforts to achieve this goal. In addition to hiring 2 former auditors with CPA degrees to improve our accounting department, I have contracted with a vendor to gather data on our rapid growth, which will allow our office to expand customer service needs. Enhancing our streamline services is very important to me. While I spend my days listening to residents' concerns and doing the work that needs to be done, there is always room for improvement, which is why I am running for office in order to prevent any disruptions from outside parties.

3. With six years' experience as a Property Tax Supervisor in the Tax office, I bring a wealth of knowledge to the position. It is an honor for me to hold an important position in the office I am seeking election to. In this office, I am not on the outside, speculating about how to improve its functions. I am on the inside of our Property, Motor, TABC, and accounting departments, doing the hard work needed. The Tax Assessor - Collector office, my team, and my community are very important to me, and as I run this campaign, I continue to dedicate myself to the office. The importance of this is that I can continue to provide tax assistance and listen to taxpayer concerns. In my tenure within the Tax office, my supervisors have trained me in all aspects of the office. This makes me the only candidate with the knowledge and training to manage this office successfully. As a member of the Tax Assessor Collector Association for six years now, I have been committed to continuing my education so that I can provide taxpayers with the best service possible. Being a member of the Tax Assessors and Collectors Association of Texas and certified in CTOP has prepared me with the knowledge, skills, and experience I need to do my job. As a resident of Hays County, I'm proud of all we're doing to make our county the best. I have built relationships of trust with the neighboring counties and agencies that we work very closely with. This is essential for our continued success.

**Lorenzo Gonzalez**

Thank you for this opportunity to share my vision for the future of the Constable’s Office. I am a dedicated public servant, currently serving as a school-based law enforcement officer for Del Valle ISD. My background includes public sector roles, where I gained insights into effective county government administration, and leadership roles in several small businesses. I have a steadfast commitment to progressive values, and bring a fresh perspective to law enforcement that fosters inclusivity and transparency. I'm eager to transform the Constable's office, combining my experience and passion for community advocacy to create a safer, more inclusive Hays County.

1. Thank you for the insightful question. I appreciate the concern about candidates who may not fully uphold our Democratic values. Let me assure you that my commitment to progressive ideals is not just a political stance; it's a lifelong dedication that reflects in my actions and contributions.  
I've been a steadfast advocate for Democratic and progressive causes, actively engaging in initiatives and organizations that align with our shared values. My involvement includes serving as the former President of the San Antonio Young Democrats and Bexar County Young Democrats. Additionally, I've played a crucial role as the former Vice Chair for Youth for the State Tejano Democrats, Founding President of the Texas A&M - San Antonio University Democrats, and a dedicated member of various Democratic affiliated groups, including Tejano Democrats, Mission Democrats, Hays County Young Democrats, and Stonewall Democrats.  
My commitment goes beyond titles; it's rooted in the countless hours I've volunteered and worked on numerous campaigns for Democratic candidates and issues. I firmly believe in the core principles of progressivism, and my track record reflects that belief.  
2. Here are our key plans for improvement:  
*Community Engagement and Education:*  
We aim to develop innovative programs and initiatives that actively bridge the gap between the Constable's office and the community. This includes supporting educational initiatives to inform residents of their rights and available resources in dealing with various aspects of their lives and interactions with our office.  
*Fair and Efficient Civil Processes:*  
Our commitment to transparency extends to eviction practices, ensuring a balanced approach that considers the rights and well-being of both landlords and tenants. We also plan to streamline and enhance the efficiency of processes for serving lawsuits and writs, leveraging technology to expedite delivery.  
*Enhanced Training for Deputies:*  
Recognizing the importance of professional and empathetic law enforcement, we intend to require specialized training for Deputy Constables. This includes comprehensive training in crisis intervention, mental health, and de-escalation techniques, ensuring they are well-equipped to handle sensitive situations.  
*Public Awareness and Accountability:*  
To foster community involvement and support, we plan to organize workshops and collaborate with local organizations, NGOs, and nonprofits to provide resources for individuals involved in matters pertaining to the Constable's Office and Justice Courts. Additionally, we are committed to establishing feedback mechanisms to gather input from the community, utilizing this feedback to identify areas for improvement and maintaining accountability.  
*Collaboration and Technology Integration:*  
Our approach involves building partnerships with legal aid organizations, social services, and other community groups to provide comprehensive support to those impacted by the Constable's office. Furthermore, we aim to integrate new technology to streamline administrative processes, reducing paperwork and increasing overall efficiency.  
In essence, our goal is to transform the Constable's office into a proactive and community-focused entity, dedicated to fair practices, continuous improvement, and the well-being of all residents we serve.

3. How does your experience prepare you for this office?

Thank you for the opportunity to elaborate on my work experience, which I believe uniquely positions me to lead the Constable's office. My journey has encompassed both public service and private sector leadership, contributing to a well-rounded perspective that I believe sets me apart.  
In my position at the Bexar County Clerk's Office, I played a pivotal role in planning, developing, and implementing projects aimed at enhancing public engagement. These initiatives not only facilitated a more customer-friendly approach but also showcased my commitment to improving accessibility. During the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, I spearheaded the implementation of technological advancements to our office to ensure we maintained public accessibility, ensuring uninterrupted services during unprecedented times.  
My roles in various small and medium-sized businesses include serving as the Chief of Operations for a multi-million dollar safety consulting and education business and founding a family-owned, low-carb bakery and restaurant. In these positions, I have been able to develop and enhance the skills needed to effectively manage the business aspects of the Constable's office. These experiences have honed my skills in strategic planning, financial management, and organizational efficiency.  
Starting my journey as a peace officer in 2023, I may not have decades of police experience, but I consider this an advantage. Possessing a business degree and leadership experience across private and public entities means I offer a fresh perspective on law enforcement - not years of ingrained habits or good old boys' club culture. I'm all about fostering inclusivity, transparency, and community engagement

My diverse experiences have equipped me with the skills to approach the Constable's office with innovation and efficiency, ensuring a balance between law enforcement responsibilities and the need for a community-focused and business-savvy approach. I am committed to bringing this blend of skills and fresh perspective to serve Hays County effectively.

**Paul Hill**

Paul Hill is a Hays County native currently living in Kyle, Texas with his partner and their three chihuahuas. Growing up, Paul's family faced a lot of hardship. With help from his community and public programs, Paul was able to graduate college and law school, becoming the first lawyer in his family. Now, Paul is a practicing attorney with over seven years’ experience who has dedicated his entire career to public service. In his free time, Paul enjoys volunteering, watching cooking shows, and taking his dogs on long walks.

1. I am a Democrat, no doubt about it. I am a progressive whose values align with the Democratic Party. Some examples: I believe in LGBT rights, reproductive freedom, the importance of public education, and that undocumented people should be treated with respect and dignity and welcomed into our communities.

 Further, My democratic record speaks for itself. I have attached a “resume” of sorts that details my involvement with the Democratic party, along with my ActBlue history which covers some, but not all, of my contributions to democratic candidates. I am also always happy to discuss my background and my values with anyone.

 2. Courts need to meet people where they are. I will make myself as available as possible. This could mean having court outside of regular business hours, like having a night court docket.  
Easing online accessibility of court dockets and case information could speed cases up and keep in person dockets small. Zoom dockets for matters that do not need in person dockets should also be utilized.  
And lastly, and possibly most importantly, we need an office east of IH-35. As someone who lives on the east side myself, the current Precinct 2 office is quite a drive, and I know it is even worse for our friends further east.  
3. I have been a practicing attorney for the last seven years. In that time, I have had seven jury trials to verdict, including three in front of Justices of the Peace. I have sought warrants, and I have argued bonds. I have done the legal work that occurs in justice court every day, and I am ready to fulfill the judicial duties of this job on day one.  
Also, I am an organized professional who has the time, energy, and dedication to do the best job in this position. I have the ability to be available 24/7 and the fortitude to handle the difficult calls when they come.

**Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe**

Debbie Gonzales Ingalsbe is a lifelong resident of San Marcos and Hays County and is keenly aware of the issues and challenges affecting the residents of Precinct 1. Now more than ever we need proven leadership. During her tenure on the court, Debbie has worked alongside our neighbors, elected officials at the local, state and federal levels, community organizers and neighborhood activists to improve critical infrastructure, expand access to affordable healthcare, find innovative solutions to reform our local criminal justice system and increase access to our democracy by advocating for more polling locations East of I-35.

1. During my tenure on the court, I have seen first-hand how difficult it is advocating for much needed resources for communities, especially East of I-35. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish regarding our Public Health Dept with Christus Trinity Clinic, infrastructure improvements, transportation improvements, such as Dacy Lane and FM 110, expansion of East Side polling locations, crucial reforms to our Criminal Justice system and access to Mental Health Care. However, there is still much work to be done and that is why I am running for reelection. My democratic values are what guide me as an elected official and I firmly believe the economy should work for everyone, healthcare should be accessible and available to everyone, diverse communities are strong communities, full participation in our democracy is good for everyone, supporting criminal justice initiatives helps everyone and providing mental health services helps our communities.

2. I am very proud of the work and projects I have supported and led, and I will continue that work by advocating for an eastside campus of county services to include co-located Commissioner Pct. 1 and Pct. 2 offices, JP office and courtroom, Constable office, Tax Collector and motor vehicle division, healthcare services, community room, voting location and more. I participate on a Behavioral Advisory Team that is committed to providing a diversion center to help those with Substance Abuse Disorders and Mental Health needs. There is no place for these individuals in our jail. We must provide them the services they need to be productive members of our communities. I will also continue to support the creation of a Pet Resource Center with enhanced programming. We need to ensure pet owners have access to important resources for maintaining and keeping their pets, instead of surrendering them to a shelter.

3. As your current County Commissioner and throughout my tenure, we have made historic investments in infrastructure in Precinct 1. Now more than ever, we must work with local and federal governments to leverage additional resources to maintain, improve and expand infrastructure in East Hays County, which is a significant portion of my precinct. In addition to investing in infrastructure, such as roads, we must also be intentional about investing in public transportation to cut down on traffic and congestion. I am committed to continuing working alongside local leaders and developers to advocate for more sustainable communities that are walkable and bikeable so that we can provide our residents with services they need within walking distance of their homes.

**Alicia Key**

I have an extensive and diverse background in criminal and civil law, and prior administrative and judicial experience. Before entering private practice as a family law attorney, I served for 26 years as a public servant, including felony prosecutor, Associate Judge, Director of the State Office of Court Administration, which provides administrative and technical assistance to the Texas courts at all levels, and Director of the state Child Support Division, working to improve the lives of children and families throughout Texas. I care deeply about a fair justice system, equal access to justice, our environment, inclusiveness, and reproductive freedom.

1. I understand and acknowledge this as an important concern, and I have personally observed evidence of this issue as I practice law in the Hays County district courts. As a judicial candidate, I am prohibited from indicating how I would rule on specific issues. That said, my personal core values match those of the Democratic party platform and my past charitable contributions and political contributions establish that I support democratic causes and Democratic candidates.

As explained in more detail in the following paragraphs, I support the Democratic values of a fair justice system and criminal justice reform. We should strengthen the public defender’s system, provide better pre-trial services and individualized treatment for criminal defendants, and more resources for low-income civil litigants. As a longtime resident of Hays County, I am acutely aware of water issues and the need to balance growth with the protection of our natural resources. We should be inclusive and take care of each other. We should take care of this earth. In addition to my personal support of charities such as Planned Parenthood, Out Youth, the Seedling Foundation, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), I served on the State Employee Charitable Campaign Policy Committee from 2016 to 2023, serving as its Chair in my final year. This committee selects charities that state employees can support through payroll deductions. As Chair, I advocated for many charities that benefited marginalized communities that were unpopular with the current Republican administration, such as Out Youth and Planned Parenthood. My law firm has also donated regularly to support the efforts of charities such as the Texas Game Warden Association, promoting conservation for future generations, and Imagine a Way, providing resources to families with children affected by autism.

I believe that a fair and independent judiciary is essential to our democracy. And that our courts must protect every human’s constitutional right to due process and equal protection under the law. As evidenced by my historical financial support of the Assess to Justice Commission—which expands access and reduces barriers to justice in civil legal matters for the poor—and the Texas Bar Foundation—which promotes programs to provide legal assistance to the underserved—I support the democratic values of “equal access to justice.” That means promoting equal, meaningful access to legal representation in the justice system for everyone.

We must work together to ensure that we have programs in place to afford quality legal assistance to low-income individuals accused of crime. And that, in civil cases, we have legal aid in place or self-help resources for pro se civil litigants. See my answer to Question 2 for additional elaboration. 2. I will do my part to promote equal access to justice by treating everyone in my courtroom with courtesy, dignity, and respect, making sure folks always walk away feeling they got a fair shake, regardless of their station in life, their identity, their race or gender – or even their past mistakes. I will exercise my discretion to appoint attorneys for low-income parties in civil cases and ensure that court-appointed defense attorneys have the opportunity to give the best defense possible. I will work hard to move cases through the system efficiently and work with other court personnel to make it easier for individuals to navigate the legal system on their own.

Some of you may have been in family court or know someone who has had interactions with the criminal justice system. And as taxpayers, you are definitely impacted by the criminal justice system in Hays County. You have probably read in the news about people who have been charged with crime and are sitting in jail for months and years awaiting trial because they cannot afford to pay a cash bond. These humans are presumed innocent until proven guilty, but they sit there because they are poor, perhaps mentally ill, perhaps with substance abuse issues, disproportionately minorities. According to the county judge’s office, this costs Hays County $150 per day per inmate. That doesn’t count the costs of pharmaceuticals for those requiring care. And we pay several million dollars to rent space in other county jails because we have so many individuals waiting for their case to come to court.

I am very proud of the progress Hays County has made in addressing that problem with the new public defender contract, the pre-trial diversion program, and the mental health court. But we can do more. And I am the candidate best suited to help modernize the courts and address these issues. I will support and work with other county officials to improve and expand our specialty courts that are designed to address the specific issues many criminal defendants are dealing with---mental health, substance abuse, veteran’s issues.

3. I’ve lived in Hays County for 30 years and have been practicing law longer than that. I have practiced in both criminal and civil areas of the law. Early in my career I was a felony prosecutor and taught criminal law and procedure as an adjunct professor at Midwestern State University. I served as an associate judge for several years. For many years in the middle of my career, I worked in two state agencies. I was the Administrative Director of the State Office of Court Administration, which provides administrative and technical assistance to the courts at all levels in Texas. I also served as statewide director of the Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General, overseeing 2600 staff and over one million child support cases. Currently, I have a private law practice in Buda practicing in the civil area, mostly family law.

The 483rd Judicial District Court handles both criminal (felony) and civil cases. I am the only candidate with legal experience in both categories and I am the only candidate in the primary with prior judicial experience. Also very importantly, my administrative experience running the two state agencies I mentioned makes me the candidate best suited to handle the important issues our courts are facing.

Because of my many years of legal experience, I can identify legal issues accurately and apply the relevant laws to the facts of a case. Because of my experience serving as a judge and appearing before judges in hundreds of cases, I understand how a judicial decision impacts the lives of those appearing before the court.

**Dan Law**

Daniel Clay Law (Danny), son of Luther & Billie Law

Age 56

Married 36 years to Darla, Daughter of Pete & JoNell Schulze

Three Children: Lauren 34, Brittney 30, Justin 25

Four Grand Children: Weston 11, Kendall 8, Robert 1, Shepherd 9mo.

Graduate of A.N. McCallum High School, Austin, Texas.

Attended San Antonio College in San Antonio, Texas.

Graduate of the National Sheriff’s Institute Executive Level Management Education and Training.

Graduate of Texas Federal Bureau of Investigations NAA Command College at St. Mary’s University, San Antonio

Graduate and Vice President of the 83rd Session of the National Sheriffs’ Institute Executive Level Management Education and Training

Currently holds Master Corrections Officer License, Master Peace Officer License, and Instructor License with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, Instructors License for Military and Police of Gracie JUI-JITSU, Instructors License for D.A.R.E. Program.

Over 3048 hours of specialized law enforcement training.

Total Law Enforcement Experience: 33 yrs.

1. I am one of the longest serving Democrat elected Sheriff’s in the State of Texas serving 20 years in office prior to retiring to Hays County. The entirety of my Law Enforcement Career has been either working for or working as a Democrat servant to the people of Caldwell or Hays counties where I was employed. I am a God-fearing Christian, and I was raised that we are all brothers and sisters in the eyes of the Lord. Furthermore, I don't judge because that's not my place. I am empathetic and fair when carrying out my duties. I am also very aware of the Hays County Sheriff's Badge belonging to all the citizens of Hays County.

2.First, the Hays County Sheriff’s Office is understaffed and requires immediate attention. I would address the staffing issue by working on recruiting and retention efforts to get to full strength.

Second, I would return outsourced inmates back to Hays County, removing the liability of having inmates scattered across the state.

Third, I would reduce the recidivism rate by introducing the successful inmate programs I had in place while serving as Caldwell County Sheriff. This in turn will lower the jail inmate population, once again reducing the burden on the citizens of Hays County and returning inmates back into society with key knowledge to obtain employment and better their position for success, removing the revolving door of inmates returning to jail. This coupled with the pretrial diversion ideals will ensure achievement of these goals.

3. I am the only candidate running that has been a Sheriff and grew up in a sheriff’s setting. My entire career has been with two Sheriff’s Offices, Caldwell and Hays Counties, minus 3 years working in the Hays County Pct. 1 Constables Office. Furthermore, I have over 33 years of familiarity with County Government and Instructed Rights and Responsibilities of Office with the Texas Association of Counties. Finally, I have served as Sheriff of Caldwell County for 5 terms (20yrs). The benefit of being a prior sheriff allows me the knowledge to know what is needed to effectively and efficiently lead the Sheriff's Office. I will not have to experience the trials and errors of being a first term Sheriff and more importantly 30 years of my career have been in a Sheriff's Office.

**J.R. Mendoza**

J.R. Mendoza is a lifelong resident of Hays County and the Kyle area. He graduated from Jack C. Hays High School and attended Our Lady of the Lake University, earning a Bachelor's Degree. Judge Mendoza has over 12 years of contract compliance and managerial experience working for the State of Texas and as a Management Consultant and an additional 10 years of honorable law enforcement experience. In 2018, he was awarded the Police Medal of Honor for his actions as a Police Officer. Judge Mendoza has been involved with the community and has volunteered many hours to local organizations.

1. I am a life-long resident of Hays count. There are many Hays County Democrats that were very involved the Hays County Democratic Party in the early 2000's that know me. They know the person I am and the Democratic values that I hold and represent.

2. The JP 2-2 Court was newly created in August of 2023 and will officially be open on 2/1/2024. I have hired an experienced Court Administrator and had the opportunity to visit and sit in other JP courts in the community. I had the ability to implement various processes that will help make the office a resource for those that come into our court.

Here are a few items that I have or will be working on for the office:

﻿When requested ensuring a qualified translator is available for non-English speakers.

﻿Providing instructions to complete petitions, in Spanish

﻿Having certain hearings by video conference to reduce a Party's time away from work (or college/trade school).

3. The Justice of the Peace Pct 2-2 duties are two-fold. There are duties in the courtroom and duties performing coroner duties. The courtroom is a "People's Court" and one does not have to be a lawyer to preside over administrative hearings and civil suits. I have over 12 years of experience working for the State of Texas ensuring contract compliance. Many of the administrative hearings and civil suits are based about contract terms and requirements. Because of my experience at the State of Texas, I have the ability to determine if a contract was violated.  
Performing coroner duties (inquests) takes knowledge and experience in death investigations. A Justice of the Peace does not pronounce the death of a person, we are required to determine the manner and cause of death. I am the only candidate with 10 years of law enforcement experience including advanced experience investigating deaths.

**Cynthia Millonzi**

My name is Cynthia Millonzi, and I am a Retired Army Officer and Federal Civil Servant. I currently serve as the Deputy Director to the Hays County Clerk, Elaine Cardenas. I served in the United States Army for 30 years attaining the rank of Colonel. My military career provided me with assignments that provided real world application and experience. Concurrent to my military service I also served in the Federal Civil Service for 25 years, retiring at the executive level. In our local community I served as the President of Imagine Wimberley and the Katherine Anne Porter School. I currently serve on the board of the Wimberley Players. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Adult Education with a Specialization in Workforce Development. I have an extensive career in service, I understand government. I am professional, resolute, and diligent. I respect others and treat them with the respect that I would want extended to me. I evaluate my decisions against doing what is right, legally, and morally.

1. I can emphatically tell you that I am a Democrat and have been since I declared a party affiliation when I was 18 years old. I believe in Social Justice, Equality and Diversity. I am part of the LGBTQIA community, and I am an advocate for women and youth.

2. My top 3 Priorities are: Trust and Confidence, Transparency and Information, Agility and Efficiency

Trust and Confidence. I will review and analyze the findings of current investigations and audits and implement policies and/or procedures that address any documented deficiencies. I will proactively implement management controls to prevent breaches of trust or illegal activity.

Transparency and Information. Since taxes and tax rates are the product of multiple offices with different authorities I will post, or otherwise make available, decisions and rates that impact the constituents of the county. I will work diligently at providing the most up-to-date information and meeting the regulatory requirements and deadlines set for the Office of the Tax Assessor.

Agility and Efficiency. It is important that as the County grows the Office of the Tax Assessor keeps up with the demands that follow growth. The processes of the office need to be agile meaning we are able to pivot, easily, with new and emerging demands. The key is to not be complacent, and we do that by constantly analyzing our processes, seeking out ways to improve and streamline, using technological solutions where applicable and remaining aware of our mission to serve the residents of Hays County

3. How does your experience prepare you for this office?

My extensive leadership training and real-world experience, both nationally and internationally, have prepared me with the ability to run any office. I am an executive and a strategic planner who has proven experience in personnel management, operations, logistics, public affairs, and fiscal management. I have absolutely no doubt about my ability to lead the office of the Tax Assessor-Collector and bring about needed and systemic change.

I’m running because I know my experience, professionalism and expertise can bring positive change to our County Government.

**Rebecca Minnick**

After winning her Wimberley City Council seat in 2019, Rebecca Minnick ran unopposed in the 2021 and 2023 election cycles. During her time on Council, she has played a leadership role in improving the city’s infrastructure, implementing the downtown district’s sewer system, expanding parking and building accessible public restrooms adjacent to the Square. A Texas Municipal League Leadership Fellow, she has focused on process, consistency and transparency in governance. Her career has focused on Communications and Public Relations in the private and public sector, including over a decade in the Space Program. She is a residential Real Estate Agent in the Hill Country.

1. I am a long-time democrat and have voted in Democratic primaries and supported Democrats since I was eligible to vote. Here in Texas, I have been a delegate to both the Senate District Convention and the State Convention and have strong relationships with the local and County parties. I have served as fundraising Chair for the Hays County Democrats for the past two years. Women’s healthcare and abortion rights, equal opportunity, racial and LBGTQ+ equity and environmental protection have been issues that I have driven me since I was a teenager!

2. Establishing a comprehensive water policy for the County is critical as we continue to experience drought combined with record-breaking growth County-wide. Ensuring that we have consistent regulations that are well-communicated and enforced is the only pathway to environmental sustainability. Focusing on processes, solutions and long-term planning in our decision-making would be my approach to Commissioner’s Court. Strengthening our institutions ensures a stronger, more durable – and less political – county government. I will advocate for accessibility to County services for all citizens through collaboration with our stakeholders.

3. The relationships that I have built with citizens and leaders throughout the County will serve me well in this role. During the pandemic, I was able to build a network of electeds, public service volunteers, business leaders and other stakeholders in a time of crisis. In addition, my professional background in communications has taught me the value of utilizing all types of communication channels to make sure that all corners of our communities are considered, listened to and cared for. I also have learned that face-to-face interaction can be the most powerful contact you can make!

**Chevo Pastrano**

1. As Hays County continues to turn Blue, this should continue to be a concern.

I can assure Wimberley Democrats that I was raised by Democrats, not by Republicans. I have

been mentored by those who fight for the poor, not by the wealthy. My family history and

upbringing is rooted in the working class of Hays County, not the rich of super rich communities.

My family’s body of work in community and public service is grounded in Democratic values.

As attorneys, our law firm has regularly provided pro bono services to the poor, we hold an

annual Christmas party to benefit the underprivileged youth of Hays County and we worked for

free to force a crooked Republican constable out of office.

My family history, my words, but, more importantly, my body of work in public service

demonstrate a long history of upholding Democratic values.

2. We are plagued with a current representative who has developed poor working relationship

within Hays County and beyond. This has led to her almost being cut out of her district in

redistricting and has resulted in a low level of productivity from the office of the state

representative.

Upon taking office, our first step will be to work on healing and reestablishing relationships

between the office of the state representative and other local officials. An incredibly unique

characteristic of this contest is that an overwhelming number of current and/or former local

officials have endorsed our campaign. This is representative of the belief that many local

representatives have in our ability to do the work of the state representative, but also

demonstrates that deep and profound relationships have not been made or maintained with local

officials. We will immediately work to improve those relationships.

In the 88th Legislative Session, our current representative filed dozens of solo-authored bills.

None of them—not a single one—became law.

Our long list of endorsers and the members of this campaign believe that we can change that.

Understanding the rules and working with those who write ‘points of order’ to block

amendments is only a small part of the job of the state representative.

District 45 hires a state representative to also pass legislation that directly improves the lives of

the citizens of District 45. Many of our local officials have taken notice of the effectiveness of

our current representative and have endorsed our campaign.

We (along with a long list of endorsers) believe that we will be a great improvement to the office

of the state representative.

https://chevopastrano.com/endorsements/

3. I am the grandson of illiterate farmworkers. My parents were farmworkers. My education is

rooted in Hays County public schools. I was raised exclusively in Hays County in a working

class home. I am a first generation college graduate and a first generation law school graduate.

We have maintained an active law practice in Hays County for over 20 years. In that time, we

commonly research the legislative intent of law. We also research new law that affects our

practice. That research requires us to stay abreast of the legislative process. We commonly

follow bills from their infancy to a governor’s signature, including watching video of committee

hearings and floor debates. We are uniquely prepared to hit the ground running to benefit the citizens of District 45

**Jo Anne Prado**

Jo Anne Prado, Justice of the Peace 1-1—Incumbent in the 2024 election

1. I have been a registered voted probably since I was first eligible to vote. I have always voted in the democratic primary. My voting record would be proof that I have always voted in the democrat primary.

2. I’m not sure at this time if I have any major changes to make in the office. However, I have made many changes in the office through out the years. Most if not all changes are to improve our efficiency and service to the community. I encourage innovation and creativity among my staff and that makes for great teamwork. My staff works the front office and window and any changes that are suggested by my staff that will impact the court in a positive way are definitely considered and many times implemented.

3. I have 20 years of valuable experience and knowledge with the court sitting as judge on the bench presiding over the many cases that have been filed with the court over the years. I know the rules and the law as it pertains to the JP court and how to apply them.

**Alyssa Ramirez**

Alyssa Ramirez is a mother and Public Health Consultant who specializes in creating effective programming, outreach, and data tracking strategies for nonprofit organizations, health care entities, and initiatives regarding BIPOC quality of life issues. She has a B.S. in Biology from St. Edward’s University and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Southern California. Before pursuing her public health degree, Alyssa was a 5th grade science teacher for nearly a decade at a Title I elementary school in the Eastern Crescent of Travis County. She hopes to bring fresh, innovative solutions to Hays County.

1. I have never voted for a Republican candidate nor do I ever wish to. While I believe in voting for the most qualified candidate for the job, I will not ever condone the overall sentiment and culture of the Republican Party. I have helped with an array of  successful democratic elections and openly support Democratic candidates by donating my time, talent, and treasure wherever possible. I believe in advocating for all Democratic Party values including public education, health care, public safety, equal rights, and environmental protections.  My stance on a woman’s right to reproductive care is rooted not only in my Democratic values, but also in my science and health care background. Reproductive care is health care and we must protect a woman's right to choose what happens to her body at all costs.

2. I believe that active leadership is essential to effectively performing the job of County Commissioner. I plan to improve the office by taking proactive approaches to finding innovative solutions to alleviate the challenges associated with:

-infrastructure for our rapidly growing county

-the bogging down of our governmental systems

-effectively allocating federal funds for county resources

-reforming our current justice and jailing systems

It is also imperative to me that I uphold Democratic values while making decisions on the dais and for the greater good of our community.

3. In regards to my education, I believe that my studies, research, and credentials as they are related to academia allow me a unique perspective in which to lead in this capacity. Someone recently asked me “Why don’t you just find a public health job??” and my response (well, one of them) was, “Every issue that a County Commissioner faces is a public health issue. From infrastructure, to quality of life, to allocation of resources, to economic development, to environmental concerns associated with rapid growth, to preservation of natural resources, to justice in our jail systems, they are all public health concerns.” I believe that the time I have invested in deeply studying science, education, health/healthcare, and public health has prepared me for this office. Alternatively, my lived experience also contributes greatly to my preparedness for this position. I have witnessed and experienced, as a teacher and as a single mother, in a fast-growing city the challenges that can arise for long-time residents when leadership has not properly prepared for growth. I have lived and worked extensively, both as a teacher and as a public health project coordinator, in communities East of 35 including unincorporated areas, ETJ, and TravisCounty's Vulnerable Population Footprint Area and understand the importance of community input and as an outreach coordinator. I led successful efforts (performing over 300% of the anticipated outcomes) during the height of the Covid-19 Pandemic in Del Valle and the Eastern Crescent of Travis County, developing strategies, interventions, and communication channels for underserved populations which was a big part of my role during this time. I was able to effectively work with a coalition of professionals, volunteers, and government agencies to deliver an array of services and information to communities throughout Travis County. I also believe my experience with non profit organization creation and management, along with my emergency preparedness experience prepares me for the position of County Commissioner.

**Jessica Sanchez**

Hi my name is Jessica Sanchez. I have 14 years of experience in the very office I am seeking to lead. I have been trained in various departments within the Hays County Tax office. I am running to become the next Hays County Tax Assessor because it is time for Hays County residents to have a tax assessor they can rely on and trust. I will be the tax assessor the citizens need because I will work hard, be accountable, and lead the office while being transparent to the community.

1. Historically, I have not been involved with politics. I was never really introduced into politics growing up as my parents worked to provide for their children. Despite this I decided to run in this race, because I realized that individuals in minority populations need help. I want to be an example to other aspiring democrats that want to pursue county politics. There are many immigrants, low-income families, and others that need the assistance and empathy that only a Democrat can provide. My plans are strongly aligned with Democratic ideal

2. The Tax Assessor-Collector Office is one that needs someone who understands operations and who has done the work. My 14 years of experience has allowed me to understand what systems need to change to make it an efficient office. My plans are to make the tax office accessible (Hosting education sessions, and understanding the staffing need), be more efficient (advocating for more staff -Kyle) and creating guides for residents and business's. Most of all I want to be an official who advocates for her department and who is responsive to the people.

 3. My 14 year of experience has uniquely prepared me to hit the ground running as being the only candidate with the most experience in the office I am seeking. Having already built trust and confidence with fellow staff I can assure them I’m here to help guide them back to a more successful and productive office. Having that trust will then further enhance their work ethic to serve the residents of Hays county.

**Alex Villalobos**

I have been a part of the Hays County community since 1990 as a student at Southwest Texas State University, Jamie and I celebrate 29 years of marriage and are blessed with two children, Viviana, and Alexander.  We have raised our children in Hays County since 2004, Viviana is a graduate of Lehman High School and is currently a junior at The University of Texas Austin and Alexander is a senior at Hays High School, committed to playing baseball at Lamar University.

1. My involvement in the Democratic party is supported by my voting history and my work with all the Democratic Clubs and the Hays County Democratic Party is proof of my support to the Democratic values.

2.I will build trust and transparency with the community we serve, they are vital to community stability, officer safety, and effective policing. Update policies on training, and use-of-force data collection, and build a plan for community engagement that promotes public trust through non-enforcement activities. Build a strategic retention and recruitment plan that promotes quality of life, fairness, career development, competitive pay, and lateral promotional opportunities. I will build a stronger Student Resource Officer program that engages the educational process and works with School Safety Program Staff to support a successful learning environment in our schools.

3. I am a Texas State University graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, a Master of Public Administration, and a Senior Fellow at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor at the National Center of Institutional Diversity. My professional training and experience as a Graduate of the FEMA Professional Development Series, LEMIT (Law Enforcement Management Institute) Module 1 & 2, and graduate of the FBI Command College, along with my experience in leading emergency management operations, government relations, criminal investigations, coordination of multiagency response, service as an elected Council Member for the City of Kyle, acting Hays County Chief of Staff accountable for a ~$700M budget and leading a Pandemic Response as Emergency Management Coordinator of Hays County all have supported my successful career in public service as an Executive Law Enforcement Officer and Executive Administrator.  I have worked to educate myself, obtain nationally recognized professional training, experience, ability to collaborate and network, and promote well-rounded critical thinking skills to be successful as your next Hays County Sheriff.

**Erin Zwiener**

Erin Zwiener is an author, educator, and conservationist who is currently serving her third term in the Texas House of Representatives. She's committed to fighting for our Texas values of healthy communities, inclusivity, and common-sense government.

Rep. Zwiener serves on the House Committees on Natural Resources, House Administration, and Energy Resources. She is a member of the House Democratic Caucus, LGBTQ Caucus, Criminal Justice Reform Caucus, Women’s Health Caucus, Texas Water Caucus, and IT Caucus. In January of 2021, Rep. Zwiener established the Texas Energy and Climate Caucus and currently serves as its Chair.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Conservation, a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, and is a three-time Jeopardy! champion. She lives in Driftwood with her husband Quincy, daughter Lark, a dog, three horses, a pony, a pig, and too many chickens.

1. I am one of the foremost progressive fighters in the Texas Legislature. Each of my three terms in office I have been ranked by leading political scientists as one of the top 10 most progressive legislators in the Texas House, and I use my knowledge of the legislative rules to disrupt the extremist Republican agenda whenever I can. I am proud to have earned repeated support and accolades from progressive groups and leaders such as the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood, the AFL-CIO, Congressman Lloyd Doggett and Greg Casar, former State Senator Wendy Davis, and former Congressman Beto O’Rourke because of my proven record.

2. I will continue to work to ensure our state government is dedicated to solving the pressing issues faced by Texans, rather than focused on chasing extremist culture wars. One such issue is the looming climate crisis, and I founded the Texas Energy and Climate Caucus. In only two years, its membership has grown to more than a third of the entire House membership, and we blocked right wing attacks on renewable energy last session and are building a bipartisan coalition in support of innovative, low-carb energy technologies that will both keep Texas an energy leader and address the challenges of climate change. I’m also a founding member of the Texas LGTBQ Caucus and serve as its secretary. The Caucus has played a key role in opposing and blocking hateful legislation and has raised the visibility of LGBTQIA+ issues in Texas.

3.Every legislative session I have served I have taken full advantage of the opportunity to learn new legislative skills and understand how to be the most effective state legislator I can be. In 2021, I passed legislation that provided sexual harassment protections for another 300,000 Texas workers, stood up for voting rights, and fought back against the extremist abortion bans. This last session, I funded fentanyl poisoning awareness curriculum for Texas public schools, held the line against the governor’s voucher scam, increased Texas State funding, and blocked Don’t Say Gay from becoming law in Texas. I’ve also used the rules to disrupt extremist efforts to amend bills on the House Floor such as stopping amendments that would have targeted the LGBTQIA+ community, made it harder to travel out of state for abortion care, or directed our schools to collect data for immigration enforcement.