



**VOTER GUIDE
STATE REP. - DISTRICT 4
FALL, 2018**



CATHERINE KRANTZ

DEMOCRAT

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Residence: Emory, Texas

Current Job/Profession: Business Administrator

Education: B.A. Liberal Arts & B.A. Fine Arts – University of Texas at Austin

Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

I am a small business owner, from a family of small business owners. After 20 years of part-time residence, I came back to Rains County full time in 2014 to help run my family business, an RV Park and fishing camp on Lake Fork. I have been very active in the community ever since. A lifelong volunteer and respected community leader, I like to get involved. I have been very active with the Emory United Methodist Church, multiple area Chambers of Commerce, the Good Samaritans of Rains County food bank, as well as grant writing for community organizations, helping with community festivals and events and volunteering with Rowlett's "no kill" animal shelter, among other issues close to my heart. This direct connection gives me a better understanding of what our communities need.

I believe in putting people first, I have been an active community leader and volunteer since childhood. In school, I volunteered at health clinics, at the public radio station and I built houses with Habitat for Humanity. For fifteen years, I published an internationally renowned community magazine that focused on arts & culture, tourism and philanthropy. I also founded an award-winning international music festival and education non-profit in the little beach town in Mexico where I lived. I not only promoted this small town to an international audience that brought huge returns in tourism dollars, but I also created economic development projects that sent out millions of dollars into the community. I have almost 20 years of experience in community development and think the most important thing we can do for our communities is focus on economic development and job creation, more jobs, better jobs. We need to invest in our communities, we need to put people first, and we need representatives that actually care.

Why are you running for office?

I am running for Congress because I know we can do better. Small towns and rural communities in America are getting the short end of the stick. We are underfunded in almost every way: education and schools, health care and hospitals, infrastructure, roads and telecommunications, cell phone and internet access. We need representatives that understand our communities. We have two Americas: the world class and the barely first world. Entire segments of our state are being left behind because of lack of investment. We deserve better. We deserve a representative who will fight for our communities, fight for quality healthcare, fight for better education, better jobs, someone who will protect our seniors and most of all we need someone who will stand up for decency and integrity. I am running because we need people in government who actually care.



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Do you expect the Supreme Court will revisit the gay marriage decision from 2015 if a case challenging gay marriage reaches its review? Should it?

The Supreme Court needs to stop fighting cultural battles and stick to protecting the law. If two people want to make a commitment to each other, promise to help and support and take care of each other, and create a family together, why it is anyone's business who they choose? There are certain rights that we extend to families and family members. These family rights have to do with family situations: medical decisions, estates and inheritance, divorce, shared health plans, children... Some of the definitions we use may be out of date or no longer representative of modern societal norms, but the fact remains that we give families rights that we do not give to non-families. We do so because we understand the value of family, people committing to a lasting union. We believe strong families benefit children and society. I am fortunate to have always had a strong supportive family. I know that my family has been a big part of my success in life. I support families and I support all families having the same rights.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.



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JOHN RATCLIFFE

REPUBLICAN

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Residence: Rockwall, TX

Current Job/Profession: U.S. Congressman

Education: B.A. in Government and International Studies – Notre Dame
Juris Doctor – Southern Methodist University Law School

Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

I'm proud to have a voting record as a member of Congress that reflects the priorities of the constituents I represent. Serving on the Homeland Security Committee and Judiciary Committee give me an opportunity to lead on the important issues of border security, illegal immigration, and defending the Constitution. These are all areas where I have previous subject matter expertise as a U.S. Attorney and federal terrorism prosecutor, and I believe my existing familiarity with the issues these committees have jurisdiction over has allowed me to dive in and make an immediate impact.

Specifically, I feel fortunate to have been given the opportunity to chair the Cybersecurity Subcommittee on the Homeland Security Committee. As we've seen from an ongoing string of cyber-attacks against private industry and the federal-government, cybersecurity is national security, and my previous experience prosecuting cyber-crime has enabled me to use this subcommittee chairmanship to advance meaningful legislation. I'm proud that my bill, the Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act of 2017 was signed into law by President Trump.

I've had 20 bills and amendments pass the House during my two terms in Congress, with two of them being signed into law. My work legislatively to restore sanity to the government regulatory process and prevent overreach by Federal agencies in areas such as our agricultural, manufacturing, and economy from their original congressional intent has been a focus and will continue to be.

Most of all, I take pride in being an accessible and transparent member of Congress, and enjoy engaging with constituents all across the 18 counties I represent. By participating in community events, and speaking to civic groups, I feel I am able to do my job better as the representative for more than 700,000 Texans.

I served for eight years as the unpaid, non-partisan mayor of Heath, Texas. Over that eight-year period, Heath was the only municipality in Rockwall County not to raise taxes. Because we were able to balance budgets throughout the worst economic recession in 70 years without raising taxes, the city's credit rating was raised by all three of the nation's leading credit agencies.

I have also previously served as a board member of the Rockwall ISD Educational Foundation, the Rockwall County YMCA, and on the Advisory Board of Texas A&M's Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), the largest emergency response and homeland security training facility in the world.



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Why are you running for office?

I spent my first term in Congress as a leading conservative voice to combat the failed policies of the Obama Administration. This past year, I have been working with President Trump and Republican majorities in Congress to restore the promise of this great country. Together, we have worked to reduce the regulatory burden imposed on American families and businesses, strengthen our military, and deliver a once-in-a-generation tax reform for the American people. I believe this is only the beginning, and I want to continue this incredibly important work on behalf of the 700,000 constituents who sent me to Washington to begin with.

Do you expect the Supreme Court will revisit the gay marriage decision from 2015 if a case challenging gay marriage reaches its review? Should it?

I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman. I disagree with the Supreme Court's decision on this matter, as I believe this issue was already being effectively handled on a state-by-state basis. However, I don't anticipate this issue being re-litigated at the federal level at this point.

In the wake of the Supreme Court decision, I have supported various pieces of legislation to protect the First Amendment rights of all Americans. Specifically, legislation to prevent the federal government from intruding on individuals' right of conscience, as well as legislation to safeguard churches, businesses, and organizations from being denied tax-exemptions, contracts, licenses, and certifications for adhering to traditional marriage views. I will continue to support measures that protect Americans' religious liberty that is guaranteed in the 1st Amendment.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.