

Mike Villarreal

State Representative, District 123

I am running for re-election to the Texas House of Representatives so that together we may (1) invest in education, (2) protect our air and water, and (3) value work and aspiration in our state policies.

Here are a few of the bills I will file this coming Legislative session:

- 1) Expand the state's funding of pre-kindergarten to full-day instruction;
- 2) Incentivize the building of energy-efficient school buildings;
- 3) Increase the state's investment in Texas Grants, a college grant program that makes college affordable to working families;
- 4) Redesign our property tax and appraisal system to improve fairness and accuracy;
- 5) Reallocate tax cuts to big businesses to fund loan assistance to small businesses;
- 6) Expand the state's investment in alternative energy including solar energy; and
- 7) Make it harder for parents that owe child support to hide their assets.

This agenda was developed by listening to neighbors like you. If you have any ideas that could improve this agenda or my public service, please email me at mike@leaderslisten.org or call me at 210-734-8937. We can also keep in touch at [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) where I have an account under my name.

If re-elected, I will continue to place pragmatic problem-solving ahead of partisan games. I will do my best to seek common ground and forge compromise that improves our state and community in San Antonio.

Thanks for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Joaquín Castro

State Representative, District 125

Joaquin Castro represents District 125, the west and northwest sides of San Antonio, and the City of Leon Valley, in the Texas House of Representatives. Joaquin's grew up on San Antonio's westside before leaving his hometown to attend Stanford University and Harvard law School. Joaquin's interest in public service developed from watching his parents' involvement in political campaigns and civic causes. Today, he focuses his energy on helping San Antonio live up to its potential. He currently serves on the Border and International Affairs Committee and the Business and Industry Committee in the Texas House. For his public service, he has received attention as a political rising star in the Los Angeles Times, Dallas Morning News, Texas Monthly, Latina Magazine, People en Español, and numerous



Jose Menendez

State Representative, District 124

A native of San Antonio, José graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1987 and went on to receive degrees in Business Administration and Latin American Studies from Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas. José currently serves as the National Director for emerging real estate markets for Stewart Title Company. Stewart Title specializes in providing title policies through more than 5,200 issuing locations on real property located in all 50 states and several foreign countries. José Menéndez is not only responsible for maintaining Stewart's current customer base, but also for successfully developing and recruiting new business opportunities in domestic emerging real estate markets. In his efforts to accomplish these goals, José works with commercial real estate brokers, lenders, property owners and purchasers on a daily basis. The Representative began his years as a public servant in 1994 when he was appointed District 6 Zoning Commissioner and later elected Vice-Chair of the Zoning Commission. His service has included serving on the Boards of Keep San Antonio Beautiful, San Antonio Life Directions, Inc., the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center, and serving as Chair of the City's Community Revitalization Action Group (CRAG) I & II.



José Menéndez was first elected to represent City Council District 6 on May 27, 1997. During his tenure as a City Councilman, José committed himself to improving the quality of education in San Antonio and expanding his district's economic potential. José is responsible for organizing the District's first-ever business and education summits. On May 1, 1999, Mr. Menéndez celebrated his re-election to a second City Council term with an 84.5% share of the District's total vote. José served as Chair of the International Relations Committee and was a member of the Small Business Strategy Committee.

In November 2000, José was elected to the Texas House of Representatives to serve District 124. During the 77th Legislative session he was appointed to the Committee on Financial Institutions and the Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee. Rep. Menéndez is currently serving his fourth term in the Texas House and is on the powerful Appropriations Committee, and Urban Affairs. Mr. Menéndez works diligently on public education, housing and economic development issues, and the state's operating budget.

In August 2001, José had the privilege of serving on San Antonio's 2007 Pan Am Games Bid Committee as the Secretary General. He traveled throughout the Western Hemisphere developing relationships with the Presidents' of the Olympic Committees of 42 countries. Representative Menéndez has been married to Cehlia Newman-Menéndez since September of 1995. In his spare time, José enjoys spending time with his three young children, Dominic Michael and Victoria Elise and Austin Maxwell.

other publications.

Mission

"I entered public service five years ago because I believe in San Antonio's potential. I have fought each day in the Legislature trying to meet the challenges that will help us live up to that potential. By this, I mean building what I believe is the Infrastructure of Opportunity. Just as physical infrastructure -- streets, highways -- allows people to get to places they want to go on the road, there is a set of laws, and policies that can help make it possible for people to reach their destiny in life. These include a well-funded public education system, a good affordable system of higher education, access to healthcare and prescription medications and the creation of new, high-paying jobs in San Antonio. The best undertaking that anyone in public service can pursue is to build piece by piece this Infrastructure."

Healthcare

In San Antonio, we face two major challenges regarding healthcare. First, nearly one-third of our residents do not have insurance. Second, the cost of prescription drugs is more than many can afford. I have supported efforts to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for residents who either cannot afford private insurance through their work or are cannot afford private insurance because they work only part time. As it may be known, the cost of medical coverage for yourself, and dependents has risen over the past several years. Co-payments and deductibles continue to rise. The CHIP program offers low- and

middle-income families affordable healthcare coverage. We must also work with private employers, including thousands of small businesses, who want to do the best thing for their employees -- like offering health coverage -- but cannot afford to in today's market.

Education

I believe that education is the surest path to economic success. Texas ranks 45th in spending money on education. We must invest more of our resources on giving our students the best chance to succeed in life. In May 2007, I supported legislation to increase teacher pay (Texas falls well below the national average).

Economic Development

Despite these challenging economic times, San Antonio is experiencing tremendous growth. We have growing medical, financial services, real estate, and manufacturing industries. We have also preserved the two anchor industries that enabled us to grow into America's seventh largest city -- hospitality and military services. Our long-term challenge will be keep ahead of the curve in emerging industries, such as biomedicine and computer technology. To do this, I have supported an effort to make UTSA a top-tier research university in the coming years. This will allow San Antonio to benefit from the synergy between business and academia that thrust areas such as the Silicon Valley, the Golden Triangle, Seattle, and Austin into meccas for the new economy.

