

# CELINA MONTOYA

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 121



Celina Montoya is a strong community leader with a successful track-record in the nonprofit, private, and public sectors. Celina's commitment to her community has led her to serve as President of the Junior League of San Antonio, Chair of the San Antonio Area Foundation Women and Girl's Development Fund, Board Member of Landa Gardens Conservancy, and a number of other community organizations and nonprofits.

A graduate of Alamo Heights public schools, Celina's commitment to public schools goes beyond the boardroom and into the classroom. Celina worked her way through college, earning a degree in Journalism from Northwestern University. After years of reporting for Texas Public Radio, Celina left her career in journalism to start [Literacy San Antonio](#), an educational nonprofit that is committed to increasing childhood literacy.

Celina is currently the Vice President of Community and Government Relations at Alamo Fireworks, the oldest and largest family-owned fireworks company in the state. She has spearheaded negotiations with state and local governments on behalf of the Texas Fireworks Industry to develop legislation that ensures the rights of small businesses and landowners. Celina grew up in a small-business family, and has amassed a deep understanding of the challenges associated with small business ownership and the importance of investing in long-term, strategic growth for small businesses.

Celina decided to run for state house in 2018, to take her commitment to public service to the next level. Although a Democrat had not run for this seat in recent history, Celina built a strong campaign and came close. She is back this year to finish the job, and bring her commitment to fully funding public education, expanding health care access to all Texans, and creating more jobs, especially in the small business sector, to Austin.

In her downtime, Celina can be found spending time with her husband and two children, who together enjoy the art, culture, and food of San Antonio.

## WEBSITE

[celinamontoya.org](http://celinamontoya.org)

## INSTAGRAM

[@CelinaforTexas](#)

## FACEBOOK

[@CelinaforTexas](#)

## TWITTER

[@CelinaforTexas](#)

## ACTBLUE DONATE LINK

[secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-tx-montoya](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-tx-montoya)

## ON THE ISSUES

### INVESTING IN EDUCATION & OUR WORKFORCE

Celina knows that a well-educated workforce is the key to a strong economy. That's why she founded [Literacy San Antonio](#), one of San Antonio's most successful educational nonprofits. As a State Representative, Celina will prioritize investing in public education, infrastructure, and the workforce in order to ensure continued economic growth in the state.

### CREATING MORE JOBS

Celina will support job creation by advocating for fair regulations and strategic investments in priorities that help the private sector grow. She will fight bad policies that place undue burdens on homeowners and small businesses.

### EXPANDING HEALTHCARE

Despite the fact that Texas has the [highest rate of uninsured](#) residents in the US and [nearly two-thirds of Texans](#) support the expansion of Medicaid, the Texas Legislature refuses to expand health insurance access to [1.6 million](#) uninsured Texans. When elected, Celina will work to expand access to critical healthcare for all Texans. She will focus on the state's opportunities to provide veterans services, mental healthcare, reproductive healthcare, and service to children with special needs.



SISTER DISTRICT  
PROJECT

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## ABOUT THE DISTRICT

### Nested Congressional Districts

21: R+10, 35: D+15

Texas HD 121 is in San Antonio located in the Uptown neighborhood. It includes Olmos Park, Alamo Heights, Terrell Hills, and Longhorn.

penalties for people who protest against pipelines. He has also voted to allow firearms in [places of worship](#) and [school parking lots](#). Allison's [campaign website](#) boasts that he "has been awarded the highest rating by both the National Rifle Association and the Texas State Rifle Association."

## PAST RESULTS IN THE DISTRICT

### 2018 STATE LEG

Democrat: 44.69%

Republican: 53.23%

### 2018 SENATE

O'Rourke (D): 36,782; 49.72%

Cruz (R) : 36,520; 49.36%

### 2016 PRESIDENTIAL

Clinton: 33,955; 43.42%

Trump: 40,423; 51.69%

### 2012 PRESIDENTIAL

Obama: 27,422; 37.61%

Romney: 44,391; 60.88%

## WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

Democrats need 9 seats in the Texas House to gain a majority. That might seem like a lot, but it's not – there are 150 seats in the chamber. Democrats gained 12 seats in the House in 2018, the biggest shift in the House since Republicans stormed through in 2010. Momentum is now on our side.

There are 9 House seats currently held by a Republican, where Beto O'Rourke won in 2018. Even if we just won those seats, we could flip the chamber. Celina's district is one of those Beto districts.

Texas is currently a Republican trifecta. Winning this chamber will break the trifecta and provide Democrats with a critical seat at the table for redistricting, so that Republicans cannot repeat the horrible gerrymandering that has kept them locked in to power for decades.

**These are 'last chance' races: whoever is elected in 2020 will draw the next round of district lines.**

## ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Steve Allison was elected to represent District 121 in 2018. Although he has not been in the legislature long, he has quickly set to work taking hard-right votes, especially votes in favor of expanding gun owners' rights, which have earned him a [93% rating from the NRA](#). Further, in 2019, he [voted to increase the](#)

## DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other	Median Income	% Poverty	% Unemployment	% College	%HS Grad	%No HS
186,504	72,057	13.5%	52%	5.5%	37.5%	2.4%	.2%	\$67,489	9.10%	2.9%	50.4%	43.6%	6%



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## REDISTRICTING & GERRYMANDERING

Texas Republicans have epically gerrymandered the state's congressional and state legislative lines. As one measure of how far out of whack the lines are, Texas currently has 36 seats in the House of Representatives, and according to statewide voting patterns 19 of those seats should be filled by Republicans, and 17 of them should be occupied by Democrats. Instead, Texas is represented by 23 Republicans and only 13 Democrats.

The maps that the GOP-controlled state legislature [drew](#) after the 2010 census have been the subject of extensive litigation. Unfortunately, on June 25, 2018, the Supreme Court reversed a district court decision that had struck down several congressional and state legislative district lines in the state as unconstitutional racial gerrymanders. The decision in [Abbott v. Perez](#) put to rest a seven-year legal battle over Texas's

gerrymandered legislative maps. The conservative Supreme Court essentially rejected the claims that Republican lawmakers in the state had drawn electoral districts to intentionally dilute minority voters' influence—otherwise known as racial gerrymandering. This has likely emboldened the GOP to continue to gerrymander, if they manage to retain control of the legislature for the next round of mapmaking in 2021. That is why we must flip the House, to ensure that Democrats have a seat at the redistricting table.

## WHY TEXAS IS IMPORTANT

### TEXAS FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Republican Trifecta (since 2003)
- **Gubernatorial Election:** Not in 2020
- **Length of State House term:** 2 years
- **Candidate Filing Deadline:** December 9, 2019
- **State Legislative Primary Date:** March 3, 2020; Runoffs July 14, 2020 (subject to further delay)
- **Redistricting:** Congressional and state legislative lines drawn by state legislature; Governor has veto power over maps
- **Electoral College Votes:** 38

### BROADER 2020 OPPORTUNITIES

Texas is 'bluing' – and it has important implications for the presidential election. While Romney carried Texas by 16 points in 2012, Trump's win was by 9 points just four years later. And since then, demographic and partisan shifts have continued to swing in our favor, as evidenced by Beto O'Rourke's narrow 3-pt loss for the Senate in 2018, and Democrats' 12-seat pickup in the state house that year.

There is a competitive Senate race (R-Cornyn), as well as a tremendous number of important, competitive Congressional races in TX this year (including TX-22, TX-24, TX-10, TX-21 and TX-31).

Working to support TX State House candidates will be instrumental in helping drive turnout up and down the ticket in this historic election year.



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