2022 Midterm Election Voting Guide

CENTRAL TEXAS
Austin & San Antonio
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Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ) is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization that envisions a future where all people feel bold in their belonging. ATJ’s mission is to connect Asian and Pacific Islander Texans to civic action for personal and political power.

Founded in 2021, ATJ works to be a unifying voice for the state’s diverse AAPI community — to claim space and inspire Texas to invest in AAPIs’ well-being. ATJ works towards a future where AAPIs are a visible force shaping the state — free from discrimination, marginalization, and oppression. It aims to unite the community, train future leaders, and build solidarity across communities to advance equity, social justice, and civil rights for all. Prior to its founding, there were no statewide organizations devoted to the Texas AAPI community, despite statewide issues and needs that should include an AAPI perspective.

AAPI voter turnout has reached record highs in recent elections, but there continues to be a need to educate the community and counter barriers to voting. Commissioned by APIAVote and their partners, the 2022 Asian American Voter Survey reports that the majority of Asian Americans received no contact or were unsure if they received contact about elections from any political party. Despite the national trend of low voter outreach, an ATJ poll found that 64% of AAPIs in Texas are highly motivated to vote in the 2022 midterm elections.

For more information about ATJ, visit www.asiantexansforjustice.org
About This Guide & Methodology

This project began as a vision to serve the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community across Texas in response to the reality that AAPI voters were rarely contacted by candidates and campaigns of any political party. Facing barriers to quality information and language access, Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ) created this resource with the AAPI voter in mind — empower the margin of victory to participate in the civic process.

Candidates on the 2022 Midterm Election ballot in Texas, ranging from the top executive office of Governor down to Texas Legislature offices, were included in this voter’s guide. All candidates were contacted with published contact information from public sources on multiple occasions. They were asked identical questions with the exact same character limits for responses.

No responses have been edited in the creation of this guide, with the exception of typographical errors. Candidates who declined to participate have been included and indicated with “No Response Received.”

Translations have been provided by native Chinese and Vietnamese speakers, through partner organizations in Texas. We appreciate their service and honor their native languages. We also recognize that there are dozens more languages that AAPI voters need access to and we aspire to eventually expand our resources to reach as many people as possible.
How to Register to Vote

Deadline to register:
October 11, 2022

The State of Texas does not have online registration — you must submit a paper form.

Register to vote via mail-in-registration:
https://vrapp.sos.state.tx.us/index.asp

Register to vote at your local county tax office.

Check to see if you’re registered:
https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do

How to Vote

Three Ways:

1. Ballot by Mail
   - Last day to request Mail-in-Ballot: October 28, 2022
   - Must be postmarked by election day
   - Must be received by the early voting clerk no later than 5:00pm on the next business day
   - If there is no postmark, an early voting clerk must be received by the early voting clerk no later than 7:00pm on Election Day.

2. Early Voting
   October 24, 2022 - November 4, 2022

3. Election Day
   Nov 8, 2022 (Vote on election day)
Voter ID Requirements

- Texas Driver's License
- US Passport (Book or Cards)
- Texas Election ID certificate
- Texas personal identification card
- Texas Handgun license
- US citizenship certificate with photo
- US military ID Card with photo
- Reasonable Impediment Declaration*

*If you do not possess and cannot reasonably obtain one of these IDs, fill out a declaration at the polls describing a reasonable impediment to obtaining it, and show a copy or original of one of the following supporting forms of ID:

- A government document that shows your name and an address, including your voter registration certificate;
- Current utility bill;
- Bank statement;
- Government check;
- Paycheck; or
- (a) A certified domestic (from a U.S. state or territory) birth certificate or (b) a document confirming birth admissible in a court of law which establishes your identity (which may include a foreign birth document).

Voter Protection Hotline
by APIAVote

(1-888-API-VOTE)
Production

Project Manager
Akeela Kongdara

Editing Support
Saatvik Ahluwalia
Lily Trieu
Van Anh Vuong

Designer
Rio Sauer

Chinese Translation Services
Alice Yi
APAPA-ATC team

Vietnamese Translation Services
Phil Hoang
Kim-Thu Vo
Trúc Việt
Governor

The Chief Executive of the state with responsibility for signing or vetoing bills passed by the legislature, making policy recommendations to the state legislature, commander-in-chief of the Texas’ National Guard, and managing state agencies.

CANDIDATES
Greg Abbott (R)*
Delilah Barrios (G)*
Beto O'Rourke (D)
Mark Tippetts (L)

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a fourth generation Texan raising my three kids in El Paso with my wife, Amy. I served on the El Paso City Council between 2005 and 2011, and in the U.S. Congress (TX-16) between 2013 and 2019. I also founded and led Powered by People, a grassroots voting rights advocacy and voter mobilization organization between 2019 and 2021.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I’m running for governor to play a part in getting Texas past the divisive politics we see in our state today and bringing Texans together around the big, bold things we want to achieve for this state, like creating more high-paying jobs, ensuring Texas has world-class schools, and expanding health care so that more people can see a doctor.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) As Texas AAPI communities increasingly become the targets of hate crimes. I will direct state resources toward improving law enforcement responses to these threats and fight for commonsense, bipartisan gun safety measures to help keep firearms out of the hands of people looking to commit these crimes.
(2) As Texas faces a critical shortage of bilingual teachers, I will increase funding for bilingual educators and programming so that all children can access a world-class education. I will also fight for curriculum that teaches the complete and accurate history of our state and country, including the contributions of our AAPI communities.
(3) I’m also committed to supporting all Texans with a dream who are willing to put their work ethic and innovation into starting small businesses and creating great jobs in their communities. I’ll be a partner for AAPI-led small businesses by increasing access to capital, credit, and training in their communities.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I will direct state agencies to increase language accessibility of all websites and other crucial information from the state; increase funding for bilingual education and recruit and retain more bilingual educators by strengthening their pay and benefits; expand adult education and job training programs that focus on language training; and remove unnecessary and burdensome election laws that place restrictions on translators and make it harder for non-native English speakers to vote.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I will establish non-partisan redistricting commissions to combat racial gerrymandering, expand voting options like curbside voting, reduce barriers to voting by mail, establish online and same-day voter registration, and eliminate voting restrictions that aim to intimidate translators and personal attendants.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am bilingual and bi-cultural. I am an International Legal & Business Consultant for businesses and individuals that own property and/or do business in Mexico and Latin America. Making enemies with our southern neighbors and erecting walls between us is counterproductive, insulting, and foolish. I support school choice, free markets, free trade, civil liberties, and peace. In 2017 I served on the city council in Lago Vista, Texas.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
Too often Democrats want to force you to spend your money a certain way and Republicans want to force you to behave a certain way. Government should protect our liberties, not take them away. I respect your right to make choices for yourself and family. Freedom promotes peace, harmony, and abundance for all. I am a Libertarian, and I am running for Governor because I want to secure Liberty for my children, for you, and for generations of Americans to come.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Immigration: I'm an advocate for making legal immigration easier. Republicans want to close our borders and keep people out. Democrats have had control of the Presidency and Congress many times but have failed to implement a more humane, rational immigration system. America is great because of the many people that have immigrated here from all over the world. 
(2) Legalize Marijuana: Locking up people for marijuana possession and use has resulted in a diversion of law enforcement resources to victimless crimes and an exploding prison population. 
(3) Cut Taxes and Spending: Lower taxes means you keep more money in your pocket and can spend it the way you feel is best for your and your family.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
More School Choice so AAPIs can choose schools that best match their preferences. I support a voucher or tax credit system so even low-income families can afford to send their children to private schools or home school. A one-size-fits-all school system is bad for everyone. Parents should be allowed to have a say on what books should be in school libraries, how sex education should be taught, facemask wearing, how much to focus on math versus arts, and Asian American studies.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
Republicans and Democrats have passed laws to make it very hard for the Libertarian Party candidates and other third parties to be on the ballot. I support making it easier for everyone, including Asian Americans, to run for office and of course support making it easy for all who want to to vote.
Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is part of the executive and legislative branches and is the second-highest executive office of the state and is the President of the State Senate. Their responsibilities include assuming powers of the governor when the governor is out of the state, authority of the budgeting process, assigning committees in the senate and assigning all legislation to senate committees.

CANDIDATES

Mike Collier (D)
Dan Patrick (R)*
Shanna Steele (L)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
An energy expert, Mike Collier has a deep understanding of the Texas economy. After starting his career as a landman, he worked as a senior CPA at PriceWaterhouseCoopers before later building a successful Texas energy company. He graduated from The University of Texas where he marched in the Longhorn Band. Mike and his wife Suzanne have two sons and recently welcomed their first grandchild. In 2018, he ran for Lt. Governor, running the closest general election race in nearly two decades.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
For eight years, Dan Patrick has been more interested in sound bites than sound policy. He has proven he has no interest in solving the challenges facing Texas. As your Lt. Governor, Mike will work to lower property taxes to help Texas families keep up with rising costs, improve your public schools, protect our rights, and fix the damn grid. Because in Dan Patrick’s Texas, our taxes are too high and freedoms are too few.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) There is no greater state responsibility than supporting our local public schools. As Lt. Governor, Mike will fight tirelessly for Texas to have the best public schools in the nation by investing in smaller class sizes, more special education support, and great teachers. Mike will close tax loopholes for out-of-state corporations that cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year and use the money to lower property taxes and improve your local schools.
(2) Mike is an energy expert who will fix the damn grid by increasing energy production and transmission. He supports an all-of-the-above approach to energy so that Texas remains the energy capital of the world.
(3) Mike will fight to ensure that women and their doctors—not politicians—make decisions about their own healthcare. As Lt. Governor, he will work to codify Roe v. Wade into state law.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
Mike will work to increase state funding and grants to city and county departments to provide public guidance and documentation, particularly election resources, in all necessary languages so that every community is reached.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
First, Mike will fight for fair maps that don’t dilute the voting power of Texas’ growing, robust, and diverse AAPI population that has been structurally denied fair representation. Second, he will work to provide state funding and compel counties to provide election materials, including public education about ballot materials, in all languages in every county so that no Texan is left behind.
Attorney General

The attorney general is the chief lawyer and legal officer for the state. Their responsibilities include defending the laws and the constitution of the state of Texas, representing the state in litigation, approving public bond issues and serving as legal counsel to all boards and agencies of state government.

CANDIDATES

Mark Ash (L)
Rochelle Garza (D)
Ken Paxton (R)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a lawyer with an active practice who has represented many persons from all ethnic and racial backgrounds for the last 28 years. Also, I am a property tax arbitrator who has worked with taxpayers and appraisal districts to decide property tax values of commercial and residential properties. I have been an active member of the Libertarian party.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
As an actively practicing attorney who has represented individuals in different areas of the law, I understand ordinary persons and the legal issues that affect them in their everyday lives. I will seek within the law to limit the power and scope of state government to prevent abusive overreach. Individual rights do matter.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Focus on providing assistance to the county and district attorneys in their efforts to prosecute persons charged with violent crimes.
(2) Providing online user friendly data service that allows access to statewide criminal records and information about other services of the office of the attorney general from all over the state for all of the state.
(3) Phasing out and eliminating unnecessary lawsuits against businesses that otherwise provide useful and appropriate products and services to the community.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
All ballot information should be available online and fully translatable in all world languages.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
My office would be open to take complaints that will address all issues regarding safety and fairness. No person should fear exercising his or her legal right to vote.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I’m an attorney, fifth generation Texan and a new mom. As a new mom, I want to ensure that my daughter grows up with the freedom to determine her own course in life, to marry who she loves, to decide if, when or how to become a parent, and to grow up in a clean, safe environment. I want that for all of our children, and the best way to accomplish that is by taking back the Office of Attorney General for the people of Texas.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I know what it’s like to fight for individuals in Texas courts and also how to build a case that reinforces civil rights across the country. My work has had broad impacts, like the “Garza Notice,” a federal notice requirement that teens in immigration detention have a right to abortion care without fear of retaliation or obstruction, and meaningful individual impacts, like helping Trans people affirm who they are through requesting name and gender marker changes in court.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
I stand with the AAPI community and will fight to ensure the safety and full inclusion of AAPI Texans.
(1) As TX AG, I will create a fully funded Civil Rights Division to combat the continued disenfranchisement of communities of color, including Asian Americans. This includes protecting the right to vote and ensuring accessibility for language preference, disability, voting by mail, and ensuring voters are not purged illegally from the voter registration rolls.
(2) I will be a fierce advocate to stop Asian hate in our state, including partnering with local prosecutors to offer more resources when prosecuting violence against the AAPI community and ensuring that the AG’s victim compensation program is providing needed assistance to impacted families/individuals.
(3) I will also ensure that the Office of the AG is accessible to members of the AAPI community and will have our website and other resources available in as many languages as possible so everyone is equally able to engage with my office.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
When elected, I will ensure we have our website and other resources and services available in as many languages as possible to accommodate our diverse AAPI community, which is the fastest growing demographic in Texas. Our government needs to be reflective of those demographic changes to better serve our residents. Y’all means all.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
On day one as Attorney General, I will dismantle Ken Paxton’s “election integrity unit” — which is really about enforcing the GOP’s cruel voter suppression measures, instead of protecting voting rights — and replace it with a voter protection unit under a fully-funded Civil Rights Division. I will use the power of this office to ensure that voting rights are protected in the courts if there are further attempts to make it harder for any Texan, especially Texans of color, to cast a ballot.
The Comptroller of Public Accounts is the chief tax collector, accountant, auditor, and treasurer. Their responsibilities include estimating revenue and disbursing and bookkeeping the state’s money.

CANDIDATES

Janet Dudding (D)
V. Alonzo Echevarria-Garza (L)*
Glenn Hegar (R)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.  
I am a governmental accountant who has spent the last 35 years in state and local governmental audit, accounting, administration and even investigation to hold government accountable to people instead of special interests. My spouse of 31 years, James Kaihatu, and I moved to Bryan-College Station, Texas in 2006, a year after Hurricane Katrina’s 32’ storm surge tried to wipe us off the map along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Climate change is personal to me.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?  
The Comptroller is the state’s accountant, an office that is tailor made for me. I am a certified public accountant with 35 years in state and local governmental audit, accounting, administration and even investigation. The Comptroller has authority over renewable energy. Climate change is personal to me. Being able to grow the energy market and curb the underlying causes of the problem is my reason for running.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?  
(1) Economic insecurity: since there is a perception that AAPI is a minority demographic that is a model for success, they are often underrepresented in surveys, and thus data, regarding economic disadvantage.  
(2) Hate crimes: Texas ranks 4th in the nation in AAPI hate crimes.  
(3) Language: the perception is that all AAPI know how to speak English fluently. This is not true, and accommodation for this in the court system, as an example, is difficult due to the vast array of languages associated with AAPI.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?  
Offer information in brief, direct messages in different languages and utilize technology to broaden the languages available.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?  
I fully support same-day voter registration and online voting. Of course, this requires access to broadband, which the Comptroller oversees.
Land Commissioner

The Commissioner of the General Land Office is the head of the Texas General Land Office. The Agency’s responsibilities include managing all state-owned land, operating the Alamo, providing relief during and after natural disasters, funding Texas public education through the permanent school fund, providing assistance and benefits to Texas Veterans, and managing the Texas coast.

CANDIDATES

Dawn Buckingham (R)*
Jay Kleberg (D)
Carrie Evelyn Menger (Write-In)*
Alfred Molison (L)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I grew up in an agricultural community in South Texas, where I developed a deep respect for the land. I have spent my whole career in conservation – previously serving as the Associate Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, and now as an environmental educator, documentary filmmaker and owner of a land-based conservation business.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I have dedicated my entire life to enhancing our natural resources and ensuring that we manage and conserve land for the benefit of future generations. I believe that our quality of life, food stability, energy dependence, and diversity of wildlife depend on the responsible stewardship of Texas landscapes. Equipped with land management experience, an understanding of our state’s environmental challenges, and an MBA from the University of Texas, I’m ready to get to work.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) While the GLO has a limited purview and cannot create legislation directly affecting many issues, I would be a proud advocate and ally for the AAPI community. One of the top issues I would advocate for would be addressing the escalation of hate crimes and harassment towards the AAPI community since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
(2) Within the GLO, I plan to hire a Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to ensure that the agency reflects the diversity of the state. I’d also ensure that communities of color, which are disproportionately impacted by climate change, have the resources to apply for and receive benefits from FEMA and HUD in a timely manner.
(3) If elected, I intend to send the maximum $600M to the Texas Permanent School Fund annually, which provides funds to K-12 public education in Texas. I would also advocate for the expansion of options for Asian American studies courses to allow Texans the opportunity to learn about diverse communities and perspectives.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
Language access plays a vital role to make sure that all Texans are not only able to participate in our democracy but are encouraged to. I would advocate for language access measures such as assistance in jurisdictions where a threshold number of language minority voters reside. We must protect the rights of language minorities by providing registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, or other materials or voting information, including ballots in the language appropriate to all Texans.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
Voting is a right that should be accessible to all Texans. But in the last legislative session, we witnessed an all-out assault on voting rights in Texas. I would advocate against the state voter suppression laws that restrict the availability of absentee/mail-in ballots, remove ballot drop boxes, limit early voting opportunities, create confusing voter ID requirements, and purge registered voters from the rolls – just some of the provisions that most harm the AAPI community’s ability to vote.
Agriculture Commissioner

The Commissioner of Agriculture is the Head of the Texas Department of Agriculture. The Agency’s responsibilities include promoting production agriculture, consumer protection, economic development and healthy living.

CANDIDATES

Susan Hays (D)
Sid Miller (R)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
As an attorney raised around agriculture with decades of Texas government experience, I am adept at analyzing then solving problems. With my servant’s heart, I will be dedicated to public service, helping farmers, & improving food quality. After decades of work on reproductive and voting rights, I shifted focus to cannabis law, helping draft & pass the law that legalized hemp. My husband & I live in Alpine where we are experimenting with growing both hemp & hops in a microclimate.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I understand the legislative process and how the government works. The incumbent and animus toward him have resulted in the paring down of the Agriculture Commission making it a much less effective organization. My focus on ethics will steer the Commission to a functioning agency again. My deep understanding of and dedication to making government work for the People, particularly rural Texas, whether improving healthcare or economic development, make me both electable to and effective in the job.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Encouraging more AAPI folks to get into agriculture with targeted outreach to the community. We need more farmers in Texas and more access to locally grown and raised food.
(2) Encouraging more diverse and healthy food choices in school lunches.
(3) Fighting against anti-Asian racism and Islamophobia pushed by the incumbent and hideous Facebook feed.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
Ensure the Texas Department of Agriculture publishes materials especially those regarding accessing funding and programs to support small businesses in Vietnamese and Chinese, particularly in Harris, Tarrant and Travis Counties. Diversify TDA staff. Designate staff both in the Austin headquarters and in field offices to liaison with the AAPI communities.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I have worked on voter protection issues for more than 20 years and am board certified in Legislative and Campaign law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. As a candidate, I will be using my social media platforms and voice to educate people on how to vote and their rights as voters.
The Railroad Commissioner is the head of the Railroad Commission of Texas. The agency responsibilities include regulating the oil and gas industry, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, and surface coal and uranium mining.

CANDIDATES

Wayne Christian (R)*
Hunter Crow (G)
Jaime Andres Diez (L)*
Luke Warford (D)

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
Hunter Crow was born in Grand Prairie, Texas. As of December 2021, Crow was awarded a Certificate of Completion in Library Technician from Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus and is commissioned by the State of Texas as a Notary Public. He has been affiliated with the Tarrant County Green Party, with the Green Party of Texas, the National Lavender Green Caucus, the Young Ecosocialist Caucus, Socialist Party USA, and with the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I am not a not career politician and have no connection to the oil and gas industry. I feel it is important that we have an elected railroad commissioner's that represent and are part of the popular movements so we advance the causes of economic, racial and environmental justice.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Work to put an End Discrimination Against AAPI. AAPI Americans are more likely to be blamed for a variety of issues, ranging from the current coronavirus pandemic to struggles with employment. To combat this discrimination, the voices of AAPI Americans need to be heard, to raise awareness and fix the problems that AAPI Americans have been facing for generations.
(2) I would like to address the issue of Political Representation. American politics is enhanced when it reflects the diversity in American communities. Like other minority communities, A better, more accessible system to elevate, support and nominate AAPI politicians for political office at all levels of government will help ensure a government that is more responsive to the concerns of minority communities.
(3) Immigration is a core issue for the AAPI community: in 2019, 28.2% of immigrants into the United States were AAPI. I will work to support a humane path to citizenship.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I will support freedom of information and will support language access and resources to AAPIs when such requests are made to the Texas Railroad Commission.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I will work if elected to push for the following election reform recommendations. Require voter-verified paper ballots or records for every vote cast. Replace old voting machines. Conduct robust post-election audits to confirm election outcomes. Update and secure outdated voter registration systems and e-poll books. Require minimum cybersecurity standards for voter registration systems and other pieces of voting infrastructure.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a 32-year-old first-time candidate running for Texas Railroad Commission. I most recently served as Chief Strategy Officer for the Texas Democratic Party, am a Fulbright Scholar, and received a masters degree from London School of Economics. In previous roles, I have advised global energy companies, helped fight misinformation online, and worked on the 2012 and 2016 Democratic Presidential Campaigns.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
Texas is the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the country and the Texas oil and gas industry is the largest contributor to those emissions. Each year, millions of tons of methane and other greenhouse gases are emitted into the atmosphere because the Texas Railroad Commission fails to enforce existing regulations. I will treat this job with the respect it deserves, making a real climate impact and gaining a critical statewide foothold for Democrats in Texas.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Keeping the lights on.
(2) Lowering emissions.
(3) Lowering energy bills.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
Currently, the Railroad Commission website, meeting minutes, and nearly all materials are wholly inaccessible. When elected, I will work on providing resources in as many languages as we can to ensure people are able to understand exactly what the commission does.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
While the Railroad Commission does not have the power to impact election laws, I would support the offices that are working on more equitable election laws that create safe and fair elections for all eligible AAPI voters.
Congress District 35

The House of Representatives of the United States is the federal-level legislature that is elected every two years. Member responsibilities include writing, sponsoring, and introducing bills, initiating revenue bills, impeaching federal officials, and electing the President in the case of an Electoral College tie.

CANDIDATES

Greg Casar (D)
Dan McQueen (R)

*No response received from candidate.*
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
Greg Casar is the Democratic nominee for Congress in Texas Congressional District 35. He is a former Austin City Council Member and labor organizer who has supported working families from San Antonio to Hays County to East Austin. The proud son of Mexican immigrants, Greg has passed policies protecting families from being separated, expanding access to abortion care, raising wages for thousands of workers, and enacting new civil rights protections.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
Greg has dedicated his life to organizing alongside working people to fight for their communities. He is running for Congress to fight for and improve the lives of working Texans and advance the progressive movement. TX-35 needs a Progressive Democrat who understands the evolving needs of working Texans and has a strong record of delivering for their communities. From Austin to Hays County to San Antonio, Greg is building progressive power, turning out new voters, and making change.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Ending Discrimination - Greg is dedicated to equal rights for all. He led the winning effort to establish a Civil Rights Office in Austin to ensure protections for all people regardless of race, religion, or disability. Greg supports passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act and the End Racial Profiling Act.
(2) Immigrant Rights - Greg comes from an immigrant family and began his career as a labor and immigrants’ rights organizer. Greg will fight to pass bills like the American Dream and Promise Act. Thousands of families in Texas’s 35th district, and millions of people in Texas, would benefit from having our rights fully recognized and protected by the federal government.
(3) Investing in working-class people and communities of color - Texans work hard every day to provide for their families. We must fairly tax top earners and ensure corporations pay their fair share so that we can create more affordable housing and economic opportunity for working families.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
During Winter Storm Uri, Greg’s office was instrumental in delivering information to AAPI communities, creating a resource guide in 10 languages, including Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese, Hindi, & more with community leaders. Greg sponsored Austin’s language access audit & included public health funds in City budgets specifically for the AAPI community. Greg is committed to providing important information in each community’s preferred language, so all of us may fully participate in our democracy.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
AAPI voters deserve an inclusive democracy that respects the right to vote, including equal access to safe and fair elections. In Congress, Greg will support federal legislation like the For the People Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Act, along with automatic voter registration. Greg supports voting rights for all immigrant communities.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
U.S. Navy SAR Combat Veteran, Lead Engineer on Presidential Aircraft, Martial Artist, Motorcycle Leader, Author, Musician, and CEO of Aircraft Design Company. Promote the Elevation of Texas! Master Degree and expert in Military, Cyber and Technology mentor. Focused on America's Future and Success for All Americans.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
My experience, education and community involvement is beyond any other candidate in this election.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
America's Technology, America's Security, America's Economic Success - To Keep America Great!

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
In today's modern era, we should have many multi language options in all aspects of our nation.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
It is important to bring together all information and create the median for communication in all demographics.
The House of Representatives of the United States is the federal-level legislature that is elected every two years. Member responsibilities include writing, sponsoring, and introducing bills, initiating revenue bills, impeaching federal officials, and electing the President in the case of an Electoral College tie.

CANDIDATES

Lloyd Doggett (D)
Clark Patterson (L)*
Jenny Garcia Sharon (R)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I was born, raised, and educated in Austin. I graduated first in my class from UT Austin Business School and also served as student body president, later graduating with honors from UT School of Law. After serving as Texas State Senator and Texas Supreme Court Justice, I have served as U.S. Congressman since 1995. At UT, I met my wife, Libby, a former Obama appointee and bilingual teacher; we have 2 daughters: Lisa, an Austin physician, and Cathy, educational consultant, and 4 grandchildren.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I always seek to be a voice for those without a lobbyist or political power, working for justice and change that makes a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. I bring Congressional seniority, experience, energy, and commitment. By listening, I seek to make my own priorities what our neighbors say are their most important priorities. Last year for the twelfth year, Austin Chronicle readers awarded me with a “Best in Austin” award.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Healthcare: As Health Subcommittee Chair, I’ve prioritized getting coverage to the many disadvantaged Texans denied access to a family doctor by Gov. Abbott’s opposition to Medicaid expansion. After actively opposing GOP efforts to repeal Obamacare, I have also filed legislation to extend Medicare solvency, continue Telehealth, lower drug prices and end burdensome waiting periods for people with disabilities to obtain Medicare.
(2) Coronavirus: I continue working to ensure individuals and small businesses have access to needed resources and to prevent Gov. Abbott from diverting federal education aid intended for our schools. I worked to provide significant support for our public health system and health care workers, including legislation to develop vaccines and treatments. Much more is needed to prepare for virus variants.
(3) Immigration: Comprehensive reform will grow our economy and also continue to enrich our country culturally. I will continue to fight for broader immigration justice.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
Our AAPI neighbors must have the resources and access needed to fully participate in our community. I secured a federal grant to build the Asian American Resource Center in Austin and am a member of the Asian American Complete Count Committee. I maintain communication with the Network of Asian American Organizations and Alice Yi, my AAPI Outreach Coordinator. In 2019, the National Civic Leadership Forum recognized my support of the Tx AAPI community with the Leadership in Public Service award.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I am a sponsor of multiple bills to protect voter rights from GOP state interference unfortunately blocked by GOP Senate filibusters. Texas is ground zero for racist voter suppression, and we must push back, ensure our voices are heard by working earlier and smarter to circumvent barriers. I commend Alice Yi and Asian Texans for Justice on their tremendous work turning out voters.
The Texas State Senate is the state-level legislative body that serves 4-year terms.

CANDIDATES
Julie Dahlberg (R)*
Arthur DiBianca (L)
Judith Zaffirini (D)

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I'm a former programmer, and I've been a Libertarian activist for many years. I grew up in the midwest and southeast, and I've lived in Austin since 1991.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
Texas desperately needs Libertarian voices in the legislature. It's commonly believed that Republicans and Democrats are opposites, but that's not true. For the most part, Democrats and Republicans cooperate to grow government and increase its power over our lives. Libertarian legislators will work to shrink government and reduce its power.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
My concerns about the government are very broad, and it's unlikely I would be working on legislation specifically targeted toward AAPI constituents. (But I would always be open to hearing concerns from any group or organization.)

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
(See previous answer)

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
Ballot access laws in Texas are very restrictive, and need to be reformed. For example, if AAPI voters wished to create an AAPI-focused political party, it would be extremely difficult under the status quo. I support ballot access reform that would greatly ease these onerous restrictions.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
The first Mexican American woman elected to the Texas Senate, I am the second-highest-ranking
senator and the highest-ranking senator for Central Texas. Known for my work ethic, I've passed more
bills than any legislator in the history of the State of Texas and have 100% voting record, having cast
69,000+ consecutive votes.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
My record of responsiveness, accountability, transparency, productivity, and excellence makes me
the best qualified person for senator for SD 21. "Serviam"-I shall serve- is my mantra, and my staff and I
address every issue, big or small, that constituents bring to our attention. I vote based on the needs
and interests of the families of our district, not on my personal agenda. My experience and
communication skills empower me to excel in the legislative process.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) My top issues are and have been education in general, with a focus on early and higher education;
and health and human services in general, with a focus on the very young, the very old, the very poor,
persons with disabilities, and veterans.
(2) Throughout the years I've added priorities that are timely, including reforming private, for-profit
psychiatric hospitals that were kidnapping Texans; Medicaid and welfare reform, expanding access
and ensuring the rights of those who need these programs.
(3) Protecting our environment, especially by defining standards for storing waste and for enhancing
the quality of our air, land, and water; and strengthening our legal system, especially by eliminating
cronyism and corruption in the judiciary.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
As a bilingual Mexican American I have championed not only bilingualism and biculturalism, but also
multilingualism and multiculturalism. This includes passing a resolution to require all high school
graduates speak English-Plus another language and ensuring ballots, curricula, and programs are
offered in the languages spoken at home by the persons who need the related services. I welcome
every opportunity to work with AAPI constituents and organizations to address their goals and
priorities.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal
access to safe and fair Elections?
My goals are to ensure that election laws provide all voters, including eligible AAPI voters, equal
access to safe and fair elections. That is why I voted against the Republican-driven legislation that
curtailed access in numerous ways, including by limiting voting places and accessibility.
TX State House District 47

The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES

Vikki Goodwin (D)
Rob McCarthy (R)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am serving my 2nd term in the TX Legislature representing western Travis County. I support investing in public education, expanding access to health care, protecting the environment, making communities safer through sensible gun regulations, and offering opportunities for success through good jobs and training. My husband and I raised our kids in Austin, and we run a small real estate business. I am a graduate of UT, and the LBJ School of Public Affairs. I spent a summer in Seoul, Korea.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I have the experience to serve my district well, and have been successful in advancing bi-partisan legislation. I understand the need to listen to constituents even when they have a different viewpoint than my own. Collaboration, respect, understanding and trust are all important characteristics that I exhibit. Through my work and volunteer activities, I have come to know the people of my district, and I continue to meet new people and organizations every day.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Ensuring all children have access to an excellent public education in a safe environment.
(2) Ensuring all people have access to the physical and mental health care they need.
(3) Ensuring all people have access to vote without undue hardships.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I have been thankful for the work Alice Yi has done to translate the LWV Voter’s Guide to Chinese, and would like to build on that work. Encouraging school districts to increase the number of bi-lingual teachers, including those fluent in languages spoken by the APPI community would be a priority of mine.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I was successful in passing a law that allows people who are pregnant or have just given birth to vote-by-mail. I am interested in passing laws for automatic voter registration when you obtain a driver license, or online voter registration as an alternative. I believe we need to give local election officials the flexibility to establish protocols that make voting as accessible as possible. I am open to further ideas to help the AAPI community.
TX State House District 48

The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES
Donna Howard (D)*
Daniel McCarthy (L)

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I grew up just west of Austin in Dripping Springs, spent most of my free time in Austin and always felt at home here. After graduating from Texas State University (B.A. Political Science) I moved here full time, and I currently own a home in south Austin with my wife Rebecca. I come from a long line of Texans, and in spite of all the faults with current leadership, Texas is still my home and I am committed to making it better.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I've always had a passion for politics, social justice and the workings of government. I remember being concerned about the national debt at 9 years old after it became a topic during Clinton’s re-election. The more I learned the less I trusted politicians and the two major parties. This year I was happy to accept the Libertarian nomination for this race because I believe I can bring fresh ideas and rational thinking to the Texas House.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Education: AAPI parents are widely lauded for the emphasis they place on their children’s education. They should be able to send their kids to the best school available, and not be forced into a sub-par system just because they happen to live in one district or another. A voucher system would open new doors to opportunities for their kids which the current system makes difficult if not impossible.
(2) Small Business: Keeping Texas business free from complicated regulations and burdensome taxation is a major priority of mine. Making it easier to hire and retain workers is another. Growth helps employers and workers alike, but too often government is the enemy of growth.
(3) Immigration: Immigrants built this nation, and with an aging population and lower birth rates we need them as much as ever. It should not be as difficult as it is to immigrate to the United States, and I will work to make Texas a leader in defense of immigrants and their communities against the federal government.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
Going back to the immigration point, businesses should be able to hire the right people for the job, regardless of their current nationality. If we need more speakers or writers of one language or another who are qualified in a certain field it should be up to the people of Texas, not the federal government, to decide to bring them here to work.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I would like to see an end to partisan gerrymandering - the process that unfairly limits people’s voices based on their perceived voting habits. I would also like to see expanded access to mail in ballots so that busy Americans who cannot take time off to go stand in line will still have their say.
TX State House District 50

The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES
Ted Brown (L)
Victor Johnson (R)
James Talarico (D)
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a self-employed insurance claims adjuster. I have a degree in political science from UCLA. I am married with an adult daughter. I have been a political activist for personal freedom and economic freedom for my entire adult life. I am currently Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Travis County, and I live in Wells Branch near Austin.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I am not a Democrat or a Republican. These two establishment parties have ruined the country. We need a multi-party system, so that more views can be heard. I am not beholden to any special interest groups or corrupt party leaders. I will take my oath to defend the Constitution seriously, and I will stand up for the right of all Texans to live lives free of government coercion.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) My positions are based on freedom for all Texans. The state has a large budget surplus that must be returned to taxpayers in the form of property tax relief and future tax cuts. We need major cuts in state taxes and state spending across the board. Texas must end marijuana prohibition and allow Texans access to cannabis products for both medical and recreational uses.
(2) Texas licenses too many occupations, thus forbidding people to work in their chosen professions. I would end licensing requirements for most occupations.
(3) I am pro-choice on everything. Women must have reproductive freedom that is not regulated by the state. Abortion up to fetal viability must be legal. Contraceptives should be available over the counter without prescription.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
No response.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
It should be far easier to vote in Texas. Voter fraud is just not the problem that Republicans claim it is. Voters should receive more information before each election so they will know what they are voting on and who they are voting for. All voters should be able to obtain an absentee ballot and vote by mail, not just the aged and disabled. Ballot access should be much easier for alternative political parties and independent candidates who will challenge the status quo.

Campaign Website: tedbrown.org
Campaign Email: tedbrown1776@hotmail.com
Facebook: Ted Brown for Texas State Representative, District 50
Twitter: @TedBrownLiberty
**Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.**
I am a veteran, a former law enforcement supervisor, an educator (who taught English as a 2d language in Korea), & business owner. I have been married for 50 years and have 2 grandchildren. I am a fiscal conservative and have led a community oriented life in public service. I care deeply about our citizens and our community. My broad base of experience allows me to understand other's view points, ideals, and goals.

**Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?**
I have dedicated my life to public service. My policies are grounded in a respect for all people and a belief that we must work together to make Texas stronger and correct the policies that have led us to such great inflation. My education background tells me that our education system has gone off track and needs to put parents back into the decision process and to protect our vulnerable children. My law enforcement experience gives me the background to correct the rising crime rate.

**Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?**
(1) I fully support the “Stop Asian Hate” effort. As a former law enforcement official I have seen first hand the horrible effects of the unwarranted attacks against Asian Americans. I spent a year living in South Korea and visiting Japan, and know that the Asian people as a group are wonderfully loving, dedicated to family, and rich in heritage. There can be no excuse for the hate some express. The increase in violent attacks following COVID serve as a reminder that education is needed.
(2) I believe that the Asian heritage of the United States is one worthy of being included and in many cases, highlighted in our education. Both the great achievements and the terrible torments and injustices are a part of our shared experience and should not be neglected.
(3) We must support the multi-lingual traditions of our citizens and recognize that many are new to English and some are too old to learn. There must be no language barriers to full participation in government and I will work toward that goal.

**Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?**
My commitment is the same to all Texans. Our government must be fair, equitable, and above all transparent in its actions and decision making processes. I would support the increase in second language teaching for all and ensure that our citizens have the right to access all government activities. We must make government open to everyone.

**Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?**
I am a firm believer in free and fair elections. I served on the election integrity committee of the Travis County Republican Party and worked hard to reduce opportunities for election tampering, which dilutes true votes and deprives our citizens of their Constitutional rights. I will continue to expand voter locations and election official training in Texas. I will champion voter education in our schools, to enable a greater understanding of the election process.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a former public school teacher first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2018. I was born in Round Rock to a single mother and grew up just over the county line in House District 50's Wells Branch neighborhood. I earned degrees from The University of Texas at Austin and Harvard University. I sit on the Public Education Committee, the Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee, and the Calendars Committee.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I am focused on building a future where every family can get ahead — working to model common sense in our State Capitol and craft responsible policies. I have passed historic legislation including a first-ever cap on pre-K class sizes, a sweeping bill to improve early childhood education, a policy to open up millions in funds for social-emotional learning, and a cap on insulin copays. I was honored to be named one of the 10 Best Legislators by Texas Monthly magazine for these accomplishments.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) If I am re-elected to serve in the Texas House of Representatives, my priorities will be to continue organizing for a high quality and equitable education for all of our children — as well as affordable and accessible health care for all Texans. These foundational issues particularly impact AAPI communities and have been overshadowed by endless Republican culture wars for too long.
(2) In addition to addressing these issues, I will always work towards a more inclusive Texas. I will evaluate every piece of legislation on whether it would promote this inclusive vision and eliminate barriers due to systemic racism. The AAPI community has faced a disturbing rise in hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic and it must be addressed.
(3) After years filled with extremist right-wing legislating, I will continue being a vocal opponent to this harmful agenda while pushing for inclusivity and common sense policies from the expansion of Medicaid to increased state funding for public schools.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
The ability to access and understand government services is fundamental. I strongly support increasing language access and resources so that our state government can work for all Texans. AAPI communities are fast-growing and have a rich diversity of languages. I will work with AAPI advocates and state government agencies to understand where we need to improve our access to resources in various languages and how the Legislature can lead on this effort.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
Our right to vote is sacred. I support online voter registration, expanding early voting periods and voting hours, more polling locations, increasing language access, expanding curbside voting, eliminating partisan and racial gerrymandering, county-wide voter centers, and repealing voter suppression laws. Voting is foundational to our democracy and we must continue to shine a light on Republican efforts at voter suppression.
TX State House
District 52

The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES

Luis Echegaray (D)
Caroline Harris (R)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I'm a U.S. Army Veteran and have been working the Wireless Industry for over 14 years. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Education. I used my California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential to teach 6th grade for four years. I have two teen daughters in the Round Rock ISD. My parents immigrated legally to the U.S from Ecuador. My father was an entrepreneur for over four decades demonstrating to me and my two brothers that the American dream was possible.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
When James Talarico decided who was not going to run in HD 52 and moved to Travis County, no one filed to run for the seat. I feel that having the mere courage to run, as a political novice is exactly the reason why I am the right individual to serve in this office.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) The rise in hate crimes against the AAPI community, especially since the pandemic, needs to be addressed.
(2) AAPIs are the least likely of any racial or ethnic group to report mental health issues and to seek mental health services. While there is a cultural barrier that frowns on mental illness for AAPI's, there also challenges such as low cultural competency among service providers, insufficient multilingual services and challenges with healthcare and insurance.
(3) There are many government services the cater to the latino community but not the AAPI community. There needs to be a concerted effort to address this disparity.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
One simple thing that can be done is to provide a QR code for all written government services and resources that would allow the citizen access the information they are looking for in their native language.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
If elected, I will fight for ALL voters to have equal access to safe and fair elections. I will work hard to roll back the voter suppression laws passed by the Texas legislature.
TX State House
District 116

The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES
Trey Martinez Fischer (D)
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a ten-term state representative and attorney from the West Side of San Antonio. I currently serve on the House Committee on Ways & Means and the House Committee on Corrections. San Antonio has been my home for my entire life, and I am proud to have served my neighbors and my community for as long as I have. Outside of the Legislature, both my wife and I are practicing attorneys and proud parents of two daughters.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I have served my community in HD-116 for over 20 years. I was born and raised here, I went to school here, and I’ve spent the better part of my career learning how best to represent my neighbors. At this critical moment for our state, we need experienced, principled legislators to fight for the most vulnerable among us.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Fix electoral maps adopted in 2021 that disproportionately harm people of color, including the AAPI community.
(2) As the Legislature restricts access to the ballot, ensure that all materials explaining new changes are printed and distributed in a wide variety of languages.
(3) Strengthen hate crime laws to protect marginalized groups, particularly following the rise in violence against AAPI people over the past few years.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I will gladly support any effort to ensure state resources, web pages, and communications are available in a variety of languages. This is particularly important for emergency communications, changes to election procedures, and other major changes to policy that impact constituents across the state.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
The fight for voting rights has been the cornerstone of my career. Texas needs fair elections, free of intimidation and suppression, and I will fight tooth and nail against any anti-democratic legislation that is introduced next session. In 2021, I helped organize the Texas quorum break because I believe we cannot sit idly by and let the state corrupt our elections in the name of integrity. While Congress fails to act, state lawmakers must do everything in their power to defend our democracy.
TX State House
District 117

The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES
Philip Cortez (D)*
Aaron Schwope (R)

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a single father raising my son and seeing how much change needs to be made to prepare our children for the future.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
Because I am not a long term politician, I am wanting to make a difference for our children's future.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
Too many government restrictions on developing new products, technology and trained professionals. I would help voice their concerns to state agencies to help reduce, if possible, as many restrictions as we can, without violating any rules or laws.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I would work with local governments to arrange any necessary staff to help with language barriers.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I would communicate with your office to make sure you feel your Voters are counted and have candidate's information.
The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES

John Lujan (R)
Frank Ramierz (D)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
Born and raised in San Antonio on the south side of San Antonio. 6 1/2 years as a Bexar County Deputy Sheriff and 25 years in the San Antonio Fire Department. I retired 10 years ago from SAFD and am currently a VP at a local Technology Company - Y&L Consulting. I have been married for 38 years and have 5 boys. I am very active in the community coaching, Sunday school teacher (youth), and various organizations.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I believe I have seen the good, bad and ugly of life. I work hard to help others and I mentor many young people through Church and business. I am a very hard worker and I focus on delivering value to our community. I have a long history of serving and giving back.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
1) Promoting positive messages - flipping any negative message is important and especially when coming from elected officials. Far too many misconceptions concerning the Asian community.
2) Violence - As an elected official it is important to understand the issues facing the people of other countries. We should not tolerate any violence and racial violence should carry swift and deterrent type punishment.
3) Mental Health Consideration - This is a diverse group that many times has great challenges. Mental Health resources to better understand the issues and experiences faced by many of the unique and diverse AAPIs. One key to addressing them is getting better data about AAPIs.
4) Asian Language - It is so important to have funded programs for learning English. The faster we teach people to communicate, the quicker absorption is made into society.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I believe it is extremely important to provide language resources. I encourage groups to provide me with evidence based language learning programs. To provide these services has critical impact for the individual and community, but mostly for the individual. I am a firm believer that teaching English is a critical factor in the success of integrating and achieving success in the U.S. and is a valuable investment.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
My office will work with communities to make sure all our election procedures are understood and the dates, times and locations are known and practical. A key point to know is my open door policy and my deliberate efforts to meet with constituent groups to listen and work to alleviate issues facing those constituents.
TX State House District 121

The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES
Steve Allison (R)*
Becca Moyer DeFelice (D)

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I'm a mom, Asian, and project management consultant who has organized communities across Texas to advocate for gun safety policy at the local, state, and federal levels. In 2020, I worked with State Sen. Roland Gutierrez to draft a rural mental health bill that passed as part of the Department of Agriculture Sunset Review. A transracial adoptee, I grew up on a working farm in rural Pennsylvania. If elected, I'll make history as the first Democratic AAPI woman to serve in the Texas Legislature.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
As a Texas mom, I know we cannot wait for the current representative to take a stand for Texas families. In the last session, Texans' rights were stripped away by the Legislature - the right to a quality, unbiased education, to bodily autonomy, to protection from gun violence, to vote, and even our right to a future with clean air & water. My advocacy work, lived experience, and commitment to my community make me the right person and this is the right time. We can win this race in November.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
Healthcare access & affordability, Public Education, & Voting Rights. I believe that to truly safeguard our future, we need to invest in Texans' access to healthcare, quality education, and voting rights.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I believe that all Texas state websites should be translated for significant populations to ensure that all Texans have access to information necessary for civic engagement, entrepreneurship, public/personal safety, and educational advancement. I am committed to working toward implementing this requirement.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I am committed to ensuring that all eligible voters in Texans have equal access to exercise their voting rights. From fighting discriminatory district maps to working toward overcoming language barriers, increasing voter registration and turnout, and expanding voters' right to vote by mail, I will advocate for Texans to have the ability to vote in every election.
TX State House District 122

The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES

Angi Aramburu (D)
Stephanie Berlin (L)*
Mark Dorazio (R)*

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a business owner, a first-generation college graduate with a Masters in non-profit arts management, and a mom to 3 energetic kids. I have been actively volunteering in the community for many years, currently serving on the Mayor’s Fitness Council as co-chair of the communications committee. For the past six years, I have served on the PTA Board, including President for two years.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I am a dedicated public servant who has spent my career working for non-profits and volunteering in the community. I am running to represent our District because I care deeply about this community and want to ensure we all have the same opportunities for success. I am committed to working across the aisle to find common ground in order to solve our biggest problems.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
Include curriculum to educate students about the rich, diverse history of Asian Americans. Actively speak out against discrimination and violence against Asian Americans.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I would like to better understand the needs surrounding this issue.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
Voting should be made easier for everyone. There should be a choice of languages beyond English and Spanish for the voting machines.
The Texas State House is the state-level legislative body that serves 2-year terms.

CANDIDATES

John Bucy III (D)
Burton Culley (L)
Michelle Evans (R)
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a small business owner serving my second term in the Legislature. My wife Molly and I are the proud parents of two girls. I am Chair of the Young Texans Caucus and Vice Chair of the IT Caucus. I am a member of the Elections Committee, Transportation Committee, and the Select Committees on Constitutional Rights and Remedies and Health Care Reform. I was chosen House Democratic Caucus Freshman of the Year in 2019 and named Best Local Elected Official by the Hill Country News in 2019 and 2020.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I’m running for re-election to keep fighting for strong public schools, Medicaid expansion and access to healthcare, good jobs and opportunity, clean air and water, and justice for all. I also want to continue to focus on legislation specifically tailored to meet the needs of jurisdictions within my district and to address constituent concerns. I am a proven leader in bringing people to the table to seek innovative solutions to the problems facing our community and our state.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
My top priorities are expanding Medicaid, increasing public school funding, and protecting voting rights. Each of these affects AAPI communities and are essential to allowing people to reach their full potential and self-determination.
(1) My focus with respect to healthcare is on Medicaid expansion, maternal mortality, mental health, addiction and harm reduction, community-based care and services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and culturally competent care and reducing disparities in access and outcomes.
(2) When it comes to schools, we need to stop attempts at book bans or prohibiting conversations on current affairs, and instead increase funding, give teachers a raise, and promote a curriculum that is culturally inclusive.
(3) Last, with respect to voting, as a member of the House Elections Committee and the Select Committee on Constitutional Rights and Remedies, I have fought to increase voter access, including protecting the right to translators and assistants.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
Having common forms and notices as well as websites or ads, such as those about economic, educational, or healthcare programs, translated should be a minimum standard. I’d work with my local political subdivisions to ensure they are doing so while supporting spending state funds to ensure state agencies are accessible. In terms of resources, we must work with chambers of commerce, civic orgs, and faith leaders to ensure AAPIs are participating and make AAPI-specific or targeted appropriations.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I am a leading voice on voting rights. I’ve been a vehement opponent of voter suppression while working to neuter harmful bills and pass laws to expand voting access. I’ve passed laws to put election info online, protect voters with disabilities, and create an online ballot by mail tracker. I’ve filed legislation to expand early voting, implement universal vote by mail, allow same day and online registration, and allow for student or state employee or tribal IDs to be used to vote, among others.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I am a native Austinite, Army veteran, liberty-minded individual who wants to get the government out of control to leave people to live their lives. I am an educated IT Consultant living in Round Rock, Texas, and have a very eclectic background.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
Because I believe government has one purpose: To protect the liberty and rights of the individual. Government should NOT control people, people control themselves, and government. I am running as Libertarian, in a primarily republican county and in a district with a majority of democratic voters, because the duopoly is horrible. The people across the State have been lead to follow either the republicans or the democrats, and there has to be a better way. I believe I am a better way.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Divisiveness in society affects everyone negatively. While I am not Asian, and cannot experience the effect, I can see how the division of groups, the segregation, causes trouble. Free markets, open competition, and diversity make society stronger.
(2) The current process of "politics as usual" has gotten this country and this State into a deep hole. Through gerrymandering, I ended up in a different district, more representative of the area, the neighborhoods around me. I decided I would try, however difficult it may be to run in a primarily Republican county, with a heavy concentration of democrats in my district. The people have been lead to one of two choices for decades. It has to stop somewhere.
(3) I applaud your Asian American Studies option. I believe we must ALL understand where we came from, and where we are, so we may understand who we are as a State, and a country. We are the "great melting pot", and we should embrace that.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
Honestly, I have not considered this, and do not have an answer. I would like to discuss further.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
First off, we need to re-evaluate our voter laws. Polling places should be open to all, yet the security and veracity of the vote should be of great importance. Polling locations should be accessible, and where a voter has difficulty reaching a site, options should be made available to either receive safe transportation, or vote remotely. I also believe we should institute "rank choice" voting, to allow everyone to determine their first/second/third choice candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I'm a married mother of three and a small business owner who has lived in Central Texas for the better part of the last 27 years. After several years in social work, and nearly fifteen years in the service/hospitality industry, I started my own health and fitness company where my focus is female strength and empowerment.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
I have a daughter with a genetic disorder and autism, so I have a lot of experience navigating not only special education in Texas public schools, but state services for medically complex children. I have long been a fierce advocate for families and freedom, and was a founder of statewide medical freedom organization in 2015, a year when I spent much of my time at the Capitol in Austin, learning about the legislative process and cultivating relationships with elected officials.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
Williamson County has seen unprecedented growth in the AAPI populations, and it is incumbent upon elected and government officials to respond to quickly changing demographics. I want to help improve our public education system by focusing on student success and college/career readiness for all students, with fair-minded expectations for various student populations and their barriers. I want to provide equal access to high-performing schools, regardless of the student's zip code or socioeconomic status.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I think partnering with groups like ATJ and community centers, as well as providing incentives for future Texas teachers to specialize in one or more of the dozens of natural languages used by AAPIs, will help improve access to public services and resources.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
Your vote is your voice and your right. I support making election participation more accessible to registered voters, while also identifying and prosecuting efforts to suppress or interfere with the participation of others.
State Board of Education District 1

The State Board of Education is the governing body responsible for setting policies and standards for the Texas public schools and managing distribution of the permanent school fund.

CANDIDATES

Melisa Ortega (D)*
Michael "Travis" Stevens (R)

*No response received from candidate.
Q1: Tell us a bit about yourself and your background.
I hold a Bachelor’s Degree in English, a Master’s degree in Education/Teacher Leadership, a Doctorate Degree in Education/Curriculum and Instruction, and am a certified ELA Teacher. This year is my 12th year as an educator and I am currently a campus administrator. During my career as an educator, I have worked as an Instructional Coach, Advanced ESL Instructor and a High School ELA teacher.

Q2: Why are you the right person to serve in this elected office?
The State Board of Education (SBOE) sets policies and standards for Texas public schools, to include setting curriculum standards, reviewing and adopting instructional materials, and establishing graduation requirements. My current job experience as a high school educator and my educational background make me the only candidate in my race with relevant experience to fulfill the duties of the job.

Q3: What are the top three AAPI issues you would like to address if elected and why?
(1) Access to APPI Literature: AAPPI authors are underrepresented in our Texas Public Schools. We need to ensure that students have access and exposure to APPI authors/poets in their lessons, activities and school libraries.
(2) APPI Language Classes: Although several APPI language courses are offered in our secondary public schools, these classes are not heavily marketed and are limited due to the shortage of teachers who are qualified to teach these courses. We need to promote APPI courses in an effort to attract both teachers and students.
(3) APPI Teachers: Texas needs to put in a greater effort to recruit APPI K-12 teachers and administrators. Marketing and recruiting efforts must be stepped up in order to attract and retain APPI teachers and administrators throughout the state.

Q4: How would you help to increase language access and resources to AAPIs if elected?
I would push for additional curriculum resources in our ESL programs and training ESL teachers on how to utilize those resources. Currently, the APPI resources available for our ESL students is limited and not all of our ESL teachers are appropriately trained to provide the type of resources needed by our AAPI students. Through additional training and access to curriculum resources, we can increase language access to all AAPI students who need additional resources.

Q5: What role would you play to ensure election laws provide all eligible AAPI voters with equal access to safe and fair Elections?
I would promote voter registration information and access at our high schools, in addition to providing voter guides and voting location information to all eligible voters who attend Texas Public Schools.