

Robert Schaffer

Robert Schaffer is a judge of the Texas 152nd District Court. His current term ends on December 31, 2024.

Schaffer ([Democratic Party](#)) ran for re-election for judge of the Texas 152nd District Court. He lost in the Democratic primary on [March 5, 2024](#).

Biography

Schaffer received his undergraduate degree from University of Arizona and his [J.D.](#) from South Texas College of Law.^[1] Prior to his election, he was in private practice at his own firm.^[1]

Elections

2024

See also: [Municipal elections in Harris County, Texas \(2024\)](#)

General election

The candidate list in this election may not be complete.

General election for Texas 152nd District Court

[Takasha Francis](#) is running in the general election for Texas 152nd District Court on November 5, 2024.



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Robert Schaffer



Texas 152nd District Court

Tenure

Present officeholder

Term ends

2024

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Elections and appointments

Last elected

November 3, 2020

Education



Candidate

[Takasha Francis](#) (D) **Bachelor's**University of Arizona,
1974**Law**South Texas College
of Law, 1984**Contact**[Personal website](#)**BP** There are no [incumbents](#) in this race. = candidate completed the [Ballotpedia Candidate Connection](#) survey.If you are a candidate and would like to tell readers and voters more about why they should vote for you, [complete the Ballotpedia Candidate Connection Survey](#).Do you want a spreadsheet of this type of data? [Contact our sales team](#).

Democratic primary election

Democratic primary for Texas 152nd District Court

[Takasha Francis](#) defeated incumbent [Robert Schaffer](#) in the Democratic primary for Texas 152nd District Court on March 5, 2024.

	Candidate	%	Votes
	Takasha Francis	55.5	84,080
	Robert Schaffer	44.5	67,552

Total votes: 151,632

BP [Incumbents](#) are **bolded and underlined**. The results have been certified. [Source](#) = candidate completed the [Ballotpedia Candidate Connection](#) survey.If you are a candidate and would like to tell readers and voters more about why they should vote for you, [complete the Ballotpedia Candidate Connection Survey](#).Do you want a spreadsheet of this type of data? [Contact our sales team](#).

Endorsements

Ballotpedia is gathering information about candidate endorsements. To send us an endorsement, [click here](#).

2020


See also: [Municipal elections in Harris County, Texas \(2020\)](#)

General election

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General election for Texas 152nd District Court

Incumbent [Robert Schaffer](#) won election in the general election for Texas 152nd District Court on November 3, 2020.

	Candidate	%	Votes
✓ 	<u>Robert Schaffer</u> (D)	100.0	1,036,568

Total votes: 1,036,568

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Democratic primary election

Democratic primary for Texas 152nd District Court

Incumbent [Robert Schaffer](#) advanced from the Democratic primary for Texas 152nd District Court on March 3, 2020.

	Candidate	%	Votes
✓ 	<u>Robert Schaffer</u>	100.0	228,502

Total votes: 228,502

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2016

See also: [Texas local trial court judicial elections, 2016](#)

[Texas](#) held general elections for local judicial offices on November 8, 2016. A primary election took place on March 1, 2016. A primary runoff election was held on May 24, 2016, for any seat where the top vote recipient did not receive a majority of the primary vote.^[2] Incumbent Robert Schaffer ran unopposed in the Texas 152nd District Court Democratic primary.^[3]

Texas 152nd District Court, Democratic Primary, 2016

[\[hide\]](#)

Candidate	Vote %	Votes
x		

✓ Robert Schaffer Incumbent (unopposed)	100.00%	145,618
Total Votes		145,618

Source: [Harris County, Texas, "Democratic Party Cumulative Report-Unofficial," accessed March 2, 2016](#)

Incumbent Robert Schaffer defeated [Don Self](#) in the Texas 152nd District Court general election.

Texas 152nd District Court, General Election, 2016				[hide]
Party	Candidate	Vote %	Votes	
Democratic	✓ Robert Schaffer Incumbent	53.73%	681,410	
Republican	Don Self	46.27%	586,756	
Total Votes			1,268,166	

Source: [Harris County, Texas, "Election Results," accessed December 9, 2016](#)

Selection method

See also: [Partisan election of judges](#)

The judges of the [Texas District Courts](#) are chosen in [partisan elections](#). They serve four-year terms, after which they must run for re-election if they wish to continue serving.^[4]

Though Texas is home to more than 400 district courts, the courts are grouped into nine **administrative judicial regions**. Each region is overseen by a presiding judge who is appointed by the governor to a four-year term. According to the state courts website, the presiding judge may be a "regular elected or retired district judge, a former judge with at least 12 years of service as a district judge, or a retired appellate judge with judicial experience on a district court."^[5]

Qualifications

To serve on the district courts, a judge must be:

- a U.S. citizen;
- a resident of [Texas](#);
- licensed to practice law in the state;
- between the ages of 25 and 75;^[6]
- a practicing lawyer and/or state judge for at least four years; and
- a resident of his or her respective judicial district for at least two years.^[4]

*While no judge older than 74 may run for office, sitting judges who turn 75 are permitted to continue serving until their term expires.^[4]

Endorsements

Schaffer's campaign endorsements included the following organizations.^[7]

- Mexican American Bar Association Houston
- Houston Association of Women Attorneys
- Houston GLBT Political Caucus

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2012

Schaffer ran for re-election to the [152nd District Court](#) against [Don Self](#), who defeated [Janet Townsley](#) in the July 31, 2012, primary runoff.^[8] Schaffer defeated [Don Self](#) in the general election with 51.1 percent of the vote.^{[9][10]}

See also: [Texas judicial elections, 2012](#)

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Campaign themes

2024

Ballotpedia survey responses

See also: [Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection](#)

Robert Schaffer did not complete [Ballotpedia's 2024 Candidate Connection](#) survey.

2020

Robert Schaffer did not complete [Ballotpedia's 2020 Candidate Connection](#) survey.

Awards and associations

Associations

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- State Bar of Texas
- Houston Bar Association
- President of the Houston Trial Lawyers Association
- Houston Trial Lawyers Foundation
- South Texas College of Law Alumni Association
- Southwest Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League^[11]

Notable cases

Houston HERO trial (2015)

Judge **Robert Schaffer** presided in the trial over the legitimacy of a petition that sought to overturn the controversial [Houston Equal Rights Ordinance](#) , or HERO, which banned discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender "in city employment, city services, city contracting practices, housing, public accommodations, and private employment."^[12] The ordinance was passed in May 2014 and exempted religious institutions and organizations from compliance. Violators could face a maximum fine of up to \$5000.00.^[13]

Opponents of HERO began a petition to get a ballot measure on the November 20124 ballot to repeal the ordinance. City law requires 17,296 signatures from registered Houston voters for a measure to make it onto the ballot. The petitioners gathered around 50,000 signatures. When the City Attorney's Office ruled that many of the signatures were invalid, and dismissed the petition, proponents of the repealing HERO filed suit against the city, went to trial on January 19, 2015.^[14]

On February 13, 2015, a jury issued a verdict saying that while the petitions did not contain instances of fraud, they did contain forgeries and instances of failure to follow proper procedure. Judge Schaffer then initiated a recounting process to determine whether or not opponents of HERO had gathered enough valid signatures to satisfy the 17,296 threshold. Following the verdict in February, both sides claimed victory. A definitive answer, however, did not emerge until Judge Schaffer's ruling on April 17, 2015, when he determined that the opponents of the ordinance had not gathered enough valid signatures.^{[15][16]}

Read in depth about the ordinance and lawsuit here: [Houston, Texas: HERO](#)

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Footnotes

- [Houston Chronicle Candidate Profile, October 28, 2008](#)
- [Texas Secretary of State, "Important 2016 Election Dates," accessed December 18, 2015](#)
- [Texas Secretary of State, "Official candidate list," accessed December 18, 2015](#)
- [American Judicature Society, "Methods of Judicial Selection: Texas," archived October 3, 2014](#)
- [Texas Courts Online, "Administrative Judicial Regions," accessed September 12, 2014](#)
- [Texas State Historical Association, "Judiciary," accessed September 12, 2014](#)
- [Robert K. Schaffer for Judge, "Endorsements," accessed October 13, 2016](#)

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Texas courts

Federal courts:

[Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals](#) • U.S. District Court: [Eastern District of Texas](#), [Western District of Texas](#), [Northern District of Texas](#), [Southern District of Texas](#) • U.S. Bankruptcy Court: [Eastern District of Texas](#), [Western District of Texas](#), [Northern District of Texas](#), [Southern District of Texas](#)

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