

AKILAH BACY

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | DISTRICT 138



Akilah Bacý, a native of Houston, Texas, grew up with her mother, sister, and twin brother in northwest Houston. Akilah graduated from Cypress-Creek High School of Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D. She went on to attend Spelman College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English. After completing Spelman College, she pursued her Juris Doctor in the panhandle at Texas Tech University School of Law.

Akilah began her career as an Assistant District Attorney with the Harris County District Attorney's Office. However, she determined that she could better serve her community by defending primarily indigent people of Texas by advocating for those who find themselves a victim of employment discrimination.

Akilah works in her community both professionally and through a host of volunteer opportunities including serving as a pro-bono immigration attorney for children seeking asylum in the United States borders, mentoring in her local school district, teaching adult literacy, ESL, and legal rights classes in the West Houston community, and as a Sunday school teacher among other community service responsibilities.

WEBSITE akilahbacy.com **INSTAGRAM** [@akilahbacy](https://www.instagram.com/akilahbacy) **FACEBOOK** [@akilahbacy](https://www.facebook.com/akilahbacy) **TWITTER** [@akilahbacy](https://twitter.com/akilahbacy) **ACTBLUE DONATE LINK** secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-tx-bacy

ON THE ISSUES

EQUITABLE EDUCATION

Texas adults aged 25 to 34 rank 25th in the world for educational attainment. Texas must take into account what is necessary to ensure that each member of the educational system receives quality academic support, resources and safety measures for their individual success. It is an educated workforce that drives economic success. Akilah volunteered as a mentor, adult literacy instructor and Sunday School teacher to fight for education as an everyday citizen. Akilah looks forward to continuing that fight for Texas education as the next State Rep for Texas House District 138 by requiring the State to pay its Constitutionally mandated 50% share, and equitably distributing additional funding, so that all public school graduates leave our schools with the same standard of education.

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

All people should be given an honest opportunity to achieve the American Dream. Law makers should be required to not only consider an employer's freedoms, but balance that against a worker's right to personal dignities- ensuring workers make a fair wage while maintaining a good quality of life, ending worker discrimination, and increasing worker protections.

HEALTHCARE

Texas has the highest overall uninsured rate in the country, the highest rate of uninsured kids, and the highest rate of uninsured women of childbearing age. More than a quarter of Texans, over 4.5 million, lack access to health-care coverage. Even with the ACA Marketplace, many Texans live where there is minimal competition. Akilah will advocate for creating a commission to ascertain how best to structure a potential public option that would increase ACA Marketplace competition and allow Texas residents to always have an option for health-care coverage, regardless of their location.

FLOODING

During the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, Akilah volunteered in shelters, collected baby care items, pulled ruined carpet, and knocked out drywall to help salvage the homes of her neighbors. After seeing much of the financial and legal burdens, Akilah served as a pro bono attorney for Texas House District 138 residents in subsequent court proceedings. Akilah is ready to take the fight to protect her community from flooding to the capitol by fighting for flood plain disclosure, incentivizing green infrastructure, partnering with

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agencies such as the Water District and Army COE and advocating for funding for additional reservoirs for her community.

CLIMATE PROTECTION

Climate change will have a massive effect on the economy and public health of Texas. In less than two decades, climate change will cause approximately 2,570 heat-related deaths, a 7% increase (\$3.7 billion) increase in electricity costs, and a 22% decrease in crop production. While Texas cannot single-handedly prevent climate change, it is important for each level of government to act. Akilah's legislative action will include supporting increased clean energy subsidies, economic incentives, and partnering with industry and agency leaders to preserve a world for future generations.

RESTORATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Every courtroom across Texas displays a symbol symbolizing justice for all. While this goal remains righteous, justice must be demanded by most. In 2020, Texas must lead the way in decriminalizing victims of trafficking, addiction and those whose cases are disposed of. Texas must restore access to the rights held in the highest esteem by citizens not only in Texas, but across the country: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Nested Congressional Districts
CD2, R+11, CD7, R+7, CD18, D+27

Texas's 138th District includes western Houston and is in Harris County. As of the 2010 census, a total of 173,059 civilians reside within Texas' one hundred thirty-eighth state house district. Texas state representatives represent an average of 167,637 residents. After the 2000 Census, each member represented 139,012 residents.

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

| Popula- tion | House- holds | Over 65 | White | Black | Latinx | Asian | Other | Median Income | % Poverty | % Un- employ- ment | % College | %HS Grad | %No HS |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| 185,132 | 62,661 | 9.6% | 33.4% | 9.7% | 44.9% | 10.1% | .1% | \$64,197 | 14.5% | 4% | 38.8% | 43.9% | 17.3% |

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%

ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Lacey Hull is the Republican running for TX HD138. Although a newcomer, Lacey is well known in conservative circles, having helped campaign for various local Republican candidates and even has the endorsements of Texas's Republican Governor Greg Abbott and Republican Congressman Dan Crenshaw. Akilah's platform mirrors that of Republicans across the country and includes: opposing common sense gun reform and women's reproductive justice, and supporting stricter border control.



SISTER DISTRICT
PROJECT

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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. Akilah Bacý's district is one of those Beto districts -- Beto received

52.75% of the votes in House District 134 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.

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.