

JOANNA CATTANACH

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 108



Joanna Cattanaach is a teacher, mom, and community advocate. She was honored to serve as the Democratic nominee for House District 108 in 2018. Her grassroots campaign moved the district from a 20-point Republican advantage to one separated by just 220 votes after a recount. It was the largest margin gained by any state house candidate in Dallas County, with record setting voter turnout. This district, its values, and its families are worth fighting for and Joanna is fired up to finish what was started.

Joanna and her family proudly call East Dallas home. They love the neighborhood's public schools and parks, and the diversity of this district. She is a native Texan and was born in Fort Worth. At three, Joanna and her brother were placed into the state's foster care system and she knows all too well the challenges the most vulnerable children in the community face each day. That's why she's worked as an advocate and leader on issues from immigration to women's rights to education and public safety. As a former foster care child, Joanna will fight for children in foster care and work to alleviate the overburdened system.

Joanna's father was a welder with an eighth grade education. He taught her to work hard and treat others with respect. After graduating from high school, she took a dirt road out of town to Baylor University and earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Master's degree in International Journalism. Joanna later moved to Dallas to fulfill her dream of becoming a reporter. She considers her time as a full time journalist to be among the most rewarding years of her life. Joanna has spent the last 10 years teaching journalism and communications, giving students the skills to honor facts, to honor voices, and to appreciate free speech and a free press.

Joanna is running for office because this district needs a new voice and new leadership in Austin. With roots in this district, and having worked in areas and neighborhoods to increase voter turnout and fight for community issues, Joanna is ready to be the leader the district needs.

WEBSITE

joannafortexas.com

FACEBOOK

[@JoannaForTexas](https://www.facebook.com/JoannaForTexas)

TWITTER

[@JoannaCattanach](https://twitter.com/JoannaCattanach)

ACTBLUE DONATE LINK

secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-tx-cattanach

ON THE ISSUES

ECONOMY AND JOBS

Joanna vows to fight for and grow Texas' economy. She will push Austin to invest in green jobs and workforce training as well as incentives for the arts and film production, small business development and community-centered development. She will also advocate for investment in community colleges and workforce and trade education. This will help produce a better infrastructure to meet the demands of the state's growing economy.

also supports making family planning and mental health services more accessible and affordable for all Texans.

HEALTHCARE

Joanna supports increased funding for healthcare, including mental health services. She will fight for the state to further invest in community and school clinics and other innovative healthcare options, to get Texans the necessary coverage they need to stay healthy. She

EDUCATION

As an educator with over 10 years of classroom experience, Joanna has seen the value of a quality public education. She supports increased state funding to public schools and universities in order to ensure that teachers are paid adequately, and that students get the education they deserve. Joanna also supports universal pre-k education and free community college, as well as alternative educational opportunities, such as technical training, which will help fulfill immediate workforce needs.



SISTER DISTRICT
PROJECT

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REDISTRICTING

Joanna supports setting up an independent redistricting commission in Texas that will help end the practice of gerrymandering in the state. This commission will allow constituents to choose their representatives instead of the other way around.

EQUALITY

Joanna is a proud ally of the LGBTQ community and was an outspoken opponent of the state's religious liberty law that effectively bans gay families from adoption. She will fight to protect the LGBTQ community's rights to marriage, adoption, insurance, and protection against wrongful termination.

ENVIRONMENT

Texans have a responsibility to protect the state's environmental future. This is why Joanna will fight to strengthen environmental regulations and empower state regulators to hold corporations and businesses accountable for contaminating the earth, water, and air. Dangerous drilling techniques that contaminate water supplies, endanger communities, and make land uninhabitable aren't building a better Texas. Joanna supports green transportation, community parks, and the smarter use of natural resources in urban environments.

CPS AND FOSTER CARE

As a former foster child, and the first, when elected, to serve in the state legislature, Joanna knows the challenges the most vulnerable in the community face each day. She will advocate for adoption and fight to make the process less discriminatory, opening up more homes to foster children. Additionally, Joanna will fight for foster children to have better access to college and workforce training.

GUN SENSE

As a former Moms Demand Action-approved candidate and a current member, Joanna supports increased background checks and a state-wide gun surrender policy to keep firearms away from dangerous offenders. She opposes campus carry legislation that puts students at risk, and she opposes marshal programs that place an undue burden on teachers and greater liability on urban school districts.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Nested Congressional Districts

5: R+16, 24: R+9, 30: D+29, 32: R+5

Texas House District 108 includes the northern-central portion of Dallas County. District 108 encompasses Downtown, Uptown, Lakewood, Highland Park and University Park.

PAST RESULTS

IN THE DISTRICT

2018 STATE LEG

Democrat: 49.72%

Republican: 50.28%

2018 SENATE

O'Rourke (D): 46,363; 57.15%

Cruz (R) : 34,073; 57.15%

2016 PRESIDENTIAL

Clinton: 39,584: 50.32%

Trump: 34,622: 44.01%

2012 PRESIDENTIAL

Obama: 27,031: 39.31%

Romney: 40,564: 58.99%

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

| Popula- tion | House- holds | Over 65 | White | Black | Latinx | Asian | Other | Median Income | % Poverty | % Un- employ- ment | % 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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ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Republican Morgan Meyer was first elected to represent this district in 2014. He is staunchly anti-choice, with a voting record that has earned him 4% from NARAL Texas. His anti-environment votes have earned him 29% from Sierra Club Lone Star, and his anti-LGBTQ votes have earned a 17% from Equality Texas. One group he is in spectacular standing with is the [NRA \(93%\)](#).

Among other regressive legislation, Meyer co-sponsored a bill allowing [religious organizations to discriminate](#) against LGBTQ couples and deny them the chance to solemnize their marriages. In 2017, Meyer also co-sponsored a bill to make it [harder to women to access abortions](#) outside of medical emergencies by requiring insurance companies to increase premiums on such procedures. In 2019, co-sponsored another bill [further stigmatizing abortion](#) by establishing additional liabilities for physicians performing certain abortions. Even further, Meyer has voted [against vaccinations](#), [against the immigrant community](#), and [against voting rights](#).

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 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. Joanna's district is one of those Beto districts -- Beto received 57.15% of the votes in this district in 2018.

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.

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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.

