

Know Before You Go: TX-32 District Primer

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In the last election, Republican Pete Sessions ran unopposed in this district, but Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump by 1.9%. With your help, we're going to win this seat for Democrats in 2018.

About the Incumbent

Introduction: Republican Pete Sessions has represented TX-32 since 2003 and has been a member of Congress since 1997. Before that he was a telecommunications executive at Southwestern Bell, and served as chairman for the NE Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

Issues: Sessions is one of the most reliable Republican votes in Congress. He supports repealing Obamacare, gutting the EPA, and ending birthright citizenship for children of undocumented immigrants. He opposes abortion rights, voted against banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and strongly supports the NRA. He voted for TrumpCare in May 2017.

Leadership: Sessions served as Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee for the 2010 and 2012 elections, and has chaired the powerful House Rules Committee since 2013. He announced a run for Majority Whip in 2015 but dropped the campaign when the existing whip decided not to seek a higher leadership position.

Strengths: Sessions is a long-time incumbent with strong ties to donors and party leaders. He has raised at least \$1.8 million in 8 of his last 9 elections, and Democratic challengers have historically lacked the funding to seriously compete against him. He won all of his Congressional elections with at least a 10-point margin; his most competitive race was a 54%-44% defeat of 13-term Democratic Representative Martin Frost following redistricting in 2004.

Potential Weaknesses: Sessions endorsed Donald Trump in May 2016 and has continued to back his positions, including the travel ban and TrumpCare. Sessions' alliance with the president is not a good match for his district, which Trump lost by almost 2 percentage points in the 2016 presidential election.

About the Challenger

Introduction: Democrat Colin Allred was born and raised in North Dallas, received his Bachelor's Degree from Baylor and his law degree from UC Berkeley. He played five seasons with the NFL's Tennessee Titans. He has worked as Special Assistant to HUD Secretary Julian Castro, served as the Dallas Fort Worth Director of a voter protection program and worked for the Perkins Coie law firm as an attorney specializing in voting rights.

Issues: Allred supports the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) and the expansion of Medicaid. He favors job training and infrastructure programs, empowering small businesses and a \$15 minimum wage. He supports Planned Parenthood and the defense of women's reproductive health and freedom. He would restore the Voting rights Act and eliminate discriminatory voter ID laws and gerrymandering. He favors requiring background checks on gun sales and banning assault weapons. He supports investments in teachers and public school infrastructure.

Strengths: Allred raised nearly \$1,000,000 for the primary election and received more than twice the votes of the second place candidate in a field of seven. In the 2018 primary, the Democratic turnout was only 1,275 fewer than the Republican in a district that did not even field a Democratic Candidate in 2016. He is a minority candidate in a district with a 47% minority population.



TX-32: Facts & Stats

Largest Cities

- Dallas (partial), 1.2 million
- Garland (partial), 230K
- Richardson (partial), 102K
- Rowlett (partial), 57K
- Wylie (partial), 42K
- Sachse, 21K

2016 Presidential Results

- Clinton: 135K (49%)
- Trump: 130K (47%)

2016 House Results

- Sessions (R): 163K (71%)
- Rankin (Lib): 43K (19%)
- Stuard (Green): 23K (10%)

2014 House Results

- Sessions (R): 96K (62%)
- Perez (D): 55K (35%)
- Rankin (Lib): 4K (3%)

TX-32: Better Know a District

Geography

TX-32 is suburban area of approximately 186 square miles with a population density ranking 4th highest out of 36 districts in Texas. It covers part of the city of Dallas and much of the northeast section of Dallas county. The western part of the district includes Highland Park, University Park, North / Far North Dallas, and Richardson. The eastern portion includes a small section of Mesquite, along with Sachse and most of Garland, Rowlett, and (in Collin County) Wylie.

Citizenry

TX-32 is 51.6% white (non-hispanic), 25.8% hispanic, 12.1% black, and 7.6% asian. 21.9% of residents speak Spanish at home and 2.5% speak Vietnamese at home. The district is more affluent and has higher educational attainment than the state as a whole; it ranks 8th out of 36 Texas districts in median household income at \$62,500 and ranks 5th in percent of residents with a Bachelor's Degree or higher. Only 14% lack a high school diploma or GED, compared with 18.8% of all Texans.

Elections

Pete Sessions, the incumbent since 2003, was not opposed by a Democrat in 2016 and went on to win 71% of the vote against Libertarian and Green Party opponents. Between 2006 and 2014, Sessions won with 56% to 62% of the vote with strong funding from establishment GOP donors in Dallas and its affluent suburbs. The district went to Hillary Clinton by nearly 2 points in the 2016 election, compared with a 15-point win by Mitt Romney over Barack Obama in 2012. According to the Cook Political Report, TX-32 leans Republican by 5% more than the U.S. as a whole.

Higher Education

The district is home to several Dallas-area universities and colleges. The largest is the University of Texas at Dallas, with an enrollment near 26,800. Also sizeable: Richland College, with close to 20,000 students, and Southern Methodist University at 11,700.

Industry

The top industries in TX-32 are health care and social assistance (11.1% of all jobs) and retail (10.5%). The industry breakdown is typical for Texas generally with two key exceptions: professional, scientific and technical services (10.1%) and finance and insurance (7.9%), which are almost twice as high in this district compared to Texas as a whole. These jobs tend to be concentrated near the more affluent areas of Highland Park and University Park.