

STATE OF THE

**TEXAS
WOMAN**

2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 Overview

03 2022 Midterm Elections

10 2018 vs. 2022
The Race to Parity

12 Stories Behind the Numbers

15 Next Steps

16 Important Definitions

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

We started Lone Star Parity Project in 2017 to answer a simple question: How many women+ run for all levels of office in Texas? This proved to be harder to answer than we expected.

Over the past six years, we've discovered trends that have slipped under the radar. Republican women+ win at a higher percent than their Democratic counterparts. Democratic women+ are closer to parity than Republican women+. All women+ win at higher rates than their male counterparts. And yet, we're still working to answer that original question.

We now present to you our third report, State of the Texas Woman 2023. For the first time in Texas history, we are ecstatic to share: **Texas is near parity**, meaning Texas is closer than ever to equal representation to men and women.

With 208 more elected women, Texas would have achieved parity in 2022. But that's not the full story. In this report, you'll find new facts and stats outlining where Texas has made gains and where more progress is possible.

Whether you're a long-time supporter or just learning about us, thank you for taking the time to reflect on what parity means for Texas.

In strength and solidarity,



Adrianna Maberry



Brooke López

OVERVIEW

Texas women+ near parity in 2022 midterm elections.

With 1,261 women+ elected during the 2022 midterm elections, Texas trended closer than ever before to achieving parity (electing the same number of men and women) during the 2022 cycle. That's not the only good news though. Women+ continue to solidify their role in history with political gains throughout the state. To start, more women+ sought national seats: 68 women ran for U.S. House positions collectively.

Republican women had several "firsts." Monica De La Cruz became the first Republican to win the 15th U.S. Congressional District located in South Texas. Mayra Flores (TX CD-34) became the first U.S. Congresswoman-elect born in Mexico. Caroline Harris (TX HD-52) became the youngest Republican woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives.

Democratic U.S. Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX CD-30) retired, ending 30 years of service as the longest-serving U.S. House representative from Texas. Erin Gámez (TX HD-38) became the first woman elected to House District 38 and youngest individual in the Texas House of Representatives at the time of her special election.

At the local level, Harris County elected two Latinas to the Commissioner's Court for the first time: Lina Hidalgo and Lesley Briones. Travis County elected women+ into all twelve civil district judge seats. These women's stories are part of the progress towards parity.



Monica De La Cruz (TX-15)



Eddie Bernice Johnson



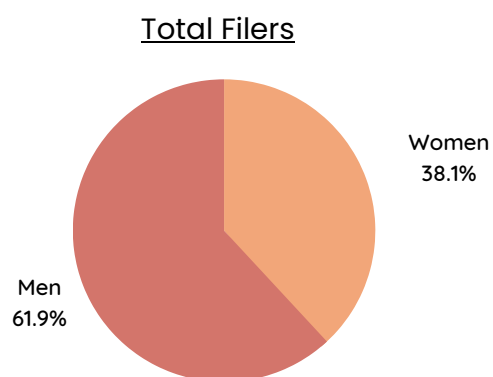
Briones (left) and Hidalgo (right)

2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

How many women+ filed?

Filing for office means an individual submitted an application for a spot on the ballot. In a campaign, filing to run for office is the first step.

2,133 women+
out of 5,603 total candidates



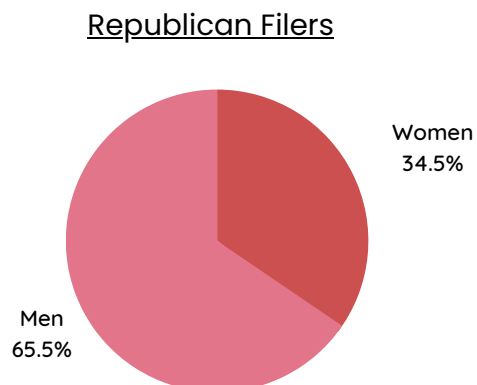
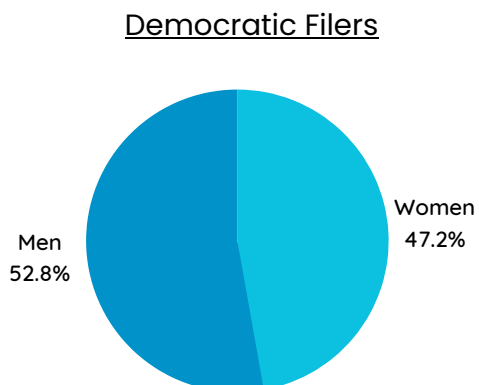
Democrats vs. Republicans: Filings

More Republican women+ filed for office than Democratic women+.

739 women+
out of 1,566 total candidates

1394 women+
out of 4,037 total candidates

However, Democratic women+ made up a greater percentage of all Democratic filers than Republican women+ compared to Republican filers.



2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

How many women+ won their primary election?

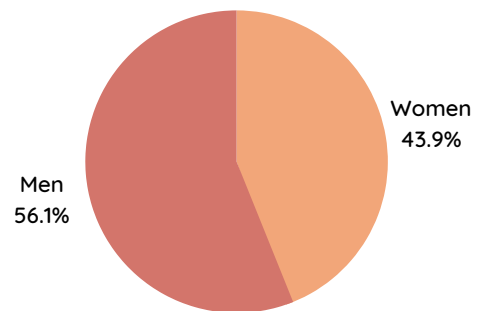
Primary elections only exist in partisan elections, meaning candidates who run for a specific political party. The goal of a primary election is to narrow down the candidate representing the Democratic party or Republican party for the November general election. For the 2022 election cycle, the primary elections occurred March 1, 2022.

Uncontested Primaries

Uncontested primaries are primary elections where only one individual runs for a party's nomination for a position. 2,612 people ran uncontested in their primary election. Of those candidates, 1,147 were women+, making up roughly 43.9% of uncontested primary candidates.

1,147 women+
out of 2,612 uncontested candidates

Total Uncontested Candidates

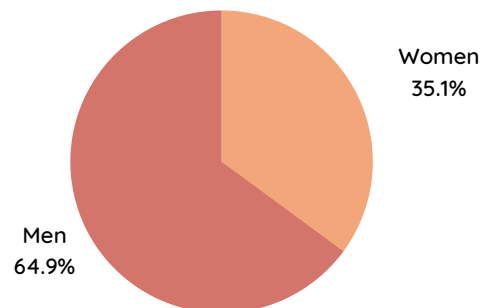


Contested Primaries

Contested primaries are primary elections where more than one individual from a certain party filed to run for a specific position. 1,385 individuals won their contested primary election, 486 of which were women+.

486 women+
out of 1,385 contested winners

Total Contested Primary Winners



2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Democrats vs. Republicans: Primary Elections

Democratic and Republican women+ win their primary elections at a higher rate than men.

543 women+

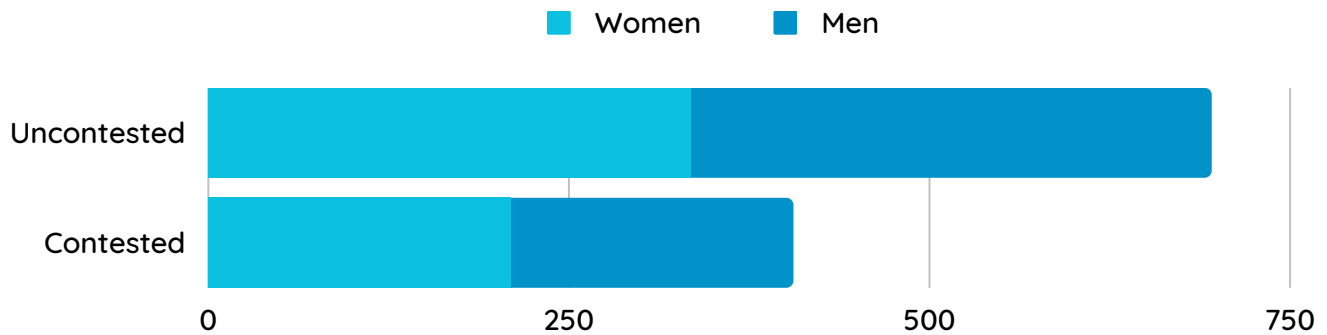
out of 1,100 Democratic primary winners

1,090 women+

out of 2,897 Republican primary winners

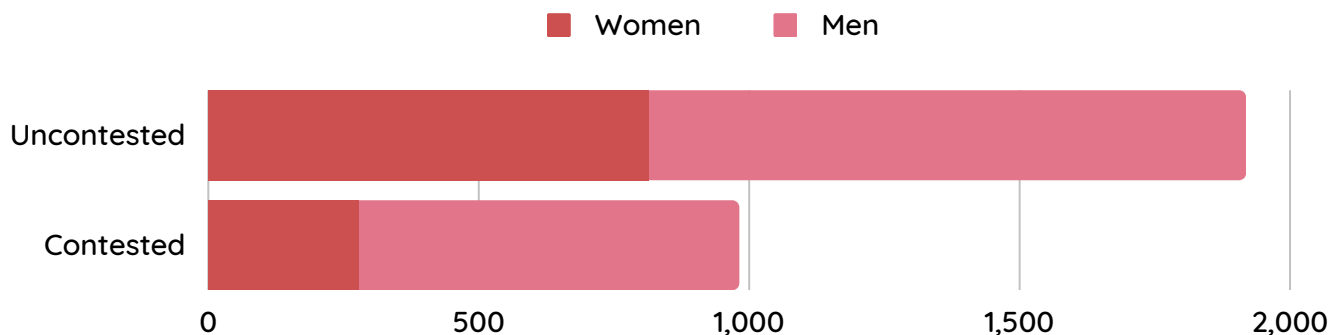
Of 1,708 Democrats in primary elections, 812 were women+. 695 of those Democrats ran uncontested, meaning they automatically won their primary elections upon filing, and 334 of those uncontested winners were women+. 209 of the 405 Democratic primary winners were women+.

Democratic Primary Winners



Of 4,373 Republicans in the primary elections, 1,471 were women+. 1,917 of those Republicans ran uncontested and 813 of those uncontested winners were women+. 277 of the 980 Republican primary winners were women+.

Republican Primary Winners



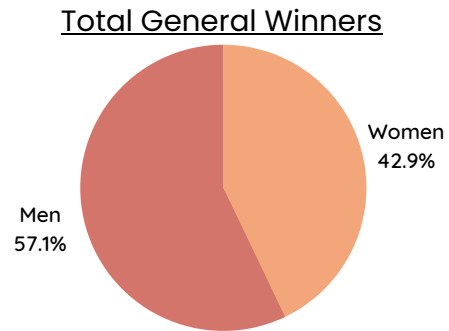
2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

How many women+ won their general election?

General elections are elections where the candidate with the most votes wins the position. Midterm general elections occur every four years and generally include most countywide and statewide races. For the 2022 cycle, the general elections occurred November 8, 2022.

Of 3,527 general election candidates, 1,543 were women+. 1,261 out of the 2,938 general election winners were women+, putting Texas at near parity for the first time in its history.

1,261 women+
out of 2,938 general election winners

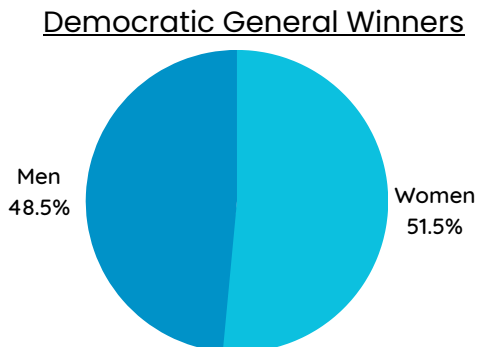


Democrats vs. Republicans: General Elections

Democratic and Republican women+ are elected at a higher rate than their male counterparts, with Republican women+ winning a seat at an astounding 90.6% rate.

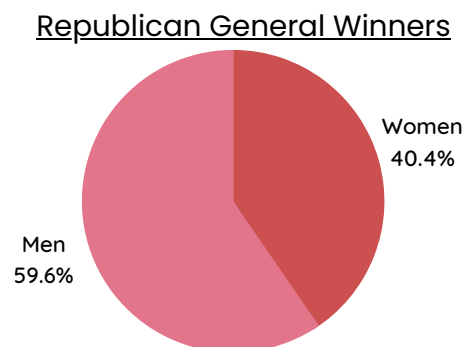
342 women+
elected out of 471 women+ candidates

Of 957 Democrats in the general elections, 471 were women+. 342 of the 664 Democratic winners were women+. At 51.5% representation for women+, the Texas Democratic winners exceed parity for the first time.



919 women+
out of 1,014 women+ candidates

Of 2,570 Republicans in the general elections, 1,014 were women+. 919 of the 2,274 Republican winners were women+. At 40.9% representation for women+, the Texas Republican winners are near parity for the first time.



2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Which elected offices have the most women+ serving?

There are twelve elected offices in Texas that have women+ serving at or above parity.

Elected Offices At or Above Parity		
Position	# of Women+ Elected	% of Women+ Elected
Commissioner of General Land Office	1	100%
County Clerk	189	93.1%
Joint County/District Clerk	64	92.2%
Tax Assessor-Collector	11	90.9%
District Clerk	187	88.8%
County Treasurer	244	83.6%
County Civil Court Judge	4	75%
Texas Supreme Court Justice	3	66.7%
State Board of Education Member	15	66.7%
County Criminal Court Judge	20	55%
District Court Judge	253	50.2%
Texas Court of Appeals Judge	16	50%

Positions like County Treasurer, County Clerk, District Clerk, and Tax Assessor-Collector continue to be dominated by women+. This is supportive of our previous finding that women+ tend to hold "behind-the-scenes" positions at a higher rate than men. Behind-the-scenes positions are roles that rarely receive a political spotlight but maintain significant operational responsibility.

Additionally, women+ hold judgeships as a whole just below parity - meaning between 40-50% of judicial positions up for election in 2022 were won by women. Judgeships includes any judicial position from Justice of the Peace to Texas Supreme Court Justice.

2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

The most populous offices are elected offices that have the largest number of seats available across Texas. Though there are more offices available for election, these positions do not always correlate with those elected at or above parity.

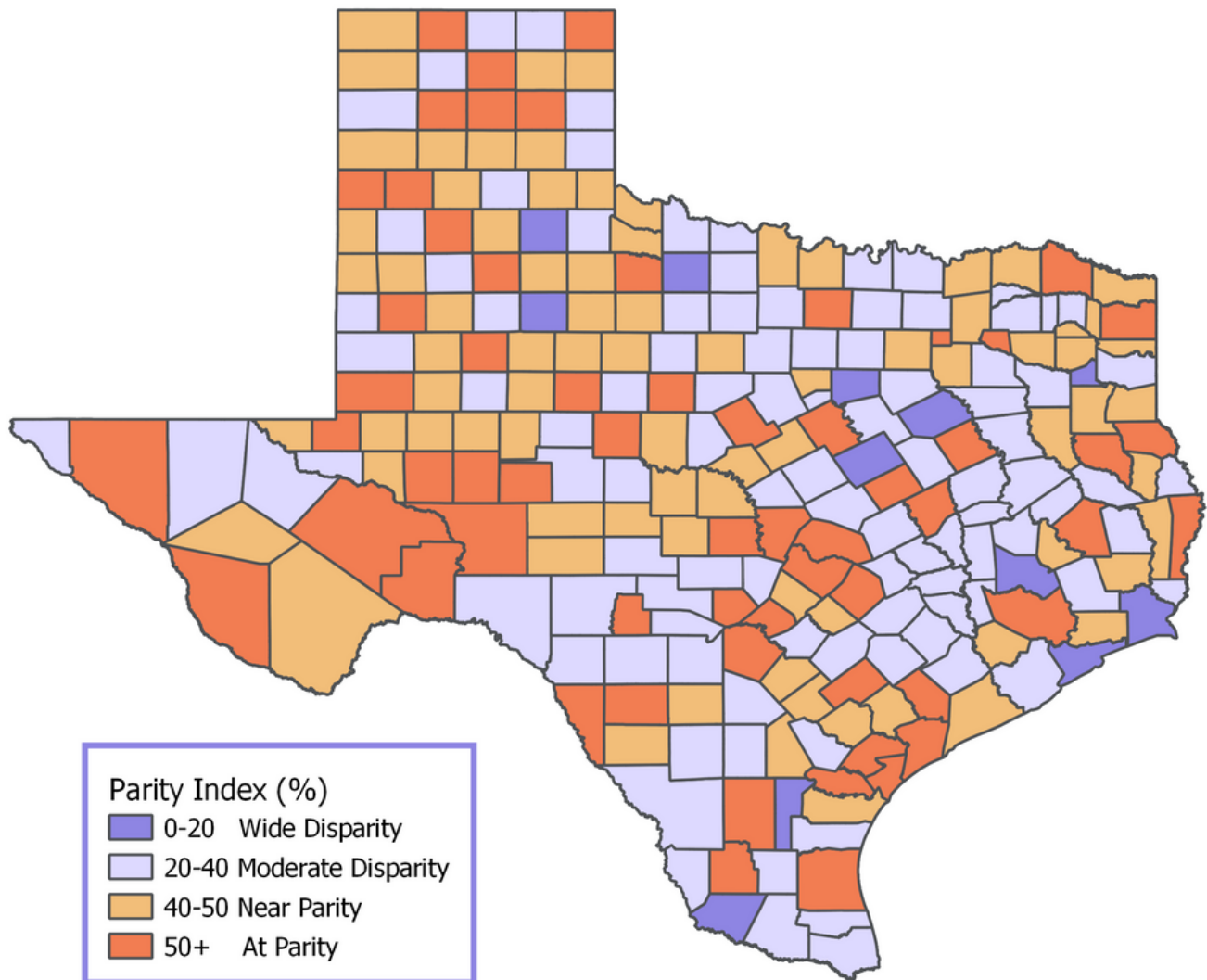
Most Populous Elected Offices			
Position	# of Available Seats	% of Women+ Elected	Parity Level
Justice of the Peace	745	40.9%	Near
County Commissioner	516	6.8%	Far Below
District Court Judge	253	50.2%	At or above
County Judge	252	12.3%	Far Below
County Treasurer	244	83.6%	At or above
County Clerk	189	93.1%	At or above
District Clerk	187	88.8%	At or above
State House Representative	151	30.5%	Below
Joint County/District Clerk	64	92.2%	At or above
Constable	60	8.3%	Far Below
Criminal District Attorney	56	37.5%	Below
U.S. Congressperson	38	21.1%	Below
Joint County/Civil Court Judge	32	46.9%	Near
State Senator	31	25.8%	Below

Only five of the most populous positions are at or above parity meaning 50% or more of the elected seats were won by women+ in the 2022 elections. Some populous positions like Constable and County Commissioner are well below parity at less than 10% of elected seats won by women+. Women’s representation in high level policymaking positions like State Senator, State House Representative, U.S. Congressperson, and statewide executive positions barely breaks 30%, even with the national average.

2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

What counties elected the most women+?

Geographic representation across the state is an important intersection of parity, of which we are only beginning to understand. Below is a map showing parity levels by county. 101 counties out of 254 elected candidates at parity in 2022. 105 counties increased their parity percentage from the 2018 midterm elections, as 149 counties decreased. Rural counties (less than 100,000 people) are more likely than their more populated counterparts to be at parity, with around 25% of rural counties above parity. Despite gains, only 3.4 million of the 29.1 million people in Texas live in a parity county.



2018 VS. 2022 THE RACE TO PARITY

2018 was called the "Year of the Woman" because the number of women+ elected to office spiked. Our analysis shows this was a catalyst for ongoing growth in the 2022 elections.

How many women+ filed?

More women+ filed to run for elected office in 2022 than they did in 2018.

1,901 women+

2018

2,133 women+

2022

How many women+ won?

More women+ won elected office in 2022 than they did in 2018.

1,213 women+

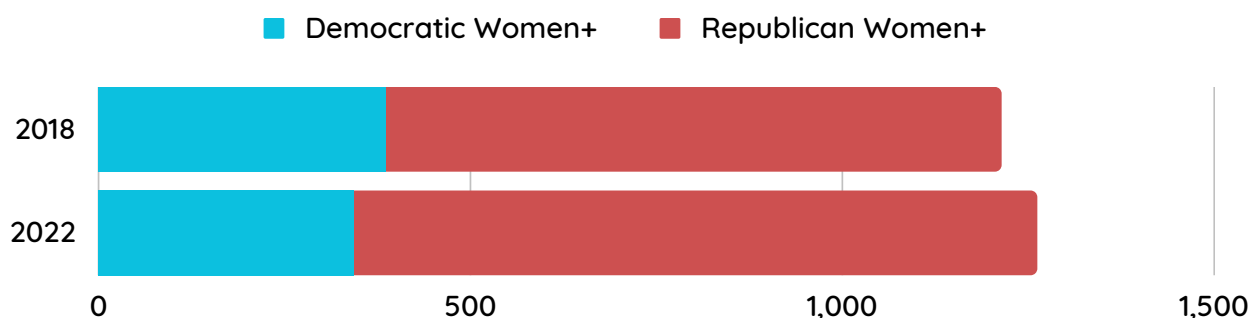
2018

1,261 women+

2022

Democrats vs. Republicans: who elected more women+?

More Republican women+ won elected office in both 2018 and 2022. In 2018, 385 Democratic women+ won while 828 Republican women+ won. In 2022, 342 Democratic women+ won while 919 Republican women+ won.

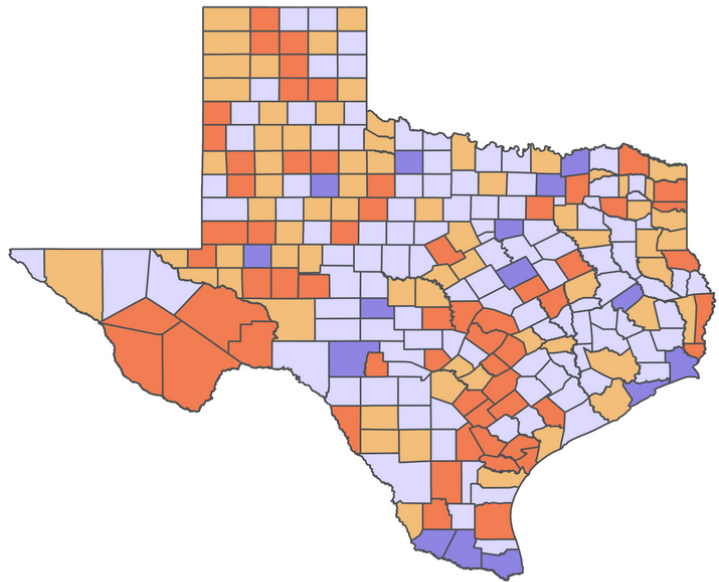


2018 VS. 2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

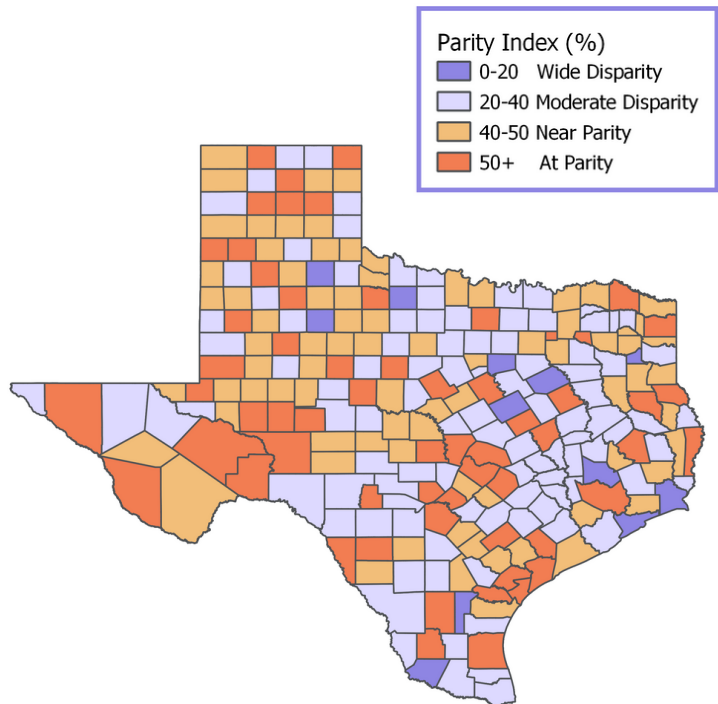
What counties elected the most women+?

These counties elected the most women+ comparative to the number of elected seats. 74 counties remained at or above parity, 37 counties gained parity, 22 counties lost parity, and 121 counties have never attained parity.

2018	
County	% of office held by women+
Cass	81.82%
Freestone	80%
Terrell	75%
Irion	75%
Travis	71.43%
Terry	71.43%
Duval	70%
Parmer	70%
Bee	70%
Burnet	66.67%



2022	
County	% of office held by women+
Real	83.33%
Kendall	75%
Terrell	75%
Polk	72.73%
Rains	71.43%
Burnet	70%
Duval	70%
Falls	70%
Freestone	70%
Hutchinson	70%



STORIES BEHIND THE NUMBERS

On top of crunching the numbers from the 2022 election cycle, we also interviewed women+ from across the Lone Star State. Read their stories on our website at www.lonestarparityproject.org/posts.

Grassroots Changemakers

Activists who accomplished significant change



Angelica Erazo

Received national recognition for crowdsourcing during Hurricane Harvey, COVID, and Ice Storm Uri



Rebecca Acuña

Served as Texas State Director for the Biden-Harris Presidential Campaign



Montserrat Garibay

Serves as Senior Advisor of Labor Relations for the Department of Education under the Biden Administration



Cimajie Best

Founder of Girl Power, a mentorship program for girls in inner-city Dallas

STORIES BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Captivating candidates

Candidates who shaped Texas politics this term



Rochelle Garza

Democratic nominee for Texas Attorney General who, if elected, would've been the first Latina to hold the position



Uduak Nkanga

Youngest candidate to run for Texas House of Representatives, District 113 in the 2022 cycle



Jessica Cisneros

Candidate for hotly contested U.S. Congressional District 28 encompassing portions of the Southern Texas border



Tiesa Leggett

Ran for Fort Worth City Council District 6. the first woman to do so in more than 15 years



Irma Duran

Ran for Northside ISD Board of Trustees where, if elected, she would've been the first woman elected since 1981

STORIES BEHIND THE NUMBERS

The Honorables

Public officials who represent the Lone Star State



Deanna Hammond

Elected Constable in Dallas County, Precinct 2 as not only the first woman but also the first Black woman.



Lucy Hebron

First woman elected County Judge in Wood County, a small county in East Texas.



Kenda Culpepper

First woman elected as Rockwall County District Attorney in North Texas



Carol Alvarado

Represents Texas Senate District 6, a position she held when she engaged in a historic 15-hour filibuster



Veronica Escobar

First woman to represent U.S. Congressional District 16 and one of the two first Latinas elected to Congress from Texas

NEXT STEPS

Where does Texas go from here?

Women+ are on the path to parity. Women+ were elected to 42.9% of open seats in the 2022 midterm elections - roughly 7% away from parity. This positive upward trend beat 2018's electoral percentage, indicating women+ are continuing to file for and win office at an increased rate. However, this is only a step towards the direction of parity. Women+ need to consistently hold 50% of elected office across different levels of offices and several cycles before parity can be reached.

How do we reach parity?

Below are some of Lone Star Parity Project's initiatives and goals to shine a brighter light on our journey to parity in Texas.

1

EXPAND TEXAS 254 WOMEN+

We are comparing women's stories from each of Texas' 254 counties, giving us an insight into differences based on geographic spread.

2

EXPLORE CITYWIDE DATA

We hope to expand our research into citywide data, capturing how many women+ run at the municipal level, in addition to county, districts, and statewide.

3

ADD GENDER TO THE APP

Everyone has to file an application to run for office in Texas which captures personal information like residency. We recommend including gender on these applications.

4

LAUNCH INCLUSIVE SURVEY

We hope to launch a survey, capturing qualitative traits of elected officials such as ethnicity, military background, and socioeconomic status.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

Texas Politics: When we use the term “Texas politics”, our entity is referring to any changes entering or resulting from activism in the political sphere of Texas. This includes work that is accomplished outside of Texas state barriers so long as it affects or impact persons from Texas. When we use the term “politics”, this is not limited to public officials or candidates. We are charged with the duty to gain the perspective of people who are outside of the formal structure of Texas government to gather clarity and insight on the political process. Additionally, we do not limit our research to the traditional understanding of “Texans”; we include any people who are born, raised, or currently reside in Texas, regardless of their background.

Women+: For the purpose of our entity, women+ is defined as any person who identifies as a woman. This definition is inclusive and not limited to transitioning, transgender, questioning, non-binary, gender fluid, and gender non-conforming persons. This expanded definition is represented by the plus sign.

Intersectional: Intersectionality is the cross-section of various identities, both physical and non-physical, that a person identifies with. An intersectional woman is a woman+ that identifies with a variety of communities and interests.

Near Parity: The term “near parity” is our own coined term which indicates that an entity is close to reaching an equal state of representation between men and women. For report purposes, near parity will represent areas with women+ serving in 40%-50% of all elected offices in a given area.

Parity: The term “political parity” refers to an equal state of representation for intersectional women+ across all levels of government. We view an “equal state of representation” as a proportional number of women+ and men elected that actively represent the interests of the community from which they hail. Percentage wise, this would mean women+ serving at 50%.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lone Star Parity Project cannot express its full gratitude to the incredible team that brings these reports to the public. Without the essential determination and diligence of the LSPP team, this report would not have been possible. Thank you to our staff, our Board of Advisors, University of Texas at Dallas Jindal OutREACH Volunteers, and our digital content creator Sarah Brusio.

Lone Star Parity Project is advancing women+ in Texas politics by amplifying voices and magnifying research.

No one knows how many women+ make up the thousands of countywide, judicial, and municipal seats across 254 counties in Texas. We are the leading entity aggregating these numbers and stories statewide. Our novel approach builds the most comprehensive database of its kind that shows how many women+ file, run, and win public office in the Lone Star State.

Contact

www.lonestarparityproject.org
info@lonestarparityproject.org
209-481-5435