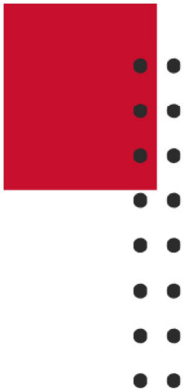




City of Houston 2025: Congressional District 18



Hobby School of Public Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



**City of Houston 2025:
Congressional District 18
April 2025**

The Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston conducted a survey of City of Houston registered voters to assess their preferences and opinions about a wide range of salient local issues. The survey was fielded between March 29 and April 4, 2025 by contacting City of Houston registered voters via SMS text messages through which they were directed to an online survey platform with the option to answer the survey in English or Spanish. Representative of the City of Houston population of registered voters, the analysis population of 1,400 has a margin of error of +/- 2.62%.

The overall study includes three reports. The first report examined the opinions of registered voters in Houston (also referred to as Houstonians throughout the report) on where the city is headed, the job performance of the mayor and the quality of life in the city, as well as Houstonians' satisfaction with city services, what they believe the most important problems facing Houston are, and the impact of a variety of factors on the quality of life in their neighborhood. This second brief report provides evaluations of six actual and potential Texas Congressional District 18 special election candidates by Houstonians residing in the district. A third report will gauge the extent to which Houstonians visit area parks, museums, attractions and sporting events as well as explore their opinions about the potential of a major theme park being built in Houston and of Houston getting a Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) team and a National Hockey League (NHL) team.

The analysis population for this report, focused on the roughly three-fifths of Texas Congressional District 18 (TX-18) registered voters who live in the City of Houston, included 300 respondents, with a margin of error of +/- 5.66%. These respondents were included within the larger City of Houston survey population. It is important to note that while 63% of the voting age residents of Texas Congressional District 18 live within the City of Houston, 37% do not (residing primarily in unincorporated Harris County), and therefore the opinions of this latter group of district residents are not represented in this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than half of TX-18 registered voters residing within the City of Houston don't know enough about the two most prominent TX-18 special election candidates who have filed to run to have an opinion of them, with 53% not knowing enough about County Attorney of Harris County Christian Menefee and 51% not knowing enough about former Houston City Council Member Amanda Edwards.

TX-18 registered voters who do have an opinion of Menefee and Edwards have a largely favorable opinion on balance, with, 37% and 36% having a favorable opinion compared to 10% and 13% who have an unfavorable opinion of Menefee and Edwards, respectively.

State Representative Jolanda Jones (who has not filed to run) is better known than Edwards and Menefee among these TX-18 registered voters, with 44% not knowing enough about her to have an opinion. However, while Jones has a proportion of TX-18 registered voters who have a favorable opinion of her (33%) which is comparable to that of Menefee and Edwards, she also has a larger proportion who have an unfavorable opinion of her (23%). Jones' higher proportion of TX-18 registered voters who have an unfavorable opinion of her is due in large part to her notably higher (compared to Menefee and Edwards) unfavorable proportions among men, White registered voters, and college graduates.

State Representative Christina Morales (who has not filed to run) is less well-known among TX-18 registered voters than Jones, Edwards and Menefee, with 69% not knowing enough about Morales to have an opinion of her. One-fifth (22%) of the registered voters have a favorable opinion of Morales, compared to 9% who have an unfavorable opinion of her.

Candidates Isaiah Martin and James Joseph are relatively unknown at this time, with 79% and 86% of respondents, respectively, not knowing enough about them to have an opinion.

Menefee has the highest net-favorability rating (proportion favorable minus proportion unfavorable) of these political figures (+27%), followed closely by Edwards (+23%), with Morales (+13%) and Jones (+10%) presently located on a tier below, and Martin (+5%) and Joseph (0%) on a tier below that.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 18 SURVEY POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

White registered voters account for 34% of this Texas Congressional District 18 population, Black registered voters for 33%, Latino registered voters for 27%, and those with another or mixed ethnic/racial identity for 6%. Women represent 54% of this population, men 45% and those with another gender identity 1%. One-fifth (22%) of the population is between the ages of 18 and 34, 37% between the ages of 35 and 54, and 41% are age 55 and older. Nearly two-fifths of the respondents (38%) have a four-year college degree while 62% do not. Democrats account for 57% of this population, Republicans for 28% and Independents for 7%, with 8% either unsure of their partisan identification or identifying with another party or group.

FAVORABLE AND UNFAVORABLE EVALUATIONS OF SIX POLITICAL FIGURES

The Texas Congressional District 18 (TX-18) registered voters who reside in the City of Houston (approximately three-fifths of the district's registered voters) were asked if they had a favorable or unfavorable opinion of six political figures, or, if they did not know enough about the political figure to have an opinion of them one way or another. The six political figures evaluated by these registered voters included the following: former Houston City Council Member and 2024 TX-18 Democratic primary candidate Amanda Edwards, Texas State Representative Jolanda Jones, 2023 Houston City Council candidate James Joseph, former TX-18 congressional staffer Isaiah Martin, the County Attorney of Harris County Christian Menefee, and Texas State Representative Christina Morales.

Table 1 contains the proportion of TX-18 registered voters with a favorable and unfavorable opinion of the six political figures, as well as the proportion who do not know enough about the political figure to have an opinion of them.

Table 1: Proportion of Texas Congressional District 18/City of Houston Residents With a Favorable & Unfavorable Opinion of Six Political Figures (%)

Political Figure	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know Enough About To Have An Opinion
Christian Menefee	37	10	53
Amanda Edwards	36	13	51
Jolanda Jones	33	23	44
Christina Morales	22	9	69
Isaiah Martin	13	8	79
James Joseph	7	7	86

With one exception (Jones), there are more TX-18 registered voters who do not know enough about the political figures to have an opinion of them than there are who have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of them, with the proportion not knowing enough about the political figures ranging from highs of 86% (Joseph), 79% (Martin) and 69% (Morales) to lows of 53% (Menefee), 51% (Edwards) and 44% (Jones).

The proportion of TX-18 registered voters with a favorable opinion of the six political figures ranges from highs of 37% (Menefee), 35% (Edwards) and 33% (Jones) to lows of 22% (Morales), 13% (Martin), and 7% (Joseph). The proportion of TX-18 registered voters with an unfavorable opinion of the six political figures ranges from highs of 23% (Jones), 13% (Edwards) and 10% (Menefee) to lows of 9% (Morales), 8% (Martin), and 7% (Joseph).

Figure 1 displays the net-favorability rating (the percentage favorable minus the percentage unfavorable) for each of the six political figures. Menefee has the highest net-favorability rating (+27%), followed closely by Edwards (+23%). Menefee and Edwards are followed by Morales (+13%) and Jones (+10%), who, in turn, are followed by Martin (+5%) and Joseph (0%).

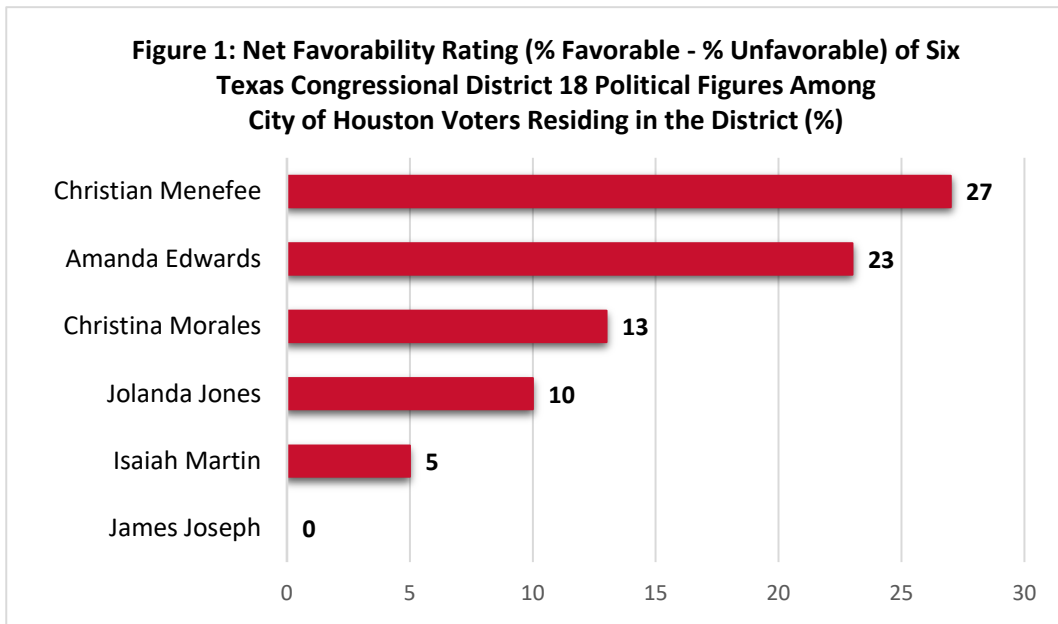


Table 2 provides the distribution of the net-favorability rating and proportion who do not know enough about the political figure to have an opinion of them (in parentheses) for each one of four best known of the six political figures, broken down by gender, ethnicity/race, age, education, and partisanship.

Table 2: Net-Favorability Rating Of & Proportion Who Don't Know Enough About Four TX-18 Political Figures by Sub-Group (%)

Socio-Demographic	Sub-Group	Amanda Edwards	Jolanda Jones	Christian Menefee	Christina Morales
Overall		23 (51)	10 (44)	27 (53)	13 (69)
Gender	Women	27 (51)	17 (44)	29 (54)	13 (73)
	Men	18 (50)	1 (43)	26 (50)	14 (64)
Ethnicity/Race	White	10 (58)	-14 (54)	13 (60)	1 (77)
	Latino	5 (68)	5 (63)	12 (61)	18 (68)
	Black	59 (28)	46 (16)	60 (32)	25 (63)
Age	18 to 34	10 (78)	13 (75)	11 (77)	11 (83)
	35 to 54	28 (50)	-4 (44)	37 (47)	10 (72)
	55+	24 (38)	20 (28)	27 (46)	15 (60)
Education	College Degree	23 (47)	-14 (50)	28 (54)	11 (75)
	No College Degree	24 (54)	24 (40)	27 (52)	14 (66)
Partisanship	Democratic	32 (47)	29 (41)	43 (49)	22 (72)
	Republican	-17 (58)	-30 (47)	-5 (59)	-6 (63)

Notes: The Net-Favorability Rating is calculated by subtracting the percentage unfavorable from the percentage favorable.

The proportion who don't know enough about the political figure to have an opinion is in parentheses.

The net-favorability ratings of the four political figures among women range from highs of +29% (Menefee) and +27% (Edwards) to lows of +17% (Jones) and +13% (Morales). The net-favorability ratings of the four political figures among men range from highs of +26% (Menefee) and +18% (Edwards) to lows of +14% (Morales) and +1% (Jones).

The net-favorability ratings of the four political figures among White registered voters range from highs of +13% (Menefee) and +10% (Edwards) to lows of +1% (Morales) and -14% (Jones). The net-favorability ratings of the four political figures among Latino registered voters range from highs of +18% (Morales) and +12% (Menefee) to lows of +5% (Edwards) and +5% (Jones). The net-favorability ratings of the four political figures among Black registered voters range from highs of +60% (Menefee) and +59% (Edwards) to lows of +46% (Jones) and +25% (Morales). Of note, a substantial majority of Black registered voters know enough about Jones (84%), Edwards (72%) and Menefee (68%) to have an opinion of them (favorable or unfavorable), while only 37% know enough about Morales to have an opinion of her.

With one noteworthy exception, there do not exist any salient differences in the net-favorability ratings for the four political figures across each one of the three age cohorts. The exception is among registered voters ages 35 to 54, among whom the net favorability ratings of Menefee (+37%) and Edwards (+28%) are notably greater than those of Morales (+10%) and, especially, of Jones (-4%).

The net-favorability ratings of the four political figures among college educated registered voters range from highs of +28% (Menefee) and +23% (Edwards) to lows of +11% Morales and -14% (Jones). The net-favorability ratings of the four political figures among non-college educated registered voters range from highs of +27% (Menefee) +24% (Edwards) and +24% (Jones) to a low of +14% (Morales).

The net-favorability ratings of the four political figures among Democrats range from highs of +43% (Menefee) and +32% (Edwards) to lows of +29% (Jones) and +22% (Morales). The net-favorability ratings of the four political figures among Republicans range from highs of -5% (Menefee) and -6% (Morales) to lows of -17% (Edwards) and -30% (Jones).

CO-INVESTIGATORS

Renée Cross, Senior Executive Director & Researcher, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Mark P. Jones, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy's Fellow in Political Science, Rice University;
Senior Research Fellow, Hobby School of Public Affairs

RESEARCH TEAM

Maria P. Perez Argüelles, Research Associate, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Savannah Sipole, Research Associate, Hobby School of Public Affairs

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Diana Benitez, Program Manager, Web & Graphic Design, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Victoria Cordova, Executive Director of Communications, Hobby School of Public Affairs

Jeannie Keever, Communications Consultant

Celeste Zamora, Communications Manager, Hobby School of Public Affairs

RECOMMENDED CITATION

University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs, April 2025, "City of Houston 2025: Congressional District 18"