

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC Endorses Candidates in 2020 General Election**

HOUSTON, TX (August 3, 2020) – On Saturday, August 1, 2020, the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC held its first virtual endorsement meeting via Zoom for the 2020 General Election. With over 180 members having joined the meeting, The Caucus PAC ultimately endorsed 71 candidates in the general election.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted daily life and prohibited The Caucus from holding in-person meetings, the organization adapted its endorsement practices to continue its pursuit of electing pro-equality candidates while practicing social distancing and keeping members’ safety a top priority. “Today is a historic and important day for the Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC as we hosted our first virtual endorsement meeting,” said **Katharine Ligon, Interim President of The Caucus**. She continued, “The Caucus leaders and volunteers have dedicated countless hours to developing an effective and efficient virtual endorsement meeting.” The candidates endorsed are as follows:

President of the United States – Joe Biden  
U.S. Senator – Mary “MJ” Hegar  
U.S Representative, District 2 – Sima Ladjevardian  
U.S. Representative, District 7 – Lizzie Pannill Fletcher  
U.S. Representative, District 10 – Mike Siegel  
U.S. Representative, District 14 – Adrienne Bell  
U.S. Representative, District 18 – Sheila Jackson Lee  
U.S. Representative, District 22 – Sri Preston Kulkarni  
Texas Railroad Commissioner – Chrysta Castaneda  
Chief Justice, Texas Supreme Court – Amy Clark Meachum  
Justice, Texas Supreme Court, Place 6 – Kathy Cheng  
Justice, Texas Supreme Court, Place 7 – Staci Williams  
Justice, Texas Supreme Court, Place 8 – Gisela Triana  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3 – Elizabeth Frizell  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 4 – Tina Yoo Clinton  
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 9 – Brandon Birmingham  
Member, State Board of Education, District 6 – Michelle Palmer  
State Senator, District 4 – Jay Stittleburg  
State Senator, District 11 – Susan Criss  
State Representative, District 26 – L. “Sarah” DeMerchant  
State Representative, District 27 – Ron Reynolds

State Representative, District 83 – Addison Perry-Franks  
State Representative, District 126 – Natali Hurtado  
State Representative, District 129 – Kayla Alix  
State Representative, District 130 – Bryan J. Henry  
State Representative, District 131 – Alma Allen  
State Representative, District 132 – Gina Calanni  
State Representative, District 133 – Sandra Moore  
State Representative, District 134 – Ann Johnson  
State Representative, District 135 – Jon Rosenthal  
State Representative, District 138 – Akilah Bacy  
State Representative, District 141 – Senfronia Thompson  
State Representative, District 147 – Garnet Coleman  
State Representative, District 148 – Penny Morales Shaw  
Chief Justice, 14th Court of Appeals District, – Jane Robinson  
Justice, 1st Court of Appeals District, Place 3 – Veronica Rivas-Molloy  
Justice, 1st Court of Appeals District, Place 5 – Amparo Monique Guerra  
District Judge, 11th Judicial District – Kristen Brauchle Hawkins  
District Judge, 60th Judicial District – Fredericka Phillips  
District Judge, 80th Judicial District – Jeralynn Manor  
District Judge, 125th Judicial District – Kyle Carter  
District Judge, 127th Judicial District – R. K. Sandill  
District Judge, 129th Judicial District – Michael Gomez  
District Judge, 151st Judicial District – Mike Engelhart  
District Judge, 164th Judicial District – Cheryl Elliott Thornton  
District Judge, 165th Judicial District – Ursula Hall  
District Judge, 176th Judicial District – Nikita “Niki” Harmon  
District Judge, 178th Judicial District – Ana Martinez  
District Judge, 334th Judicial District – Dawn Deshea Rogers  
District Judge, 337th Judicial District – Colleen Gaido  
District Judge, 339th Judicial District – Te’iva Bell  
District Judge, 351th Judicial District – Natalia “Nata” Cornelio  
District Judge, 387th Judicial District – Janet Buening Heppard  
District Judge, 434th Judicial District – J. Christian Beccerra  
District Judge, 507th Judicial District – Julia Maldonado  
Harris County District Attorney – Kim Ogg  
Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 – Lesley Briones  
Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 12 – Genesis Draper  
Harris County Attorney – Christian Menefee  
Harris County Sheriff – Ed Gonzalez  
Harris County Clerk – Teneisha Hudspeth  
Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector – Ann Harris Bennett  
Harris County Department of Education, Place 5 – Erica Davis  
Harris County Department of Education, Place 7 – Obes Nwabara  
Huffman ISD School Board Position 7 – Wendy Taylor  
Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 1 – Rodney Ellis  
Fort Bend County Commissioner, Precinct 1 – Jennifer Cantu  
Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 3 – Michael Moore  
Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, Place 1 – Eric William Carter  
Harris County Constable, Precinct 1 – Alan Rosen  
Harris County Constable, Precinct 5 – Mark Alan Harrison

While The Caucus had previously held virtual membership meetings, the virtual endorsement meeting was a first for the 45-year-old organization. In order to accommodate the virtual aspect of the meeting while also maintaining Robert's Rules of Order, the Standing Rules of Endorsement, and Caucus Bylaws, the membership first adopted a series of special rules at the beginning of the meeting in order to better facilitate processes and procedures for voting and discussion.

“The Caucus takes tremendous pride in the fairness, transparency, and accessibility of our endorsement process of political candidates. We are diligent in our screening of candidates to elect pro-equality and equity candidates. Thank you to the candidates who screened before The Caucus and congratulations to the candidates who received our endorsement. We look forward to supporting each of you in victory,” said Ligon.

The Caucus congratulates all candidates that were endorsed during the meeting and looks forward to advocating for them this fall.

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*The Houston GLBT Political Caucus PAC advocates for pro-equality candidates both locally and statewide, and is the political action committee of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, the South's oldest, civil rights organization dedicated solely to the advancement of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality. Founded in 1975, The Caucus is the largest LGBTQ+ political organization in the city of Houston and Harris County.*