



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights



## **Tarsha Jackson**

Candidate for City Council  
District B

Website: [tarshajackson4districtb.com](http://tarshajackson4districtb.com)

### **Legality of Abortion**

**I believe abortion is part of comprehensive reproductive health care and support the right to choose abortion as fundamental to each person's autonomy.**

Agree

**I support the enshrinement of the fundamental right to abortion in law and oppose legislation that makes abortion and other reproductive health services harder to access.**

Agree

### **Policies That Affect Access to Abortion**

**Insurance coverage for abortion services, including government-provided health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.**

Support

Comments: I support abortions being covered by government health insurance if the pregnancy/abortions is due to the person being raped or the mother is at risk of death. Otherwise-I believe personal insurance should cover the cost of abortions.

**Laws that prevent local governments and jurisdictions from providing funding for abortion services to indigent residents**

Oppose



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**State law that requires doctors to provide information unsupported by medical and scientific evidence, such as the claim included in the “Women’s Right to Know” Act that asserts that abortion increases the risk of breast cancer**

Oppose The information should be supported by medical and scientific evidence.

**State law that that imposes a medically unnecessary 24-hour waiting period on abortion patients, necessitating at least two separate visits to the same provider**

Oppose

Comments: no law should make a wait period mandatory If the waiting period is unnecessary. Unless the waited period is being imposed to give patients time think about whether they want to move forward with the abortion.

**Policies that require pregnant minors to obtain parental consent or seek a judicial bypass in order to receive an abortion**

Support

**Policies, including local clinic safety ordinances, that protect patients, doctors, and other health care professionals at reproductive health clinics from violence, harassment, threats, and intimidation**

Support

**Proposals ensuring that “crisis pregnancy centers” (CPCs, fake women’s health clinics, of which there are more than 10 in Houston) do not mislead or intimidate people facing unintended pregnancy by misrepresenting themselves as sources of unbiased health information, and local ordinances that limit false advertising and other deceptive practices of CPCs**

Support

**Non-coercive, comprehensive access to the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion, for incarcerated people**

Support

**Local funding for organizations that provide logistical assistance, doula services, and other wrap-around support for people seeking abortion care**

Support



## **Policies That Support Access to Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care and Support Healthy Communities**

**State law that prevents local government from partnering with abortion providers or their affiliates (such as, but not only, Planned Parenthood) for services like sexual health education, family planning initiatives and STI prevention**

Oppose

**Proposals that allow certain individuals or corporations (such as HMOs, pharmacists, and health insurance companies) to refuse to provide specific reproductive health services, information, or referrals, including under claim of "religious liberty"**

Oppose

**Emergency contraception (EC) should be accessible to all people – including ER patients and people who seek services because of rape or sexual assault. (EC is an FDA-approved contraceptive, taken after sex, which greatly reduces the likelihood of pregnancy. EC is not abortion and cannot harm a pregnancy if one is already established.)**

Agree

**All Houston workers should have a living wage of at least \$15 per hour.**

Agree

**All employers, including the City of Houston, should provide paid family and medical leave so that people aren't forced to make a choice between earning an income and caring for themselves and their families.**

Agree

**Pregnant individuals should be able to work, be protected from discrimination, and be provided with any reasonable accommodations they need.**

Agree

**The City of Houston should protect its employees, public housing residents, and HHA voucher recipients from discrimination based on gender identity and reproductive decisions.**



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Agree

**The City of Houston has a role to play in helping school districts provide age-appropriate and medically accurate sexual health education that is not limited to teaching only abstinence.**

Agree

**Undocumented people should be able to access reproductive health care without fear of being reported or shamed. The City of Houston should implement programs to help undocumented residents feel safe when seeking these services, such as municipal identification and cultural competency and “Know Your Rights” trainings for healthcare providers and clinic staff.**

Agree

**Municipal courts should abolish cash bail such that people do not face pre-trial incarceration — and, therefore, the risk of losing their homes, jobs, and ability to care for their families — for being too poor to post bond.**

Agree

## **Getting to Know the Candidate and How They View Reproductive Freedom**

**Please describe your stance on access to reproductive health care, including family planning, contraception, and access to abortion.**

I believe everyone should have access to reproductive health care and wrap around services. When elected I plan to work with prochoice advocates to create programs to support these type of services

**Where does it fall on your list of priorities?**

District B has historically been forgotten by the city. So we've got a lot of issues which they are all high priority. When elected I commit to working with

**Do you see a connection between reproductive rights and other issues, such as racial, economic, and migrant justice?**

Yes, I see that there is a connection between reproductive rights and other issue. Black and Brown economically disadvantaged women are often neglected when needing



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reproductive wrap around services. Although my years of advocacy have been around the criminal justice system, I do understand how these issues are connected.

**How will that impact your service if elected to office? Do you intend to proactively seek out opportunities to champion action for reproductive rights, including by drafting and sponsoring creative items to increase gender equity and access to reproductive health for all Houston residents?**

I understand that there are too many barriers to reproductive health. I will work to support reproductive justice because everyone deserves access to reproductive healthcare.

**How do you feel about preemption of local government on progressive issues? Specifically, are you willing to champion, support, and vote for legislation that may ultimately be preempted if you feel it's the right thing to do, including on issues of abortion access? Will you, subsequent to passage of progressive legislation, work to stop potential preemption, including actively opposing state legislative overreach and providing resources to defend city laws in court?**

For nearly 20s years I've fought for fairness and equality for all people. I will support legislation that protects access to reproductive health care and

Oppose anti-abortion legislation.

**Tell us about a time when you stood up for reproductive rights and gender equity. Have you ever been publicly outspoken about your values in supporting access to abortion? Have you ever had conversation with colleagues, coworkers or other community members, published an opinion piece in the paper, attended a public event in support of reproductive rights, etc?**

I believe everyone should have the right to chose without government interference. when elected, I commit to protect anyone seeking reproductive care regardless of race, gender, citizenship status or income; I will support increased community education about family planning and reproductive health.