

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TEXAS VOTES PAC
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 3, 2020
MEDIA CONTACT: Alex Garcia; Planned Parenthood Texas Votes
Alejandro.Garcia@pptexasvotes.org; 956.337.8302

Planned Parenthood Texas Votes PAC Announces New State Legislative Endorsements

Winning a reproductive health majority in the Texas House is within reach in 2020

Austin, TX — Planned Parenthood Texas Votes PAC is proud to announce its newest endorsed candidates for the Texas Legislature ahead of the November 2020 election. These 15 challengers and 12 incumbents are running in the most competitive races in the state, make up the organization’s most diverse slate of endorsed candidates and include former Planned Parenthood patients, members of the LGBTQ+ community, civil rights champions, cancer survivors, veterans and educators.

Challengers	Incumbents
Roland Gutierrez, SD 19	Rep. Erin Zwiener, HD 45*
Sarah DeMerchant, HD 26	Rep. Vikki Goodwin, HD 47
Eliz Markowitz , HD 28*	Rep. James Talarico, HD 52
Keke Williams, HD 54*	Rep. Michelle Beckley, HD 65*
Angela Brewer, HD 64	Rep. Ana-Maria Ramos, HD 102
Sharon Hirsch, HD 66	Rep. Terry Meza, HD 105
Lorenzo Sanchez, HD 67	Rep. Rhetta Bowers, HD 113
Jeff Whitfield, HD 92	Rep. Julie Johnson, HD 115
Alisa Simmons, HD 94	Rep. Gina Calanni, HD 132
Elizabeth Beck, HD 97*	Rep. Sarah Davis, HD 134
Joanna Cattanaach, HD 108	Rep. Jon Rosenthal, HD 135
Brandy Chambers, HD 112	Rep. John Bucy, HD 136
Celina Montoya, HD 121*	
Natali Hurtado, HD 126*	
Akilah Bacy, HD 138*	

**Indicates candidates whose endorsements were previously announced.*

For the past decade, reproductive health and rights have been under constant attack by Texas politicians. We saw this first-hand when Governor Abbott took advantage of the COVID-19 public health crisis by implementing a [temporary abortion ban](#) to score political points. Abbott’s administration has also proposed politically-motivated [budget cuts to reproductive health care funding](#) during the pandemic. This is a time when people need more access to health care, not less.

Planned Parenthood Texas Votes is working to elect officials not to just defend access to sexual and reproductive health care, but to repair and expand the public health infrastructure damaged by Governor Abbott and other extremist politicians.

Statement by Dyana Limon-Mercado, Executive Director, Planned Parenthood Texas Votes

“This election is about the future of our democracy. As our country and our state grapple with the dual public health crises of systemic racism and the COVID-19 pandemic, **everything is on the line in 2020.**”

“We’re channeling our energy into activism for bold candidates and bold policies that rise to the needs of this dire time. Our nation’s work to address the pandemic and reckon with its long history of racism and systemic injustice has illuminated the need for strong leaders who will champion our health and our rights. PPTV is investing to engage voters and shift the balance of power in Texas by electing leaders who will fight to expand health care access and reproductive rights. **For PPTV and the more than 1 million Planned Parenthood supporters statewide, a reproductive health majority in the Texas House is a top priority.**”

“We are also building a more reflective democracy by endorsing our most diverse slate of candidates in the organization’s history. A healthy democracy is reflective of the experiences and identities of its people. 2020 is our chance to elect candidates who have been through similar experiences and struggles as Planned Parenthood patients and everyday Texans, and who will use that experience to inform how they lead and legislate in the Texas Capitol.”

###