

Members of the Texas State House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Members of the State House:

We are running for the Texas House of Representatives because as our communities grow, the solutions we prioritize must advance along with them. For nearly two decades, essential progress has been stymied by Republican leadership in Austin. Partisan gerrymandering, voter suppression, and the outsized influence of corporate special interests have enabled this leadership to ignore what matters to Texans. As candidates for the State House, we are confronted daily with the reality that the status quo in our politics has eroded the public's confidence in our government.

Amid the current public health and economic crises, the widespread impact of this disconnect between voters and their representatives has become clearer than ever: small businesses struggle to get the support they need while large corporations get taxpayer-funded bailouts; families are burdened with the fear that their children – and their children's teachers – are at risk; local leaders are stripped of their abilities to protect their residents; devastating health care costs loom; all while voters are forced to jump over unnecessary hurdles to change the very system that is failing them.

In order to address these problems, we must all acknowledge and address the corrosive role big money special interests, voter suppression, and rigged electoral maps have played in shaking Texans' faith in our political system. We applaud the leadership of our Democratic colleagues in Austin in proposing bold solutions, and we insist with one voice that the time to pass robust democracy reforms through the State House is in 2021 – in the first year of a new Democratic majority. Texans demand that we work to strengthen our public schools; increase access to affordable, quality healthcare through Medicaid expansion; establish common-sense gun safety measures; urgently and equitably rebuild our economy; and conserve our environment. Democracy reforms must pass in the 87th Legislative Session to set the stage for progress on these and other issues.

To that end, we are committed to:

- ending the unjust and divisive practice of political and racial gerrymandering that currently allows the undemocratic practice of politicians picking their voters, rather than ensuring that voters fairly choose their representatives;
- establishing campaign contribution limits to decrease the influence of big donors on campaigns and quashing the political influence, real or perceived, special interests currently have in our government;
- strengthening the right to vote by establishing online and automatic voter registration and increasing access to absentee ballots;
- demanding transparency and supporting Texans' right to know the original sources of all political spending that tries to influence their votes; and
- removing, once and for all, the deliberate barriers that prevent thousands of Texans from freely and fairly exercising their right to vote.

This fall, Texans have a chance to elect a historic and diverse Democratic majority in the State House. When they do, it will show that Texans are demanding change in Austin. When we achieve this victory, a pro-democracy majority will have been elected in spite of corporate special interests, voter suppression tactics, and partisan gerrymandering. Fair maps and safe, secure, transparent elections must be priorities in the 87th Legislature. We are committed to leading this effort.

Signed,

**Rep. James Talarico**  
(HD-52)

**Angela Brewer**  
(HD-64)

**Lorenzo Sanchez**  
(HD-67)

**Brandy Chambers**  
(HD-112)

**Natali Hurtado**  
(HD-126)

**Janet Dudding**  
(HD-14)

**Sarah DeMerchant**  
(HD-26)

**Eliz Markowitz**  
(HD-28)

**Travis Boldt**  
(HD-29)

**Eric Holguin**  
(HD-32)

**Rep. Vikki Goodwin**  
(HD-47)

**Sharon Hirsch**  
(HD-66)

**Lydia Bean**  
(HD-93)

**Rep. Terry Meza**  
(HD-105)

**Celina Montoya**  
(HD-121)

**Ann Johnson**  
(HD-134)

**Rep. Jon Rosenthal**  
(HD-135)

**Rep. John Bucy III**  
(HD-136)