STATE OF THE TEXAS WOMAN

2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

The Lone Star Parity Project is a nonpartisan, online publication dedicated to sharing the stories of women and femmes in Texas politics with a goal of discovering useful trends and tools that, once utilized, can educate the public regarding political parity across all levels of government. Our main goal will be to share the advice and stories of participants, analyze current and past trends in political research, and compile results into educational platforms that will be geographically assigned to each region of Texas.

The organization maintains two important components: research and features. The research aspect provides a one-stop location for trends and patterns related to women elected to office, as well as works to understand the underlying influences that affect women and femmes in politics. Our 'features' section brings our research to life by gathering the stories of those who are currently involved within the Texas realm of politics and provides uncanny insight to illustrate the rich fabric of women's experiences. By combining these two facets, the Lone Star Parity Project will have the opportunity to create toolkits for women hoping to seek office from all corners of Texas with specific information catered to their geographic location.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS: What do these words mean?

"Texas politics": When we utilize 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 in any way. 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.

Femmes: For the purpose of our entity, femmes is defined as a person who presents and acts in a traditionally feminine manner. "Feminine manner" is a self-identifying quality that is also inclusive, but not limited to, transitioning, transgender, questioning, non-binary, gender fluid, and gender non-conforming persons.

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 or femme that identifies with a variety of communities and interests (i.e. an immigrant woman or a woman from the LGBTQ community).

Near Parity: The term "near parity" is our own coined term which indicates that a location 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 and femmes across all levels of government. We view an "equal state of representation" as an even 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%.

BACKGROUND

The State of Texas lacks in political representation for intersectional women, ranking in the bottom half of states in terms of women's involvement in the electoral process, women's representation in elected office, and connectivity with current elected officials. Without fair and active representation in the political process, women's voices are muted from key decision-making opportunities.

ISSUE: Why is gender parity important to Texas politics?

Women make up only 20.4% of elected office in Texas, compared to their male counterparts.

At the federal level, women have seen the greatest difficulty seeking public office. Only 7 women have ever represented Texas in the U.S. Congress with the first being delayed until 1966. Currently, only 3 women serve as U.S. Representatives and a sole woman has ever served as a U.S. Senator for Texas. At the statewide level, women serve in a greater percentage of office than in higher level offices. Only two women have served as a Texas Governor with both being Democrats; a Republican woman has never served as Texas Governor. Within State Legislature, women have held a consistent, or close to, 20% of elected seats in both the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate since 1992, "The Year of the Woman".[i]

Texas ranks 34th out of 50 in the United States with the overall percent of women serving in office never surpassing 20%.
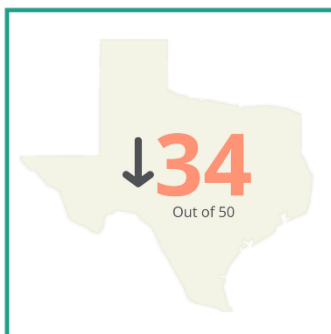
The percentage of women serving in Texas public office falls short of the national average at 24%. [ii]Though the Lone Star state does not rank in the bottom 10 states like Wyoming at 11.1%, it is far from the climb towards political parity. Currently, no state holds an even 50-50 percentage of men and women in office but states like Arizona and Nevada are the closest at 40%. In addition, Texas is home to 13 of the largest cities in the United States yet only one, Fort Worth, is governed by a woman mayor. [iii]

Women of color serve at 12.4% of elected office in Texas including federal, statewide and local level offices

Women of color includes minority racial groups of women and femme candidates who identify as Hispanic, African-American, or Asian-American. Women from these racial identities or backgrounds serve at a far lower percentage in elected office than women who identify as Anglo-American. When broken down into levels of government, women of color serve at the lowest rate in mayoral and countywide positions and serve in statewide legislation at the highest rate. [iv]

There are barriers preventing women from winning their campaigns that male candidates do not face
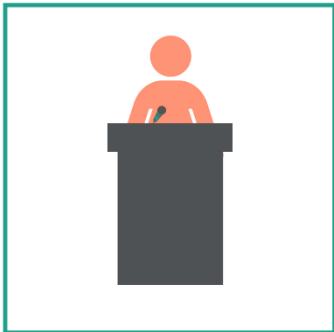
Women candidates face far greater obstacles during a campaign for public office than their male counterparts. Research indicates that women face greater scrutiny from media, especially for topics including family life and clothing, while also suffering from not gaining enough campaign media coverage compared to men. Women also tend to face greater difficulties if they take part in a partisan race. Women who either represent the Democratic or Republican party will eventually face opposition from the party itself and other nominated candidates as women are less likely to be selected over men as a nominated or endorsed representative in a general election. Additionally, women also face the binding construct of societal gender norms that pressure women to take on full-time roles as homemakers and mothers rather than serve in the public eye as a political figure.[v]

SOLUTION: How will Lone Star Parity Project answer the call for political parity?

Our long-term goal is to see more women and femmes elected to public office in Texas. Through the use of governance, we are attempting to disrupt the status quo public office in the Lone Star State. We are working fervently through the strategic use of our two branches, research and features, to bring more information to women and femmes regarding the resources and successful trends that can be used for future candidacies across the political spectrum.

Research: Within our research branch, we are aggregating multiple sources of data into one singular database that can be used for public use. This database will be in a "living", or constantly updating, format that will include present and past research trends related to women running and winning seats in elected office. We study races from the federal to the local level including primaries and primary runoffs to produce discoverable trends and patterns based on these numbers. By using these trends and patterns, we can begin to interpret what this means for future candidates and how we can help women and femmes interested in running for office, succeed.

Features: Within our features branch, we are humanizing the stories of women and femmes involved in politics across the State of Texas. We are actively humanizing leadership journeys of folks who are self-proclaimed activists, student political leaders, party affiliates, associated non-profiteers, candidates, and elected officials. Our wide variety of feature subjects gives us the opportunity to interview and understand the stories surrounding the leaders in politics at all levels. By sharing these stories, we are beginning to break down the barrier that women and femmes face in political media: they are not only overlooked but rarely have their stories shared regarding quality aspects of their campaign.

The combination: When we combine our results from our research with the insight shared in our features, we are beginning to witness a bigger picture being drawn that is "women and femmes in Texas politics." We combine the quantitative trends from our research with the qualitative data points from our features and categorize those combined results. We eventually want to provide tailored information to each geographic corner of Texas for women and femmes across of all partisan identities that will give insight as to the best tips, practices, and advice when running for office. We hope our tailored information will increase the amount of women and femmes serving in office in the Lone Star State.

OVERVIEW

Congresswoman Veronica Escobar, TX-16 (left)
and Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, TX-29 (right)

Texas LGBTQ Caucus

Harris County Judges

Nearly two decades after the first-coined "Year of the Woman" in 1992, 2018 brought the largest surge of women and femme candidates than ever before. 2018 marked the dawn of a new era for women in politics - particularly in Texas. The Lone Star state was among many states to reach an insurmountable level of "firsts" during the most recent election cycle.

The 2018 midterm election was guided by a new, non-partisan approach from voters in Texas that promoted the growth of democracy. Over fifteen million Texans were registered to vote for the election this past November 6th - the most registered voters that the state has ever seen.

Texans elected their first Latinas to Congress: Congresswomen Veronica Escobar and Sylvia Garcia. The first same-spouse couple entered the Texas Legislative Ladies club after the election of State Representative Julie Johnson.

The Texas Legislature formed its first LGBT Caucus, dedicated to active representation of the LGBT community in the policy making process.

There were nine state- and federal-level seats that witnessed head-to-head women campaigns, giving each seat a 100% chance of a woman being elected.

Harris County received national attention after the election of nineteen African-American women judges, creating a phenomenal, history-making bench.

Finally, Texas became the new unofficial swing state of the country, bringing Texas politics into a new, nationwide scope.
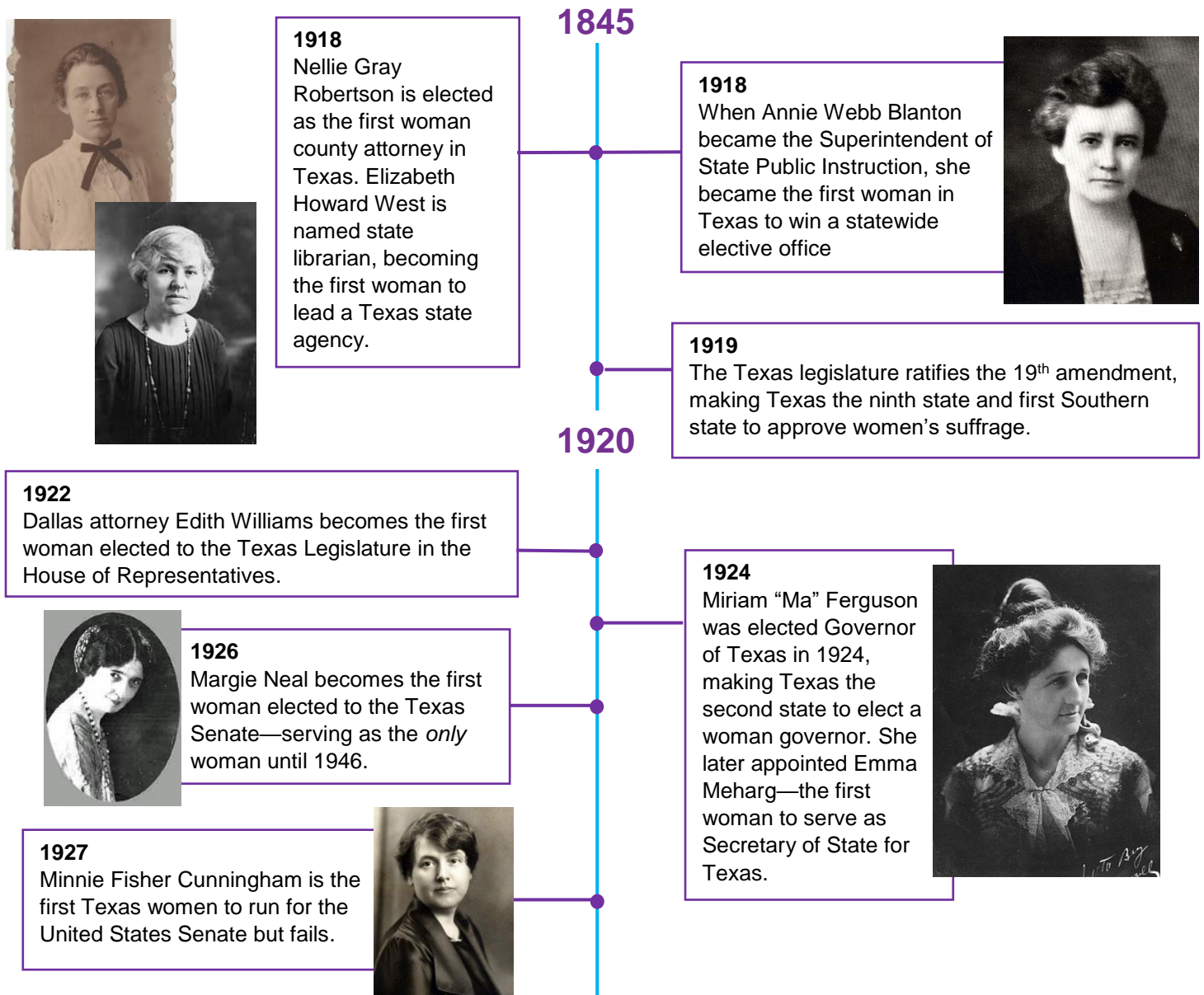
RESEARCH

Within our research branch, our team works diligently to uncover both historical and current trends or patterns in electoral rates for women and femmes. By combining the past and present statistical trends, we are able to make an educated analysis of what the future of Texas politics holds.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH: Who started to pave the way?

While the trend towards political gender parity has been slowly but steadily increasing in Texas, active representation for women has seen an uphill battle. Below is a visual timeline of important firsts for women and femmes in Texas politics.[vi]

1845

1918
Nellie Gray Robertson is elected as the first woman county attorney in Texas. Elizabeth Howard West is named state librarian, becoming the first woman to lead a Texas state agency.

1918
When Annie Webb Blanton became the Superintendent of State Public Instruction, she became the first woman in Texas to win a statewide elective office

1919
The Texas legislature ratifies the 19th amendment, making Texas the ninth state and first Southern state to approve women's suffrage.

1920

1922
Dallas attorney Edith Williams becomes the first woman elected to the Texas Legislature in the House of Representatives.

1926
Margie Neal becomes the first woman elected to the Texas Senate—serving as the *only* woman until 1946.

1924
Miriam "Ma" Ferguson was elected Governor of Texas in 1924, making Texas the second state to elect a woman governor. She later appointed Emma Meharg—the first woman to serve as Secretary of State for Texas.

1927
Minnie Fisher Cunningham is the first Texas women to run for the United States Senate but fails.

1940

1946
State representative Neveille Colson becomes a state senator and the first woman to serve in each chamber of the Texas Legislature.
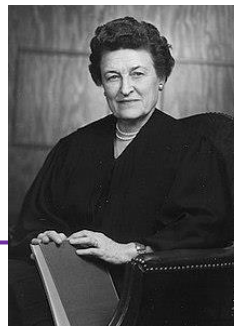
1952
Oveta Culp Hobby, a native Texas, becomes the first secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare as well as the first director of the Women's Army Corps under President Eisenhower.

1957
Norma Zúñiga Benavides wins a seat on the Laredo school board, possibly the first Latina in Texas elected to public office.

1958
Hattie Mae White is elected to a Houston area school board and becomes the first African American woman elected in Texas.

1960

1961
State District Judge Sarah T. Hughes is appointed to the federal bench—becoming the first woman in Texas to serve in this role. Fun fact: Honorable Hughes swore in President L. B. Johnson following the assassination of JFK.

1965
Lera Millard Thomas is the first Texas woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She fills the seat of her deceased husband

1966
Barbara Jordan becomes the first African-American woman elected to the Texas Legislature, after being elected to the Texas Senate, and the first African-American woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in a southern state.

1967
Dallas attorney Louise Raggio spearheads the reform of property laws to benefit Texas women, leading to the passage of the Married Women's Property Rights Act. For the first time, women can buy and sell their own real property and securities.

1968
Wilhelmina Delco becomes the first African-American to be elected in Austin, Texas when she wins a seat on the local school board.

1969
Anita Martínez becomes the first Hispanic woman elected to a city council in Texas when she earns a spot on the Dallas City Council.

1975
Lila Cockrell of San Antonio becomes the first woman elected mayor of a large city in Texas.

1980

1979
Hailing from Houston, Gabrielle Kirk McDonald becomes the first African-American woman to serve as a federal judge in Texas and the third in the U.S. Then Kathlyn Gilliam becomes the first woman and first African-American elected to the Dallas ISD School Board.

1981
Kathy Whitmire is elected as the first woman to serve as Mayor of Houston. Sandra Day O'Connor, originally from El Paso, becomes the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

1982
Ruby Kless Sondock becomes the first woman justice to serve on the Texas Supreme Court after serving as a district judge in Houston.

1982
Ann Richards is elected as State Treasurer, the first woman to do so in Texas and the first woman to win statewide office in over fifty years. She will go on to be elected as Governor of Texas, one of only two women to ever do so.
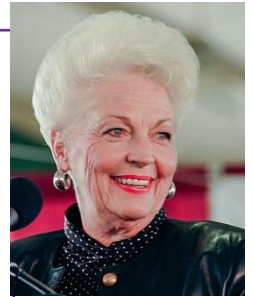
1986
Judith Zaffirini, representing Laredo, becomes the first Hispanic woman elected to the Texas Senate.

1987
Annette Strauss is elected as Dallas's first woman mayor.

1990
After serving in the Texas House of Representatives, Kay Bailey Hutchinson is elected as State Treasurer—becoming the first Republican woman elected to statewide office in Texas. She would go on to win a special election for a U.S. Senate seat, becoming the first woman to do so in Texas.

1995
Dallas district judge Carolyn Wright is sworn in as the first African-American woman justice to serve on the Texas Fifth Court of Appeals.
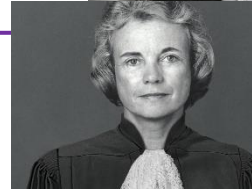
1997
Hilda Tagle, a former state district judge, is nominated by President Clinton to serve in the federal Southern District of Texas—becoming the first Hispanic woman to do so.

1998
Elizabeth "Betty" García Flores is elected mayor of Laredo in a special election, becoming the first Hispanic woman to head a major city in Texas.

2000

CURRENT TRENDS: What's happening in the Lone Star state?

After two years of data compilation, we have finally crunched unprecedented numbers that provide a deeper understanding of gender political parity—and what it will take to reach it—here in Texas. This is the *first* report to produce an aggregated representation of parity research for county-level seats from all 256 counties in the Lone Star State. Below are visual and written representations of our most important findings.

QUANTITATIVE DATA POINTS

Filings in 2018

Women 36%
Men 64%
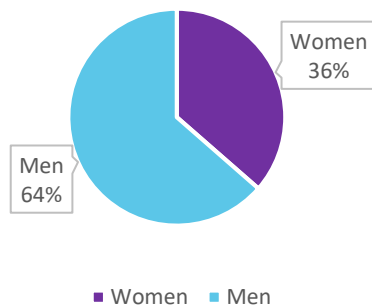
■ Women ■ Men

Filings in 2018
Of everyone who filed for the 2018 election cycle, women make up 36.43% and men 63.57%. This can also be said as: For every woman that runs for office, 1.74 men also run. This, we have found, is the largest barrier to women being elected at parity. Of those women, 70.86% belong to the Republican party and 28.80% identify with the Democratic party.


Primary Winners in 2018

Women 40%
Men 60%
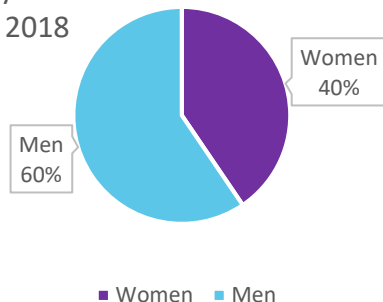
■ Women ■ Men

Primary Elections 2018
Women make up 40.54% of primary winners, and 28.83% of primary losers. So while there are not nearly as many women running in contested primaries, they are overall nearing parity in winning their primaries and far less likely to lose than men. Women across the board outperform their male counterparts in the primaries. Both parties are nearing parity, with Democratic women at 46.08% of their party wins and Republican women at 41.20%.

Women Elected in 2018

Democrat 36%
Republican 64%

■ Democrat ■ Republican
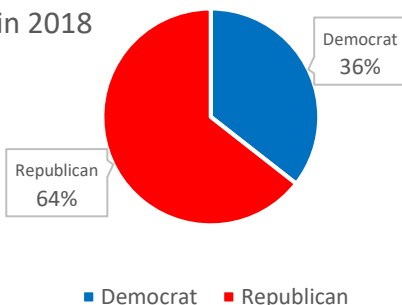
General Elections 2018
In total, 1,213 women were elected in 2018. Of all elected women, 68.3% were Republicans and 37.7% were Democrats. While Republican women hold the numbers, Democratic women were elected at near parity as a percentage of their party (47.18%) while Republican women were elected at 37.95%. Women overall were elected at 4.00 percentage points higher rates than what they filed, while men followed the opposite trend. This indicates that if women run at parity, they will be able to win at parity.

By Office

Below is a breakdown of parity statistics based on the type of elected office. It is important to keep in mind that each county in Texas provides their own unique variety of elected positions, based upon their chartering documents.

Offices Elected at or above Parity
County Tax Assessor-Collector
Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals
Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals
Judge, County Probate Court-at-Law
Railroad Commissioner
County Clerk
County Criminal Court-at-Law
District Clerk
County Treasurer
District Attorney
Justice Court of Appeals
Member, State Board of Education
Criminal District Judge

Currently, there are thirteen different types of political elected offices across the state of Texas that have women serving at or above parity—meaning 50% or more of these seats in counties throughout the state are filled by women and femmes. Women tend to serve at a higher rate than men in several judgeships due to the varying positions and levels of judgeships available for candidates to serve in. To serve in each of these judgeships, these women candidates must be licensed attorneys under the State Bar of Texas. Finally, more women serve as records clerks than men, as evidenced by the District Clerk and County Clerk position.

Most Populous Elected Offices	# of Offices	% of Women
Justice of the Peace	738	36.57%
County Commissioner	504	11.25%
County Judge	250	15.45%
District Judge	247	40.44%
County Treasurer	238	79.22%
County Clerk	189	85.66%
District Clerk	188	85.39%
State Representative	150	28.10%
Judge, County Court-at-Law	102	28.95%
District and County Clerk	59	90.14%

The most populous offices are elected offices that have the largest number of seats available in their respective forums across Texas. The most populous office available is Justice of the Peace, with 738 total seats held in the state. With more seats available for election, it would be assumed that women have more opportunities to be elected into these roles, however, that is not always the case. The percentage of women who hold each of these populous seats are listed alongside the office title. Only the County Treasurer, County Clerk, and District Clerk positions are at or above parity with women holding 50% or more of these seats statewide.
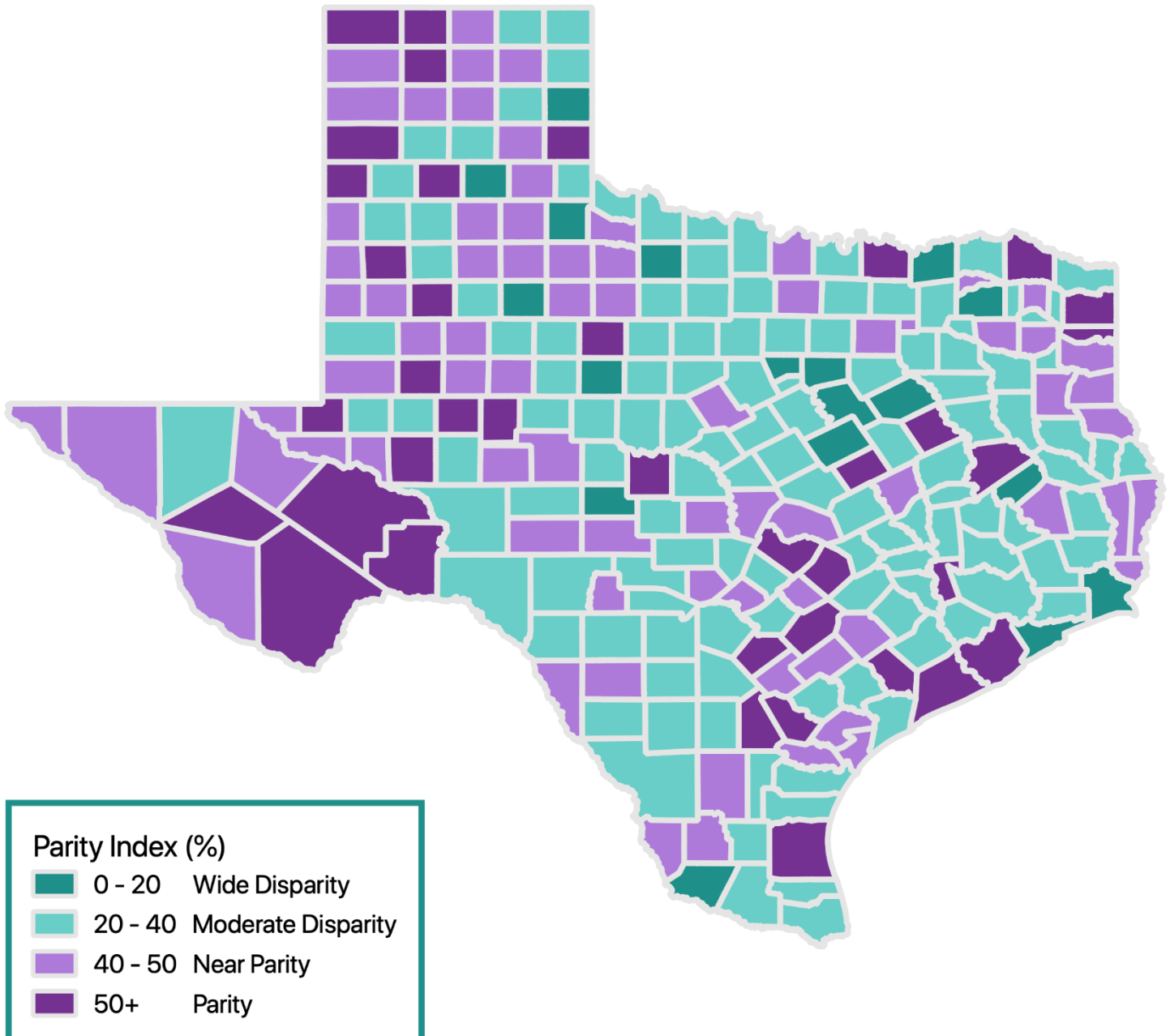
By County

Out of 256 counties, 98 counties elected women at parity or more and an additional 46 are near parity. 58.37% of all women elected in 2018 come from these near parity or parity counties.

Filing Parity Statistics by County:
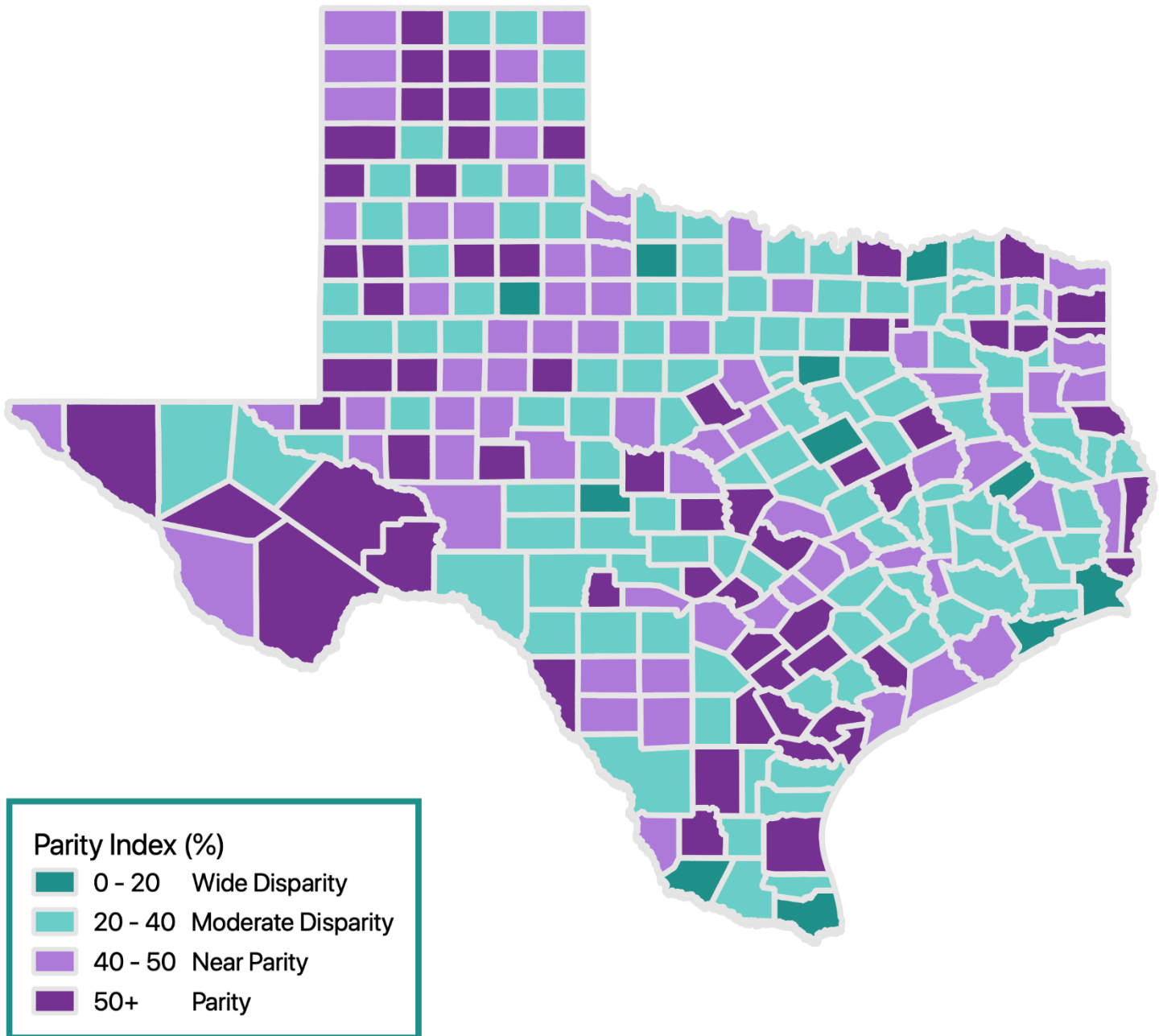
Did women make up 50% of the people in each county who filed to run for office?

Parity Index (%)

	0 - 20	Wide Disparity
	20 - 40	Moderate Disparity
	40 - 50	Near Parity
	50+	Parity

Primary Election Parity Statistics by County:
Did women make up 50% of the people in each county who won their primary election?

Parity Index (%)

0 - 20	Wide Disparity
20 - 40	Moderate Disparity
40 - 50	Near Parity
50+	Parity

General Election Parity Statistics by County:
Did women make up 50% of the people in each county who won their general election?

Parity Index (%)

	0 - 20	Wide Disparity
	20 - 40	Moderate Disparity
	40 - 50	Near Parity
	50+	Parity
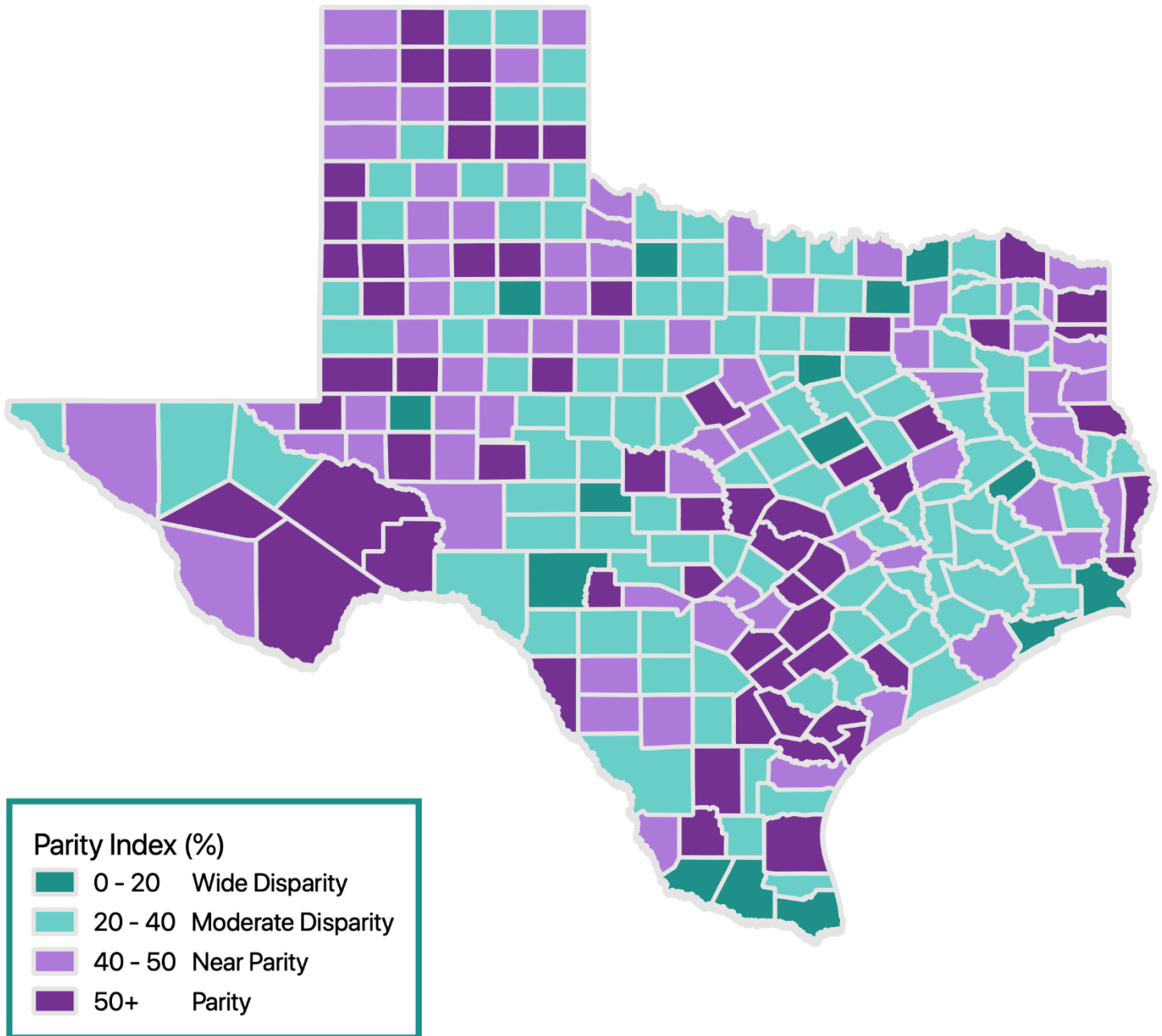
By Individual

Almost 2,000 women filed to run for office in the State of Texas in 2018, only meeting 36% of total people filing for office. Yet, there were 1,213 women who ended up securing an elected seat, meeting 40% of total people who won an elected county-level or higher seat in 2018. There were more Republican women filing, winning primaries, and becoming elected than Democratic women. However, this pattern by party is the same for men.

	Total Women	% of Women	Total Men	% of Men
Total Filed	1,981	36.43%	3,457	63.57%
Total Primary Winners	1,462	40.54%	2,144	59.46%
Total General Elected	1,213	40.43%	1,787	59.57%

	Total Dem. Women	% of Dem. Women	Total Dem. Men	% of Dem. Men
Total Filed	739	42.40%	1,004	57.60%
Total Primary Winners	558	48.23%	599	51.77%
Total General Elected	385	47.18%	431	52.82%

	Total Rep. Women	% of Rep. Women	Total Rep. Men	% of Rep. Men
Total Filed	1,237	33.67%	2,437	66.33%
Total Primary Winners	901	37.02%	1,533	62.98%
Total General Elected	828	37.95%	1,354	62.05%

QUALITATIVE DATA POINTS

Each time we interview someone for our Features branch, we are gathering important qualitative data points, shedding light on the human characteristics of women and femmes in the Texas political sphere. There are our findings:

- Of our partisan interviewees, most Republican women had a male role model growing up while most Democratic women had a female role model growing up. The number one role model for all interviewees were their respective mothers.
- The most common elected office sought amongst our interviewees fell in the Texas House of Representatives.
- The most prevalent career among our interviewees, while not by much, is the practice of law.
- The most common self-proclaimed issues facing the interviewees' respective communities are public education funding and immigration.

FEATURES

We interviewed over fifty incredible women and femmes, sharing the stories of student activists, elected officials, campaign gurus, and political icons alike. With each interview, we capture key qualitative data points that present trends specific to different geographic locations of Texas. While each feature shared the incredible stories of political women and femmes in and from Texas, some features stood out for their historic capacity or inspiring qualities.

YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS: The next generation of community activists

Yolian Ogbu & Hilary Shah: Making UNT's Student Government #ReflectUs

Yolian Ogbu and Hilary Shah campaigned as the *only* all-woman executive ticket for the 2019 University of North Texas Student Government election. Their historic win shattered, what they explained to be, "classist barriers", preventing women of color from serving in decision-making roles on campus with the hope to #ReflectUs. As outsiders to SGA, Yolian and Hillary bring unique, refreshing perspectives to the table.

Amy Sharp: Shattering the ceiling at Texas A&M University

After serving as the Class of 2019 President at Texas A&M University for three years, Amy Sharp made the jump to run for Student Body President for the 2018-2019 school year and won with 66% of the student vote. She will be the fifth woman to serve as the Student Body President (SBP) in the position's 72-year history. When asked why she would run with those odds against her, Amy said, "I think the proper question would be, why wouldn't I?".

Cassandra Hernandez: Our Gen Z Hero

Cassandra Hernandez is only a junior attending Irma Lerma Rangel Leadership School yet she has already accomplished a lifetime's worth of work. She advocated for critical education policy dedicated to providing equal resources to all Dallas ISD campuses, attended protests in her community such as the March Against Hate, and stood as a voice against gentrification in her Oak Cliff neighborhood. She is our *youngest* feature thus far – our Generation Z hero.

Aylin Segura: Writing (HER)story

Aylin Segura, a sophomore at Mountain View College and aspiring dentist, gained her first insight into politics during her freshman year at Skyline High School after campaigning for Wendy Davis in the 2014 Texas Gubernatorial Race. From there, she has testified on legislation affecting sex education in schools, received statewide news media attention for her work with gun violence prevention on campuses, and, now, chartered the first ever menstrual equity initiative in Texas.

Julia O'Hanlon: Campaign manager dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities

Julia O'Hanlon helped make statewide news after leading an all-female, University of Texas Student Government executive alliance What O'Hanlon didn't know was that she would face off an opposing executive alliance ticket in three rounds of voting: one general election, one recall election, and one run off election, each cycle riddled with gender and racial discrimination.

POLITICAL ICONS: Well-known names in the Texas political scene

Tania Rodriguez: Leading the recall on Islamophobia in Plano

Tania Rodriguez was part of the movement to recall Councilmember Tom Harrison's seat on the Plano City Council; Councilmember Harrison fell under fire after he shared a video on his Facebook account, calling for a ban of Islam in schools. Rodriguez and fellow community members in the City of Plano acted to remove Harrison from the council, including filing a petition that garnered over 4,400 signatures to recall his election. Rodriguez hopes to eliminate hate speech and discrimination.

Jenifer Sarver: Creating a voice

Jenifer Sarver is the owner of Sarver Strategies in Austin, Texas. In 2018, she ran to represent Texas' 21st District in the United States Congress. Though she did not win her race, Sarver developed an understanding of how important it is to ensure that everyone has a voice. She has established herself as a mentor by serving on the advisory board for Moody College of Communication at the University of Texas, the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, and the 40 Acres Society of the Texas Exes.

Emily Jackson: Engaging communities through a podcast

Emily Jackson created the "She's Running Podcast", an online talk show that interviews women who are running for office Early on, Emily ruled out running for office herself after joining a political incubator; she identified as an introvert, making a life of knocking on doors and speaking to crowds, difficult. Instead, Emily decided to garner her entrepreneurial skills by creating a podcast, and corresponding website, to share the stories of women who are running.

Lillian Salerno: A lifetime of fighting for the people

Lillian Salerno, one of nine children, is an entrepreneur, lawyer, and former appointee of the Obama administration, has managed to leave her own mark on the Texas community. In the most recent stage of her long and successful career, Lillian ran, and lost, for the United States House of Representatives for Texas District 32. Now, Lillian co-hosts Pod Bless Texas, an irreverent and conversational podcast showcasing the behind-the-scenes of Texas politics by giving voice to passionate Texas politicians.

Susan Byrnes Long: Writing the stories of today for generations to come

Susan Long is the founder of How She Got Here, a podcast of "conversations with everyday extraordinary women." Through her podcast, Susan has uncovered a deep-seated interest in women's empowerment and leadership, hoping to transform society's vision of women for generations to come. Susan recognized the need to continue sharing the stories of women to bring equilibrium to the table of leadership.

BALLOT BREAKERS: Elected officials who represent the Lone Star state

Councilwoman Candice Quarles: Advocate for the incoming generation

Councilwoman Candice Quarles currently serves on the DeSoto City Council in Place 6 where she represents a community of 53,000 residents, suburb located South of Dallas. Quarles was an essential proponent for the passage of the paid leave ordinance in the City of DeSoto. She also hosts her own YouTube Channel, "Candid with Candice".

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson: "Every issue is a woman's issue."

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, a Waco native, began serving in 1972 when she won a landslide election to claim her seat in the Texas House of Representatives, the first African American woman ever elected to public office in Dallas. Johnson left us with advice, saying "every issue is a woman's issue", continuing with "...and if there is one thing this constitution guarantees, it's that everybody here is equal."

Former Mayor Jess Herbst: "Diversity should be the norm, not the exception."

Jess Herbst served as Mayor of New Hope, Texas, a small town in Collin County with a population of 700 people. However, being elected to office is not her greatest accomplishment in life, thus far: Jess recently transitioned into her true identity as a woman, coming out in the public eye. She hopes to carry on the legacy of her father – an activist for civil rights and equality during the 1950s, when Texas was heavily segregated.

Judge Jennifer Edgeworth: Tipping the balance of parity in Collin County

Jennifer Edgeworth was elected as a district court judge in Collin County. She swept the Republican primary in March by defeating three other candidates without a runoff, including a two-term incumbent. Edgeworth serves as the seventh female judge on a bench of eleven total district judges in one of the fastest growing counties in the country. Edgeworth hopes neighboring communities in Texas will look to this for inspiration.

Representative Julie Johnson: Leading the "blue wave" of Texas

Julie Johnson has taken North Texas by storm after she dethroned State Representative Matt Rinaldi, the elected official infamous for threatening to shoot a fellow representative, in House District 115. Johnson, a lawyer, first-time candidate, and member of the LGBTQ community, prided herself on protecting and representing communities facing significant problems. Within her first term, Johnson helped create the first ever Texas LGBTQ Caucus, dedicated to protecting the interests of the LGBTQ community.

CONCLUSION

The state of the Texas woman is far from perfect - but we are making great strides towards equity in the political sphere. As 2019 enters, we prepare ourselves for the marathon that is activism. We will continue to answer the call for political parity in Texas.

Republican women have more potential to be elected, with 72.73% of offices being held by Republicans, so they need to be empowered to do so.

For every woman that runs, 1.74 men do, but for every woman that runs, 1.47 men are elected. Women need to run at parity to win at parity. Our numbers show people **want** to elect women.

While parity is not yet attained at all levels of government in Texas, we do see clusters of parity that exist in certain offices and within a significant number of counties.

Lone Star Parity Project will be able to complete further analysis when we have tracked this for multiple election cycles and see how trends are shifting, as well as account for outlier years vs trend years. We are also looking to expand down to the city level election information, as well as other district positions, such as water districts and school boards.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lone Star Parity Project cannot express its full gratitude to the incredible team that brings these reports to the public, free of charge. Without the essential determination and diligence of the LSPP team, this report would not have been possible. Thank you to the following:

Adrianna Maberry
Founder & Research Director

Annie Counts
Contributor – Fort Worth

Antoinette White
Research Assistant

Brooke López
Founder & Features Director

Cam Johnson
Feature Editor

Christina Morrison
Contributor – Central Texas

Emily Ivey
Contributor – East Texas

Jaime Winters
Research Assistant

Jaycee Jones
Research Assistant

Jenna Lusk
Feature Editor

Kaitlin Briggs
Contributor – North Texas

Katie Hicken
Contributor – North Texas & East Texas

Katie Morris
Contributor – Central Texas

Kristin Teplansky
Research Assistant

Mia Muric
Outreach Director

Michelle Rushing
Research Assistant

Olivia Kale (formerly Alvarado)
Research Assistant

Oscar Flores
Contributor – El Paso

Rachel Herrera
Feature Editor

Tori Zander
Contributor – Central Texas

Special Thanks to the Jindal OutREACH Volunteers from the University of Texas at Dallas.

TECHNICAL NOTE

All raw data information is sourced from the Texas Secretary of State website, the Association of Counties, the individual county election websites, and individually contacted county election offices.

ENDNOTES

[i] "Texas." *Texas | CAWP*, www.cawp.rutgers.edu/state_fact_sheets/tx

[ii] "Texas." *Texas | CAWP*, www.cawp.rutgers.edu/state_fact_sheets/tx

[iii] "Largest US Cities By Population." *Top 1,000 Largest Cities In The US | 2016 Population Data*,www.biggestuscities.com/

[iv] "Elected Official Spreadsheet". Lone Star Parity Project Database

[v] "Women in Government: A Comparison of Local and Statewide Political Candidacy.", www.researchgate.com

[vi] "Timeline of Texas Women's History", *Women in Texas History*, www.womenintexashistory.org