



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Wednesday, September 28, 2022  
**CONTACT:** Christine Bolaños, [christine@jolttx.org](mailto:christine@jolttx.org), (512) 767-2978

### **JOLT ENDORSES HOUSTON CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE**

HOUSTON, Texas - Jolt Action proudly announces its official endorsement of the following candidates for the 2022 November Midterm Elections in Houston:

[Christina Morales](#) for Texas House of Representatives, District 145

[Penny Morales Shaw](#) for Texas House of Representatives, District 148

[Lina Hidalgo](#) for Harris County Judge

[Adrian Garcia](#) for Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 2

[Lesley Briones](#) for Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 4

“As Houstonians, we deserve competent leaders who will work to transform current policies to reflect a more inclusive, empathetic, and visionary place to live. The political environment has reached a fever pitch as our democracy is being dismantled at an unprecedented rate by those currently in control, but we are confident that if elected, these candidates will set us on the right course towards progress and prosperity,” said Jolt Action Regional Organizer Julie Neuman.

“From the passing of harmful legislation that criminalizes and restricts basic health care needs, to critical race theory laws limiting our intellectual freedoms, to voter integrity laws designed to suppress voting rights; the infringements are vast and threaten our horizon,” Neuman said. “I strongly believe Jolt’s endorsed Houston candidates have the integrity and skill set that we desperately need right now. From flood control to affordable healthcare and better jobs to stronger schools, these candidates are willing to fix the issues that keep Houstonians up at night,” Neuman said.

Christina Morales is running for re-election for Texas House of Representatives, District 145. Under her leadership, the Morales Funeral Home has become a Houston institution and a pillar of the Second Ward community. She launched the Annual Morales Back to School Supplies Giveaway and the program is now 24-years strong. She ran for State Representative in House District 145 in 2019 and since winning has championed public education improvements, expanding access to quality healthcare, bridging the digital divide and ensuring Texans’ right to vote.

*“When people talk about the potential of the Latino electorate, I think they forget how young our voters are. Jolt is empowering our community for decades to come. It is my honor to earn their endorsement,” Morales said.*

Penny Morales Shaw is seeking re-election for Texas House of Representatives, District 148. Penny has dedicated over 20 years as a lawyer advancing the health and wellbeing of working families and children. A native Houstonian who attended local public schools and a resident of the Heights for over 10 years, she has a long history of championing human rights, women’s healthcare, environmental protections and early childhood education. Before her election to the Texas House, Penny served as Deputy Chief for Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 2, where she oversaw policy and legislative affairs. Her Precinct includes parts of Houston Heights, North Houston, and Spring Branch.

*“As a native Texas with a decades-long commitment to, and experience in, public service and human rights advocacy, this endorsement is so meaningful to me. I stand with Jolt on the entirety of your organization’s policy and advocacy platform and look forward to working with you in the coming legislative session,” Morales Shaw said.*

Lina Hidalgo is a proud Texan, immigrant and first female and first Latina elected as Judge in the country’s third largest county. She is dedicated to making Harris County safer and stronger, which is why she is running for re-election. As Judge, she oversees a \$4.3 billion budget and the Commissioners Court, which is responsible for setting tax rates, building and maintaining roads, and bridges, operating county courthouses, jails, parks and the county’s Flood Control District.

Lina is the county’s Director of Emergency Management and leads Harris County’s Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. If re-elected, she commits to ensuring county government is transparent, accessible and accountable to all residents. She believes the Houston area can remain competitive through proactive and creative leadership on issues such as flood control, transportation, criminal justice reform and education.

*“Jolt has been leading the way in organizing on many of the issues closest to my heart: good jobs for all, protecting voting rights, and ensuring every kid gets a great education. I’m thrilled to have your endorsement and to be in the fight with you,” Hidalgo said.*

Adrian Garcia is a lifelong resident of Precinct 2 and has 35 years of public service under his belt. This includes serving as a Houston Police Officer, Director of Mayor Lee Brown’s Anti-Gang Office and Houston City Councilman where he was appointed chair of two City Council committees: Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee and Minority/Women Business Enterprise Committee. He also served as Mayor Pro-Tem, as Harris County Sheriff – the largest sheriff’s office in Texas and third largest in the country. If re-elected, Adrian promises to champion better jobs, affordable health care, keeping families safe and protecting homes against flooding.

*"I am extremely honored to have earned the support of Jolt Action. We're at an inflection point in our history, and the only way we will achieve equity, equality, and justice for all is to be active and engaged in voting and in our communities. Thank you, Jolt Action, for making that happen," Garcia said.*"

Lesley Briones is a native Texan and proud Latina who grew up in the U.S.-Mexico border which cultivated in her a deep understanding of the struggles faced by working people and the importance of championing families and communities. She led the Yale Law School's Latino Law Students' public services initiatives and provided free assistance to domestic violence survivors and juvenile offenders.

In Texas, she became a judge of Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 4 and was named the county's highest rated Civil Court at Law judge by the 2019 Houston Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Poll. The University of Houston Law Center adjunct professor commits to the following if elected: building a county government that keeps families safe, protecting homes from flooding, expanding healthcare access, treating all fairly and creating good jobs that help families thrive.

*"I am honored to have Jolt Action's endorsement. Jolt is on the front lines mobilizing Latinos and increasing our civic participation across Texas. As a proud Latina and as commissioner, I look forward to working with Jolt to empower Latinos across Harris County," Briones said.*

For media inquiries or to arrange an interview, contact our Communications Team at [christine@jolttx.org](mailto:christine@jolttx.org)

#### ABOUT [JOLT ACTION](#)

Founded in 2016, Jolt Action is a progressive civic engagement organization focused on building the political power and influence of young Latinos in Texas.

###