

HIT: Gina Jones's strongest supporters and allies believe that police departments should be defunded across the U.S.

BACKUP:

Julian Castro, who supports defunding the police, endorses Jones through his People First Future PAC:

- Castro's PAC, People First Future PAC, endorsed Jones in May 2020.



(“Gina Ortiz Jones,” [Twitter](#), 5/28/20)

- **Castro supports defunding the police.** “Serwer: ‘Do you support activists who want to defund the police?’ Castro: ‘I support their efforts to reimagine public safety. Do I believe that the need to spend money on traditional policing is going to go down to zero anytime soon? No. But do I believe that in a lot of cases, we’re using armed cops in situations that we absolutely don’t need to? Yeah, we are, especially dealing with nonviolent situations. Why do you need to send an armed cop when two people have a fender bender, and they just need to fill out a report for insurance purposes? Why do you need to send a cop when somebody is homeless and they sleep at night? In the vast majority of cases where somebody has a mental-health challenge, they’re not violent at all; that’s just the stigma associated with mental-health issues. So right now, because municipalities’ fiscal years often start either on July 1 or August 1, within these next four months, a lot of local communities have a chance to reimagine law enforcement, and recognize the opportunity cost of putting so much money into cops instead of mental-health professionals or literacy efforts or any number of other things. They can boost the quality of life of the community.’” (Adam Serwer, “Julián Castro: ‘This Is the Time to Make Change,’” [The Atlantic](#), 6/26/20)

- Defunding the police means “reallocating or redirecting funding” away from police departments. “Defund the police’ means reallocating or redirecting funding away from the police department to other government agencies funded by the local municipality.” (Rashawn Ray, “What does ‘defund the police’ mean and does it have merit?” [Brookings Institute](#), 6/19/20)
- In June 2020, Castro said “There’s no reason why the police budget should keep growing and growing and growing.” “There’s no reason the police budget should just keep growing and growing and growing. Even though, right now, crime is nowhere near what it was 10 years, 20 years, ago. So, they can make sense of the cuts to policing and invest in better education, better healthcare opportunities, better housing opportunities.” (“Julián Castro calls for defunding police and reallocating resources, SAPOA president disagrees,” [YouTube](#), 6/8/20)

MoveOn, which supports defunding the police, endorses Jones:

- Jones is endorsed by MoveOn.

GINA ORTIZ JONES

f [Twitter](#)

POSITION SOUGHT U.S. Congress Texas 23rd District	CURRENT POSITION U.S. Congress Texas 23rd District	LOCATION Texas
DATE OF PRIMARY ELECTION March 3, 2020	DATE OF GENERAL ELECTION November 3, 2020	
WEBSITE		



(“Gina Ortiz Jones,” [MoveOn](#), Accessed 9/4/20)

- In 2018, MoveOn endorsed Jones, saying she would “steer the Democratic Party in a more progressive direction.” “Members of MoveOn.org Political Action in Texas’ 23rd Congressional District have voted overwhelmingly to endorse Gina Ortiz Jones for Congress. In Texas’ 23rd Congressional District, 93% of votes were cast in favor of Jones. MoveOn’s endorsement comes ahead of the May 22 primary for Texas’ 23rd Congressional District. ‘MoveOn is focused on winning a progressive majority in the House in 2019, and that includes supporting Democratic candidates running on populist and inclusive platforms everywhere Democrats are ready to compete,’ said Ilya Sheyman, executive director of MoveOn.org Political Action. ‘Gina Ortiz Jones will help steer the Democratic Party in a more progressive direction in 2019 and beyond with support for priorities including Medicare for All, the Dream Act, and other economic and racial justice issues.’” (Brian Stewart, “MoveOn Members in Texas Vote Overwhelmingly to Endorse Gina Ortiz Jones (TX-23) for Congress,” [MoveOn](#), 4/1/18)
- MoveOn is a “pillar of the Resistance movement.” “Since the 2016 election, we have been a pillar of the Resistance movement working to limit the harm caused by Trump and

the GOP, while laying the groundwork for progress.” (“A Short History of MoveOn,” [MoveOn](#), Accessed 7/19/20)

- **MoveOn supports defunding the police.** “Police continue to hunt down Black folks in cities across America, and we refuse to sit silent. It was not too long ago we heard Eric Garner utter the same last words, ‘I can’t breathe.’ And just months ago, officers stormed Breonna Taylor’s house and murdered her in her own home. We stand in solidarity with calls to Defund the Police and with the entire Movement for Black Lives.” (“MoveOn Campaigns,” [MoveOn](#), Accessed 7/30/20)

Planned Parenthood, which supports defunding the police, endorses Jones:

- **Jones is endorsed by Planned Parenthood.**

TEXAS
Sima Ladjevardian, TX-02, (Challenger)*
Lizzie Fletcher, TX-07, (Incumbent)*
Al Green, TX-09, (Incumbent)
Pritesh Gandhi, TX-10, (Challenger)*
Vicente Gonzalez, TX-15, (Incumbent)
Veronica Escobar, TX-16, (Incumbent)
Sheila Jackson Lee, TX-18, (Incumbent)
Joaquin Castro, TX-20, (Incumbent)
Wendy Davis, TX-21, (Challenger)*
Sri Kulkarni, TX-22, (Open Seat)*
Gina Ortiz Jones, TX-23, (Challenger)

(“Planned Parenthood Action Fund: The Full List of our 2020 Endorsements,” [Planned Parenthood Action Fund](#), Accessed 7/27/20)

- **Planned Parenthood supports defunding the police.** “Planned Parenthood Action Fund – in solidarity with patients, staff, and supporters – stands with the Movement for Black Lives’ call to defund the police. Defunding the police means investing less in militarizing police forces and investing more in community-based solutions, education, and health care.” (“Defunding the Police: What it Means and Why Planned Parenthood Supports It,” [Planned Parenthood Action Fund](#), 7/9/20)