

NOVEMBER BALLOT Continued from Front Page

ballot.

This is where we don’t want anyone to be confused in November, in that the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District voters will be voting for the same position two times, although for two separate elections. One is to elect the temporary seat-filler and the other will be to elect the selected Democratic nominee who will serve the full, two-year term starting January 3, 2025.

**CANDIDATES ANNOUNCING THEIR INTEREST**

Several people have gone on the record expressing their interest in being Sheila Jackson Lee’s replacement on the November ballot, with some even reaching out to Harris County Democratic Party leaders before the Congresswoman had been officially funeralized.

Here is a list of people who have declared their intention to pursue the nomination, in alphabetical order of last name, as of this article being published:

**AMANDA EDWARDS**—Former Houston City Council Member who lost to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in March for the Democratic nomination for TX-18. She released the following statement via press release:

*“I am running for Congress to place people over politics, to deliver the results our community deserves, and to continue the strong legacy of servant leadership in the 18th Congressional District. From the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, the late Congressman Mickey Leland, Congressman Craig Washington and, most recently, the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, the people of the 18th Congressional District expect bold, effective leadership. I got my start in Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee’s D.C. office 20 years ago, and I have been directly trained by Congresswoman Jackson Lee. I am uniquely equipped to continue her legacy and fight for our rights, as well as elevate innovative solutions that can move our community forward in a transformative way. This battle is for the long haul.”*

**JARVIS JOHNSON**—Former Texas State Representative and Houston City Council Member, who lost the State Senate District 15 to replace current Houston Mayor John Whitmire. He also unsuccessfully ran against Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in 2010. He shared the following via a statement:

*“Just as Joe Biden passed the torch to a willing and able candidate, I stand ready to provide cohesion and strength, while fighting for the 18th District against the Republican regime.”*

**CHRISTINA MORALES**—Current Texas State Representative who currently serves as President, CEO, and Funeral Director of Morales Funeral Home and President of the Morales Memorial Foundation. She shared the following statement via video on X (formerly Twitter):

*“After Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee’s loss, there is a massive void in leadership that will not easily be filled. As the representative of #HD145 and a resident of #CD18, I am deeply connected to the rich diversity of communities within #CD18...Since taking office in 2019 I have not backed down from Gov. Abbott and the Republicans...I’m asking you to put me in this fight because I’ve been preparing for it. I’m here to unite CD18.”*

**LETITIA PLUMMER**—Current At-Large Houston City Council Member who is the first Muslim woman to be elected to the Houston City Council. She said via statement:

*“Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee worked tirelessly for the people of Texas’s 18th District...She was bold and unapologetic in her advocacy for the voiceless and the underserved. She would remind us that The Work Must Continue.”*

**ROBERT SLATER**—Businessman who ran in the Democratic primary against Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee this year, but exited the race and endorsed her. On his campaign website, Slater stated:

*“As Congressman for District 18, my goal is to reclaim Houston’s number one status by prioritizing safety, rejuvenating our economy with a focus on small businesses, and securing federal funding for infrastructure improvements. I believe that by working together, we can make Houston First again for all the right reasons.”*

**SYLVESTER TURNER**—Former Houston mayor who served for eight years before reaching his term limit from 2016 to 2024. He also served for 27 years as the representative for Texas House District 139. He released a statement, saying the following:

*“The historic 18th Congressional District in the heart of Houston is without representation today. Upon the passing of my dear friend, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, we have a painful decision to make. We need to select who will fill her shoes, as we mourn her death. For more than 35 years, I’ve watched the Congresswoman serve our community with vigor and integrity. She followed in the footsteps of Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland, and Craig Washington with dignity and helped preserve the legacy of this historic seat. Only Sheila’s passing at this critical moment in the election cycle could bring me out of retirement. Given all the uncertainty at the national level, I believe the 18th District needs stability and continuity in leadership. We must keep federal resources flowing into the district to address challenges such as the cancer cluster in Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens, and continued funding for local organizations for health care, flood mitigation and education. Our next representative must also meet the high bar of compassion, caring, and humanity that was the hallmark of Sheila’s leadership and public service. Comforting families who have lost loved ones, spending quality time with seniors while offering a helping hand – for me, these commitments deserve equal attention as the Washington duties of a member of Congress. I have worked closely with the Congresswoman, U.S. Presidents, and federal departments at the highest levels during my time as mayor and 27 years in the Texas House. I am best positioned to ensure the ball is not dropped on servicing the needs of the entire 18th Congressional District.”*

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

The final decision of who will succeed the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee as the Democratic nominee on the November ballot will be made prior to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

**FT Associate Editor Jeffrey L. Boney and Houston Delegation at NABJ Convention**

*in the Big Leagues*’, which is a “dream come true” story about professional baseball player Corey Julks who realized his childhood dream of playing Major League Baseball as an outfielder for his hometown Houston Astros.

The remaining four pieces of journalistic work that Boney was selected for as a finalist include:

**COMMENTARY/ESSAY** - *The Unapologetic Assault on Black History in America*

**INVESTIGATIVE** - *Land Fraud Nightmare: It Could Happen to You!*

**NEWS: SERIES** - *Gun Legislation in Texas That Could Negatively Affect the Black Community*

**FEATURE: SINGLE STORY** - *Autism Has a Face*

The NABJ Salute to Excellence Awards Gala recognizes journalism that best covers the Black experience and that addresses issues affecting the worldwide Black community. Journalists are nominated for awards in over 100 different categories across six segments including digital media, magazine, newspaper, photojournalism, television, and radio.

Nominations for the Salute to Excellence Awards are open to all media organizations and individuals involved in print, broadcast, and/or online journalism media. Finalists and winners are determined by a group of professional judges who ensure the journalistic work embodies the highest standards of the journalism profession.

“Your relentless pursuit of the truth and your commitment to shining a light on critical issues affecting the Black Diaspora are commendable,” stated Ken Lemon, NABJ President, as he thanked Boney and all who were nominated. “You represent the best in all of us, reminding us to strive harder and aim higher in our own endeavors. I am personally grateful for your contributions, and I am proud to celebrate your achievements.”

Other 2024 Salute to Excellence Awards Gala honors were given to:

**Student Journalist of the Year: Domonique Tolliver**—a recent graduate of Loyola University New Orleans, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in mass communication with a concentration in journalism.

**Journalist of Distinction: Gary Lee**—a veteran reporter and editor who has made impactful contributions to the mainstream media and the Black Press. He has served as a staff writer for *TIME* magazine and a correspondent for *The Washington Post*. In 2021, he was named managing editor of the *Oklahoma Eagle*, one of the oldest Black newspapers in the United States.

**Best Practices: Staff of Capital B**—a nonprofit news organization that centers Black voices, audience needs, and experience and partners with the community.

**Percy Qoboza Foreign Journalist of the Year Award: Roberson Alphonse**—respected Haitian journalist who survived an assassination attempt because of his fearless work as a radio broadcaster and a senior reporter with *Le Nouvelliste* newspaper, the country’s oldest, most widely circulated, and authoritative newspaper, founded in 1898.

**Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award: Michelle V. Agnis**—a Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist whose images tell unforgettable stories and whose groundbreaking assignments offer some of the most important documentation of race relations, celebrity culture, sports, spirituality, and economic disparity in America. She is the second Black woman ever hired as a staff photographer at *The New York Times*. Before that, Agnis worked at the *Charlotte Observer* and was the personal photographer for Harold Washington, the first Black mayor of Chicago.

**Journalist of the Year: Louder Than A Riot--** Hosted by NPR Music’s Sidney Madden and Rodney Carmichael, *Louder Than A Riot* confronts power from every angle – from the power the genre wields over its artists, to the power plays that its rulebreakers take in order to get heard.

p.m.

On Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee’s two children—Jason Lee and Erica Lee Carter—formally endorsed Sylvester Turner to be her 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District successor. They released a statement, saying:

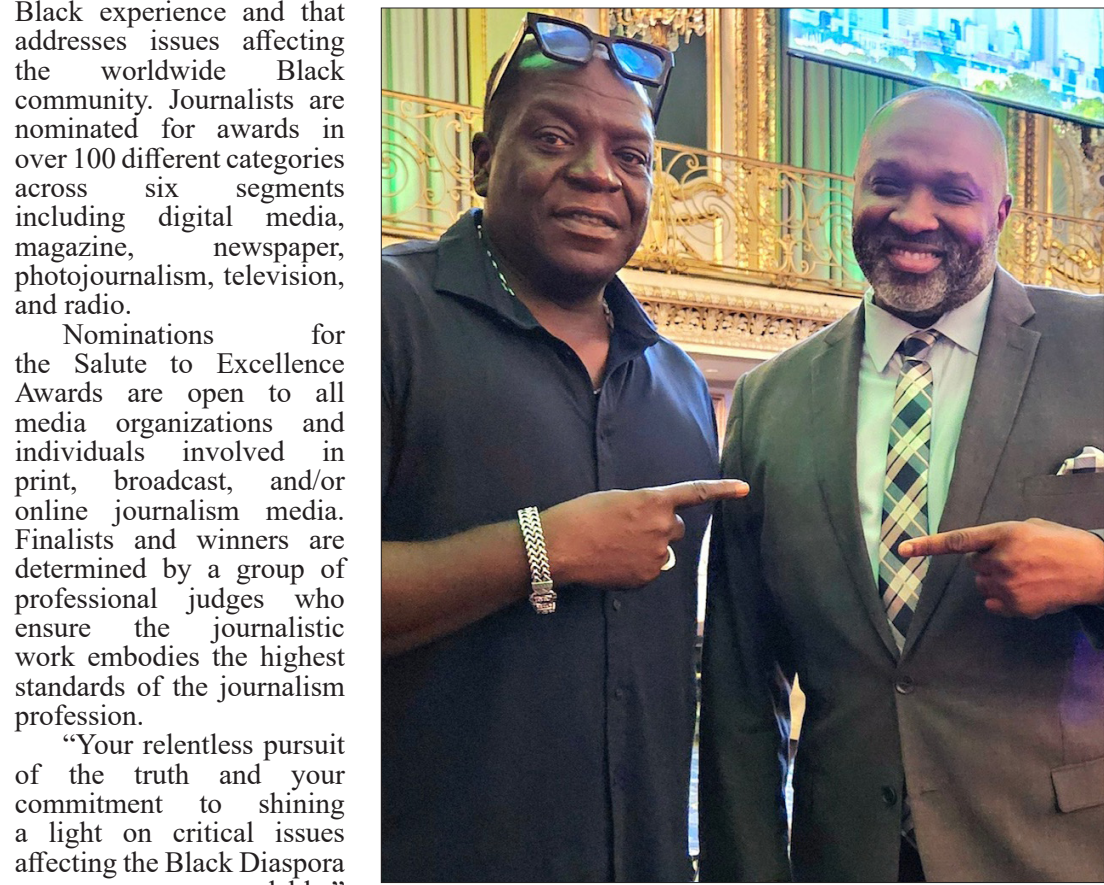
*“While no one will ever replace Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, there must be a successor. Our greatest hope is that her immediate successor has the capacity and commitment to sustain the service upon which the constituents of the 18th District have come to rely. For that reason, we are proud to endorse Sylvester Turner for the 18th Congressional District. We have no doubt Mayor Turner will carry on our mother’s legacy of service because we’ve witnessed it almost our entire lives. Our mother had no greater partner than Mayor Turner and he honors her with his willingness to dutifully and humbly serve as a sturdy bridge to the next generation of leadership for the historic 18th Congressional District of Texas. The giants of the 18th Congressional District came to leadership through affirmation, not coronation. And so it should be for those that would assume the mantle for the future. This seat belongs to the people of the 18th, and the people—who affirmed Barbara, Mickey and Sheila—will no doubt identify and select the 18th’s next great champion as well. We look forward to supporting Sylvester Turner as the next Congressman of the 18th Congressional District, as well as supporting the next generational leader who earns the people’s trust.”*

The *Forward Times* will be watching and waiting to see who the **88** Precinct Chairs representing the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District will select and appoint to follow in the footsteps of the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, as well as those who came before her—the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, the late Congressman Mickey Leland, and former Congressman Craig Washington. These are big shoes to fill indeed. May they select well!

SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE Continued from Front Page



**TV Broadcast Journalist Isiah Carey and Forward Times Associate Editor Jeffrey L. Boney at NABJ Convention**



CLASSIFIEDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

**Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Public Services – Solar Lighting Equipment and Related Services – SL12-24**

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, dealers, distributors, and service providers for solar powered exterior lighting equipment and related services to make these types of products and services available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.hgacbuy.org/bid-notice>.

**Response Deadline: August 29, 2024 @ 12:00 P.M. CST**

HELP WANTED

Church Programs Director position for The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Fountain of Power (English & Yoruba Parish) in Houston, TX. Research, plan and implement all church programs. Publicize Church programs. Identify, recruit, and train church volunteer workers. Plan fundraising activities for the church. Set annual church budget. Req. High School Diploma (Foreign Diploma OK) and 3 years’ experience in Church Administration. Send Resume to 11965 Bissonnet Street, Suite 106E, Houston, TX 77099. (Jobsite).

HELP WANTED

**ENGINEERING**

Occidental Petroleum Corp. has multiple job opptys: Ldr, Fclts Eng (Ref # HOUSPA - Mngng all aspts of fclts prjcts incl civ, mech, automtn, commnctn, and electrl eng’g prjcts; Up to 25% dmstc trvl reqd); Prjct Mgr (Ref #HOU MJE - Mngng all prjct phses of the offshr fclts, incl scpng, cncpt slctn, FEED, dtdl dsgn, fbrctn, instlltn, cmmssng & strt-up) May wrk from our HQ office in Houston, TX or reside anywhere in US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prsntly known. Email resume w/Ref# to ApplyForOxyJob@Oxy.com. Must be legally auth to work in the U.S. w/o spnsrshp. EOE

LEGAL NOTICE

The Houston Independent School District Purchasing Services Department located at 4400 West 18th Street, Houston, TX 77092 is soliciting Request for CoOp Project (RFCP) via the District’s electronic bidding portal. Proposers may login to view specifications and submit their responses at the following link <https://houstonisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx> until 2:00 p.m. (CST) Tuesday, August 13, 2024, for the following solicitation:

RFCP- 24-05-12-50 Communication Network Infrastructure