



# JESSICA GONZÁLEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 104

## ★ 2022 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ★

Friends,

It has been the honor of my life to serve you and House District 104 at our Texas Capitol. During the 87th Regular Legislative Session and following three Special Sessions, the Texas Legislature passed over a thousand bills. The policies passed in these legislative sessions were some of the most extreme to ever pass in Texas, from suppressing voting rights to attacking abortion rights, loosening restrictions on guns to hurting equal rights for all Texans. We have had some difficult times, but we want you to know we have been at the front lines fighting our hearts out to defend our rights and democracy.

This newsletter will look at some of our accomplishments during the 87th Legislative Session, look ahead to some of our priorities for the 88th Legislative Session, highlight some of our work in House District 104, and provide helpful contact information for our office and state agencies.

During the 87th Legislative Session, our office filed over 45 pieces of legislation to make Texas more equitable for all its residents. We introduced bills to expand access to affordable housing, modernize our elections, reform our criminal justice system, and expand access to healthcare.

As legislators, we must hear from our constituents to be able to represent you accurately. We received thousands of correspondence from constituents via phone calls, emails, mail, and in-person or virtual meetings. Thank you all for expressing your positions with our office so we knew exactly how you felt on important issues.

The House District 104 team encourages everyone to get involved with your State Government and reach out to our District and Capitol offices anytime. You can visit our Official State House website at [www.house.texas.gov](http://www.house.texas.gov) and our legislation tracker at [www.capitol.texas.gov](http://www.capitol.texas.gov) to learn more about legislation, see committee information, or submit electronic public comments on bills.

If you have any legislation proposals you would like our office to pursue, or if there is any way we can help you, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can also stay up to date on everything our office is doing on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. Thank you for all that you do to make District 104 the outstanding community that it is.

Sincerely,

Jessica González  
State Representative  
House District 104

*Rep. Jessica González was eager to brawl this session over a bill to restrict voting which earned her the Texas Monthly's Bull of the Brazos Award. She became the first woman in the Texas House of Representatives to receive this recognition. ►*



### ***Combating Food Insecurity***

Parts of House District 104 are areas suffering from food insecurity, meaning residents have difficulty accessing fresh food due to a lack of large grocery stores. This became very evident when Winter Storm Uri hit communities across Texas. Many House District 104 residents were stuck at home without access to food for their families due to power outages and unsafe weather conditions. Our office worked diligently with local partners to bring warming centers and food distributions to our community.

After the storm, on the House Floor, our office was proud to pass an amendment on the General Appropriations Bill directing the Texas Department of Agriculture to conduct a study on increasing the number of grocery stores and stores selling fresh produce or other healthy foods in places with food insecurity in Texas. Our office hopes that with this study, the Legislature can take action during the next legislative session to ensure access to fresh produce throughout Texas, including House District 104.

### ***Vote-By-Mail Ballot Tracker***

Our office was proud to Joint-Author House Bill 1382, a bill that allows voters who submit an application for a ballot-by-mail to track the status of their application and the location of their ballot. To check the status of your ballot, visit [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov) and click "Track my Ballot." After submitting your personal information, you will be able to see your ballot's status and ensure your vote is counted. You can also visit [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) to find more local information on how to cast your ballot.

### ***Broadband Expansion***

A huge accomplishment of the 87th Regular Session was passing House Bill 5, a massive investment from the state to expand broadband access to underserved communities in Texas. Our office was proud to Co-Author this significant bill. As more and more of our daily lives become reliant on the internet, our office is working to ensure our community has access to reliable and affordable broadband service.



Rep. Jessica González after laying out four bills in committee, passing two floor amendments, and passing one bill on the House Floor in the same week.



Rep. Jessica González with Dallas Council Member Omar Narvaez as she receives the Matt Garcia Public Service Award from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund for her character, courage, and outstanding work defending voting rights.

### ***Securing Funding for Prostitution Prevention***

During the 86th Legislative Session, our office passed an Amendment on the General Appropriations bill to create the "Prostitution Prevention and Pre-arrest Diversion Program" and provided \$1,750,000 of funding. In the 87th Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature continued funding this vital program for two more years, providing more resources for counties to implement prevention and intervention programs for sexually exploited persons.

### ***Fighting to Protect your Civil Liberties***

During the 87th Legislative Session, many of our civil liberties came under attack, such as our right to vote. As Vice Chair of the House Elections Committee, I fought on the frontlines against legislation aiming to make it harder to vote for minority communities like ours. We led the effort to stop and delay bad bills before they could become law, working with leaders across the state and federal governments. It was an honor to meet with Vice President Kamala Harris to discuss the effects these bills would have on House District 104 residents.

Due to our efforts to stand up for everyday families in the Texas House of Representatives, I was awarded the Matt Garcia Public Service Award from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, named one of *USA TODAY's* Women of the Year, and received the Bull of the Brazos Award from *Texas Monthly*.

## *Affordable Housing and Property Tax Relief*

Since my first session in the Texas House, property tax relief has always been a priority. Our office has filed multiple bills in the House to help lower your property tax bills, expand access to affordable housing, and create more safeguards to prevent residents from being displaced from their community.

During the May 2022 Constitutional Amendment Election, Texans overwhelmingly passed two Constitutional Amendments that will provide property tax relief.

Proposition 1 will provide property tax relief to homeowners with an over 65 or disabled exemption on their homestead by providing a reduction on school district property taxes. On average, eligible households will save \$110 on their property taxes in the first year, and the reduction will continue to increase each year.

Proposition 2 will provide property tax relief to all homeowners by increasing the homestead exemption by \$15,000 for school district property taxes, from \$25,000 to \$40,000. This property tax relief will take place retroactively as of January 1, 2022. This is estimated to save homeowners \$175 a year going forward.

## *Supporting Our Public Education Educators and Students*

It is an honor to represent Dallas ISD and Grand Prairie ISD in the Texas House. Every child in Texas deserves access to quality education at our local public schools. The HD104 office has always focused on increasing funding for our public school districts using state funds. Even after historic investments in public education in the 86th Legislative Session with House Bill 3, Texas still ranks 40th in the nation when it comes to education funding levels. There is still more work to be done to increase resources for schools so all our children have the support they need in their education, and to ensure our teachers are compensated fairly for their service. Our office will continue supporting measures to improve our schools with additional funding for students, educators, and support staff.

## *Criminal Justice Reform*

During the 87th Legislative Session, our office filed House Bill 372, a bill that would have ensured indigent defendants with a habeas corpus claim have access to an attorney to represent them and investigate their claim. Our office was proud to pass this bill through the Texas House.



*Rep. Jessica González speaking against a bill attacking LGBTQ+ youth in our public schools.*



*Rep. Jessica González speaking at a news conference against voter suppression measures being discussed in the Texas House, surrounded by her colleagues in support.*

Our office also filed House Bill 3248, which would have decriminalized cannabis in Texas and allowed local governments to legalize the retail sale of cannabis. A new tax would be imposed on these cannabis sales to help fund our public schools and decrease our reliance on property taxes in Texas. Our office will continue to support measures in the Texas House to decriminalize cannabis, expand the availability of medicinal cannabis, and move towards legalization.

## *Protecting Your Right to Vote*

During the 2020 Presidential Election, Texas was ranked the hardest state to cast a ballot in the United States. As Vice Chair of the House Elections Committee, I introduced many bills to expand access to voting for all Texans. Our office plans to continue working on bills to protect the right to vote for disabled Texans, expand access to online voter registration, and simplify voting procedures to decrease confusion at the polls.

After the passage of Senate Bill 1 in the 2nd Special Session, vote-by-mail rejections have skyrocketed from around 2% to 20%, causing disenfranchisement for thousands of Texans. Our office will make it a priority to fix the identification issues caused by this bill to ensure all Texans' votes are counted if they are eligible to vote-by-mail. If you plan on voting-by-mail, don't forget to put your Drivers License number and the last 4 of your Social Security number on your ballot envelope to ensure your ballot is counted.

## *Expanding Civil Rights Protections*

I was proud to file House Bill 3860 in the Texas House, a bipartisan, comprehensive, nondiscrimination bill that would protect all Texans - including LGBTQ+ Texans - from discrimination in employment, housing, and public spaces. This bill would have established equal protections based on race, color, disability, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a military veteran. Our office will continue advocating for this important piece of legislation so no Texan experiences discrimination while trying to make a living, find access to housing, or participate in their community.

**Healthcare Access**

More than 18% of Texans live without health insurance, almost twice the national average. Our office is proud to support measures that would make healthcare more accessible for all Texans such as accepting federal Medicaid expansion funds. Accepting these funds would bring in almost \$5 billion annually and provide additional healthcare coverage for millions of Texans.

As a member of the House Insurance Committee, our office was also proud to support measures to increase access to prescription drugs, such as mental health drugs. Currently, insurance companies are allowed to impose step therapy requirements for patients with a serious or persistent mental illness, creating barriers between patients and their essential medications. Our office filed House Bill 2504, which was passed unanimously through the Insurance Committee. This bill would have reduced these barriers to care and improved the overall quality of life for adults with serious mental illnesses.



Rep. Jessica González speaking at a community listening session on addressing gun violence with State Rep. Rafael Anchía and Dallas ISD officials.



Rep. Jessica González was named one of USA TODAY's Women of the Year, a recognition of women across the country who have made a significant impact. Her work on behalf of voting rights and protecting the LGBTQ+ and other marginalized communities have also earned Rep. Jessica González recognition as USA TODAY's Texas Woman of the Year.

★ **UPCOMING ELECTIONS** ★

*November 8th, 2022 Midterm Election Key Dates*

| SUNDAY              | MONDAY                          | TUESDAY                            | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY   | SATURDAY |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|--|----------|
| 9<br><i>October</i> | 10                              | 11<br>Last Day to Register to Vote | 12        | 13       | 14   | 15       |
| 16                  | 17                              | 18                                 | 19        | 20       | 21   | 22       |
| 23                  | 24<br>First Day of Early Voting | 25                                 | 26        | 27       | 28<br>Last Day to Apply for a Ballot by Mail (Received not Postmarked) | 29       |
| 30                  | 31                              | 1<br><i>November</i>               | 2         | 3        | 4<br>Last day of Early Voting  | 5        |
| 6                   | 7                               | 8<br>Election Day                  | 9         | 10       | 11   | 12       |

**MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE!**

Visit [www.DallasCountyVotes.org](http://www.DallasCountyVotes.org) for voting information such as polling locations, operational hours, and to view your sample ballot in Dallas County, or [www.VoteTexas.gov](http://www.VoteTexas.gov) to find statewide voting information. If you have any questions regarding your ballot, call the Dallas County Elections Department at (214) 819-6389.

# ★ IN THE DISTRICT ★

## District Office

Our District Office is located at the Oak Cliff Tower on 400 S Zang Blvd., Suite 1214, Dallas, TX 75208. Anytime our office can be helpful, please do not hesitate to contact our District Office at (214) 944-5441 or our Capitol Office at (512) 463-0408.

You can also send us an email anytime at [District104.Gonzalez@house.texas.gov](mailto:District104.Gonzalez@house.texas.gov). We are here to serve you! Also, keep up with our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages to stay up to date on House District 104 news and events our office is hosting.



Rep. Jessica González at a COVID-19 testing and vaccination drive in Oak Cliff, Dallas, with the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

## Combating COVID-19

House District 104 included some of the most affected areas in Dallas County with COVID-19. Our office worked diligently in Dallas, Cockrell Hill, and Grand Prairie with state and local leaders to bring more resources such as COVID-19 tests, food banks, and vaccination drives directly to our community. We were able to vaccinate and provide testing for hundreds of House District 104 constituents. Our office continues to closely monitor COVID-19 and is available to help constituents find testing and vaccinations.

To get free COVID-19 tests mailed to your door, please visit [www.COVID.gov/Tests](http://www.COVID.gov/Tests).

## Meals on Wheels

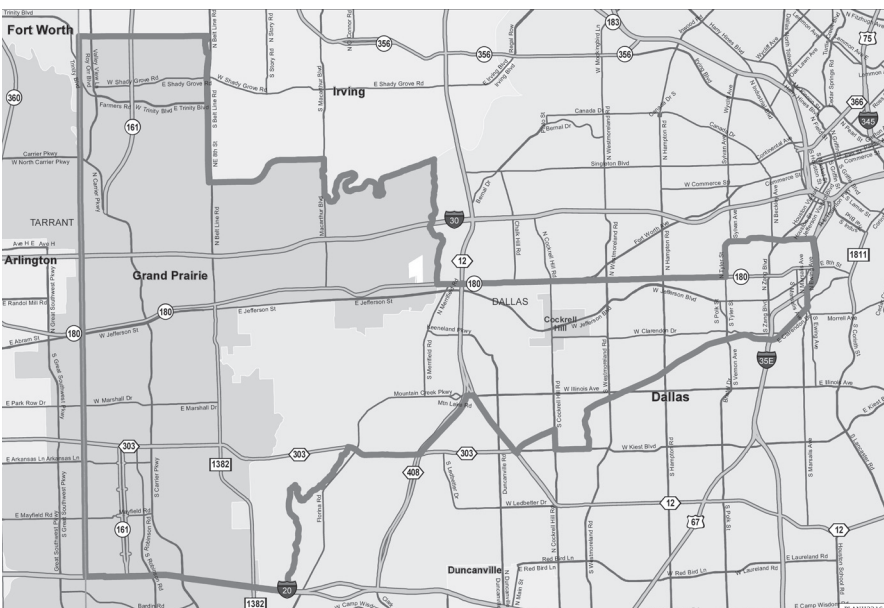
In March, I joined the Visiting Nurse Association to help deliver Meals on Wheels to residents of House District 104. Meals on Wheels helps provide nutritious, home-delivered meals to seniors and disabled adults who are unable to obtain or prepare their own meals. The Visiting Nurse Association helps serve meals to thousands of North Texans. To learn more about Meals on Wheels or to apply, visit [www.VNATexas.org](http://www.VNATexas.org) or call (214) 689-2639.

## Thanksgiving Food Drive

Last Thanksgiving, our office joined the Grand Prairie United Charities to host our second annual Thanksgiving meal giveaway for families in Grand Prairie. The Grand Prairie United Charities was founded in 1955 to address food insecurity and provide emergency financial assistance for Grand Prairie children and families in need. Learn more about the Grand Prairie United Charities and their services at [www.GUPC.org](http://www.GUPC.org). Our office hopes to continue partnering with the Grand Prairie United Charities every Thanksgiving to get free meals to families in need during the holiday season!



Rep. Jessica González with Grand Prairie Mayor Ron Jensen, Patti Brock-Chapman of the Grand Prairie United Charities, and the House District 104 staff.



## Redistricting

Upon receiving federal 2020 Census data, the Texas Legislature redistricted the States' House, Senate, State Board of Education, and Congressional District maps, including House District 104. I was proud to stand up and fight for our majority-minority district and ensure fair representation for each of you in the Texas House.

Please visit [WRM.capitol.texas.gov](http://WRM.capitol.texas.gov) to view your current and updated federal, state, and local elected officials after redistricting.

Pictured Left:  
New House District 104 boundaries

# JESSICA GONZÁLEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 104

**CAPITOL OFFICE:**  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910  
(512) 463-0408  
(512) 463-1817 Fax



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*Committees: Vice Chair Elections • Insurance*

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JESSICA GONZÁLEZ  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



## ★ HELPFUL NUMBERS ★

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| COVID-19 ..... Hotline 211, Option 6               | Secretary of State..... (512) 463-5701                       | Crime Stoppers ..... (800) 388-TIPS           |
| COVID-19 Mental Health Support..... (833) 986-1919 | Emergency.....911  | Employee Rights.....(800) 832-2829            |
| Texas Workforce Commission ..... (800) 558-8321    | Child/Elderly Abuse Hotline..... (800) 252-5400              | HIV/STD Assistance ..... (800) 299-2437       |
| Speaker of the House ..... (512) 463-1000          | Child Support Enforcement... (800) 252-8014                  | Medicaid Information..... (800) 252-8263      |
| Lieutenant Governor..... (512) 463-0001            | Consumer Protection ..... (512) 463-2070                     | Medicare Information ..... (800) 633-4227     |
| Governor ..... (512) 463-2000                      | Disability Issues.....(512) 463-5739                         | Social Security Information... (800) 772-1213 |
| Attorney General..... (512) 463-2100               | Domestic Violence/<br>Rape Crisis Hotline.....(800) 656-HOPE | Suicide Prevention Hotline ... (800) 273-8255 |
|  |  | Veterans' Information..... (800) 827 1000     |

\*For Constituent Services, see section below.

## CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Our office can help with many different services, including: scheduling tours of the Capitol and other state buildings, requesting help with a state agency, and having a flag flown above the Capitol to commemorate a special occasion or to honor an individual or group. You can reach our office anytime by email at [District104.Gonzalez@house.texas.gov](mailto:District104.Gonzalez@house.texas.gov) or by calling our District Office at (214) 944-5441 or our Capitol Office at (512) 463-0408.