

COPPELL CHRONICLE

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This job you're seeking demands a whole lot of time for not very much money. Why do you want it?

I know what this job entails, and I am ready and able to be there from January to December if needed because the people of House District 115 deserve that commitment. This is bigger than me. I'm running to be the next State Representative for House District 115 because not only do I want to build on the success and hard work of my friend and mentor Rep. Johnson but I want to make sure that someone with her same pragmatic approach and work ethic is able to pass meaningful legislation in a place that has grown to be hyper focused on stripping away rights, pitting communities against each other,

Having grown up in Carrollton and now raising my kids in Coppell, I intend to bring my lifelong service experience – as a federal prosecutor and Air Force officer – to Austin in order to fight for our community and our values.

I watched my parents engage with Texas legislators to save their community pharmacy whose mission was to serve children on Medicaid – a battle they ultimately lost due to obstruction of Medicaid expansion. I saw that what happens in Austin affects real people, because it was affecting my family firsthand. That

undermining and underfunding our exemplary public schools just to name a few. I've spent my whole life here in Texas giving back to the community that has given so much to me, as an award winning lawyer defending everyday Texans, helping people stay in their homes during the pandemic, doing pro-bono work in underserved areas, being part of our business chambers as a small business owner, a rotary member, and a former ethics commissioner, just to name a few. Now I am ready to take my skills, relationships built, knowledge of Texas politics, and experience in the Texas Legislature from the courthouse to the State house. Filling the shoes of Rep. Julie Johnson is no easy task, but with her support, my qualifications, and lived experiences – I know I will be an effective representative to carry our rich diverse voices of HD115 to the Capitol.

experience solidified in me a spirit of prioritizing others and fighting for my community. As a result, I have spent my life's work serving and protecting my community.

As a federal prosecutor, I helped take thousands of fentanyl pills off the street and worked to stop gun trafficking. But there were cases where we struggled to find laws that gun traffickers violated given the lax firearm laws here in Texas. I knew that I could not change the laws as a prosecutor, but I could as a member of the Texas Legislature. I intend to use that real world experience to pass comprehensive laws to protect Texas citizens and to prevent firearms from getting into the hands of criminals.

I am running to fight for the community that made me the woman and mother I am today and to advocate for the community where I am raising my family.

Why should voters choose you over your two rivals?

I have the real-world, tangible experience working in the Texas Legislature that my opponents don't have on the issues we care most about to be able to hit the ground running well before I get sworn in and I have been showing up and doing the work in the community. For example,

▪ I am the only hometown candidate in this race. I grew up in Carrollton, lived in Irving, and chose to raise my kids in Coppell's award-winning school district. I have a deep love for this area and returned to put down roots here with my family. We have had enough of Austin politicians

on reproductive rights, I fought for this issue as a chairwoman of a women's statewide caucus and put on a legislative academy to educate them on the process then led a lobby day in Austin. I also advocated for Medicaid expansion through Rep. Johnson and Sen. Johnson's Live Well Texas bill through SickOfItTexas this last 88th Legislative Session. As someone who lost her father to gun violence, and an Everytown for Gun Safety Fellow, fighting for common-sense gun legislation is personal and something I will never stop advocating for to ensure that not one more family experiences what mine has. That's why I have Rep. Johnson's support for this run and I'm the only candidate in this race supported by law enforcement (National Latino Law Enforcement Association), public school teachers (Texas American Federation of Teachers), fire fighters (Irving Professional Fire Fighters Local 2073), state employees (Texas State Employees Union), and the only candidate endorsed by current HD115 precinct chairs, and current elected and former elected municipal leaders that live in HD115 because of the work I have done in the community and how I have shown up.

telling us what to do in our lives. As a result, I am honored to be supported and endorsed by our local newspaper, the Dallas Morning News, community leaders and members, and neighbors, not the Austin establishment.

- I have the real world experience on issues that are affecting our community: gun safety, fentanyl overdoses, and public corruption. I've personally spoken with fentanyl dealers and taken thousands of deadly pills off the streets, which hopefully has saved lives. I've learned how firearms are made and sold to the cartels. In fact, the Dallas Morning News referenced a firearms case of mine when they endorsed me. I have also stood up to public officials who have used their office for personal gain. I will use that real world experience as our state representative in Austin.

- Finally, I have spent most of my life as a public servant – a DOJ prosecutor, an Air Force officer, and a military spouse. My husband and I both took oaths of office to the Constitution, which embodies our democracy, an oath we take seriously. I will use my passion for public service to deliver for our community.

If you're elected, what will be your two or three top priorities as a legislator?

Fully funding for our public schools, instead of defunding them with voucher schemes. I will advocate for public school finance reform and recapture fund transparency. I have already been fighting for our schools; sitting with former and elected school leaders, teachers, staff, attending school events in district, busing HD115 residents to Austin to join the rally to fight vouchers, holding a town hall with education leaders from HD115 school districts to educate the community about the danger's vouchers pose, and how we can fight back. I started canvassing in September because of the importance of spreading the word about Prop 9 across HD115 (the cost-of-living-adjustment for retired teachers) during the Nov. 2023 Texas Constitutional Amendment Election. That is why I am proudly the only candidate endorsed by teachers (AFT) because I have repeatedly shown up when it mattered most – NOW. Secondly, it is a high priority that we work to restore women's reproductive rights and ensure affordable healthcare for more Texans by expanding Medicaid, a measure that we know will bring billions of dollars to our state and provide new insurance coverage for hundreds of thousands of Texans which I advocated for already in the Legislature. I will make sure to

My first priority is funding our public schools. I am proud to be the only candidate in this race that has a "friendly" rating by the community-driven group, Texans For Public Education, which does its homework on all candidates and their stances on public schools. Texas should improve school funding by increasing the state investment in public education, including increasing per pupil funding and providing a teacher pay raise. Any improvements to the Texas school finance system must include increasing the basic allotment, keeping up with inflation, and moving from attendance-based to enrollment-based student counts. We should also provide additional support for areas of critical need, such as special education funding, student and school safety funding, resources to support teacher recruitment and retention, and support for building and updating school facilities. To fund these improvements, we must review our spending priorities in the budget and explore new sources of revenue to support public education including the expansion of sports gambling, the legalization and creation of a retail cannabis market, and eliminating loopholes in our state tax code that benefit corporations at the expense of everyday Texans. The next chapter of Texas education is being written

continue to champion the bipartisan Live Well Texas bill in the 89 Legislative Session that Rep. Johnson has fought so hard to pass. Thirdly, public safety – the time is long past for our state government to take real steps in reducing gun violence, and I will advocate for common-sense legislation as someone who lost her father to gun violence and an Everytown for Gun Safety Fellow. I also want to combat the fentanyl crisis that is decimating our district, primarily by legalizing fentanyl test strips, a common-sense measure the Texas Legislature failed to pass in the 88th Legislative Session. But most importantly, I will make sure to stand for local control on all of these matters and more. We must make sure that our duly elected local leaders have the ability to make the best decisions for our community and I will continue to stand up to any attempts to dilute Texans' vote to elect whom they want to make decisions.

now, and we must ensure that it is defined by fully funded public schools, quality teachers, and no voucher scams.

Second, I want to make sure all Texans are safe from gun violence, especially in our schools. I oppose unfunded mandates like armed security officers. Instead, we need to pass common sense gun safety legislation, and I hope to use my real world experience prosecuting gun crimes to do so. We should eliminate the personal collection loophole and require mandatory background checks and red flag laws. We should raise the age to purchase assault weapons.

Finally, my third priority is fighting for our reproductive rights. My mom was a labor and delivery nurse at our Dallas County hospital, Parkland. My family has long been pro-choice, and I have learned from my mother, my experience, and the experiences of countless parents, that the government has no business in the hospital room. What happens should be between a woman and her doctor, not a woman and the government. It is wrong to legislate as if all pregnant women and pregnancy experiences are the same. I support a woman's right to choose. Short of making a constitutional right to abortion here, I

would support legislation that further chips away at the blanket ban against abortion, including legislation that exempts rape, incest, and life of the mother, among others. I would clarify that fertility treatments are permitted, especially since my daughter exists due to the miracle that is IVF. Finally, I am against travel bans that would criminalize crossing the state border to obtain abortions.