



Black American Futures PAC

Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

State Representative Venton Jones

The following questions present an opportunity to learn more about your views on key community issues and your vision for your 2024 House Primary Race. **Please complete and return no later than 11:59PM on February 20th.** All candidate questionnaires will be published on our website. Late questionnaires are unable to be accepted for endorsement evaluation.

Candidate Background Information

1. Please explain why you decided to pursue the Texas State House seat (please list which seat)?

When I first was elected, I made one promise which was to bring stability to a seat that had four state representatives in five years. I plan on keeping the promise I made to the voters of HD100. During my first year, I have prioritized community stability, increasing access to healthcare, supporting public education, and fighting for Equality for ALL Texans.

I look forward to continuing the success made during my first term.

2. Please share why you believe you are uniquely qualified to serve and what led you to choose this seat?

I was first elected as State Representative for District 100 in 2022, serving parts of South Dallas, West Dallas, East Dallas, Buckner Terrace, Victory Park, and Oak Cliff. As a native of House District 100, I have been committed to advancing equity and justice through two decades of experience leading organizations, impacting public policy, and organizing diverse communities.

Currently I serve as a member of the House Committee on Public Health and the House Committee on Corrections. In addition to my committee appointments, I serve as the Legislative Chairman of the Aggie Caucus, member of the Texas House Democratic Caucus, the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus, the Texas Energy & Climate Caucus, and the Legislative Study Group. I was honored by my peers in the Texas House by being named the LGBTQ Caucus "Freshman of the Year" during the 88th Legislative Session.

A full list of campaign endorsements can be found here – <https://www.ventonfor100.com/endorsements>

3. Please share a unique experience in your history that represents your governing philosophy and how you make decisions.

My education and experience have allowed me the opportunity to work alongside public officials, elected leaders and other community leaders to face the challenges of racial justice and economic equity when it



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comes to the topic of healthcare and civil rights public policy. Black and Brown communities need adequate and affordable health insurance; we are the most uninsured group in our country. House District 100 has a population of about 200,000 people. Of that 200,000, 80% (or 160,000) residents are people of color.

When re-elected, my work will continue to focus on serving Black and Brown low and middle-income communities and those individuals with the highest rates of unresolved health disparities. I am prepared to fully serve my district and bring much-needed lived and professional experience to serve for the long term in this seat.

Candid Conversations with Candidates

The following questions present an opportunity to learn more about your views on the legislature and your vision for your House District.

4. What do you identify as the top 3 issues your district is facing?

- **Healthcare**
- **Adequate public education funding and support**
- **Infrastructure improvements that support our community**
- **Equitable access to voting**

5. What are your policy ideas/priorities in addressing the above issues?

- **Healthcare** – I support the expansion of Medicaid, supporting individuals and families to make the best healthcare decisions with their medical providers, and increasing funding to reduce health disparities, including racial disparities in maternal and infant health in House District 100.
- **Adequate public education funding and support** – I support fully funding pre-K programs, increasing teacher pay, and expanding access to career and technical education programs.
- **Infrastructure improvements that support our community** – I support legislation to upgrade and repair our streets and drainage, public transportation, and our power grid.
- **Equitable access to voting** - I support same-day, online and automatic voter registration, and expanded access to vote-by-mail.

6. Given the political makeup of the legislature, working with all of your fellow representatives (including Republicans) will be necessary to accomplish your legislative agenda. How do you plan to build coalitions to deliver gains for your district?

This session, I worked across the aisle to build relationships that ultimately led to 29 pieces of legislation passing. I'm proud that almost every single bill I authored had a Republican Joint-author or Co-author. Because



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my office knows how to build coalitions, we secured and brought back over \$150+ million dollars to the district that will focus on our legislative priorities. Part of that funding includes \$100 million towards the newly built mental health hospital that will be in House District 100. The remaining funding will go into reentry services, expanding the free and reduced lunch program, food banks to address our severe food desert problem, and for green spaces in our district!

7. What can a state representative do to affirm specifically Black Dallas residents' trust in the political system?

GET RE-ELECTED AND REPRESENT the needs of Black residents. HD 100 is a majority-minority district where Black leaders have served in this seat since the 70s. I am proud to be able to continue that legacy of representation and bold Black leadership.

8. What will make your tenure as representative positively different from previous representatives in your seat? Specifically, what aspects of the role would you like to see improved?

I will continue the legacy that has been put into place by previous state representatives in HD 100.

9. What, if any, impact do you see racial inequity having on your district? How do we remedy the historical and systemic injustices experienced by Black Americans in your House District?

House District 100 has a wide range of racial, social, and economic diversity. In order to address these issues, our communities must have a direct local connection with their State Representative, which I have committed to doing. One of the first things I accomplished was the opening of HD 100's first district office in over four years.

I also believe that there are many racial inequities in the area of public health and must be at the top of the agenda for any Texas public official serving Black communities. I grew up, live, and operate a non-profit all within the district. I see every day how the lack of adequate healthcare leads to the economic disparity of Black and Hispanic communities and when re-elected, I look forward to continuing to lead the effort to change that.

10. In what way do you plan to use your position to deliver your campaign promises while also building stronger communities as a whole?

I first want to point out that I delivered on my first campaign promise. I'm proud to say that we opened the first district office in House District 100 in four years. It's located in Fair Park and will continue to be an asset to the community.

Belief Statements



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To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with the following statements? Please include a detailed explanation of your response.

- 1. There is a history of Black people being disproportionately negatively impacted by the political system compared to their peers of other races.**

Agree

- 2. The political system makes it difficult for constituents to engage with the government and have their concerns addressed with efficiency and respect.**

Agree

- 3. There is a lack of faith, particularly among Black Americans, in the political system because of a history of broken promises.**

Agree

- 4. Socio-economic factors play a significant role both in the progress of your House District and its constituents.**

Agree

Thanks for completing our questionnaire. If there is anything else you'd like to share with voters about yourself or your campaign, please use the space below to do so: