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## For Immediate Release

# Father and Son Make Texas Political History: Justin and Matthias Early Run Together for Change in 2026

**Georgetown, TX** — In a year marked by a surge of Democratic enthusiasm and a renewed call for public service, Central Texas is witnessing a unique chapter in its political story: Justin Early, a U.S. Army veteran and cybersecurity architect, and his 21-year-old son, Matthias Early, are both on the ballot this November. Each seeking to represent their communities at the federal and state level.

### **A Legacy of Service: From the Battlefield to the Ballot Box**

Justin Early, Democratic nominee for Texas's 31st U.S. Congressional District, brings a lifetime of service to his campaign. Raised in a military family, Justin followed his parents' footsteps into the U.S. Army, serving as a paratrooper at Fort Bragg and later as a LAN Systems Administrator at the Defense Intelligence Agency in the Pentagon, where he played a key role in national security after 9/11. Today, as a Cybersecurity Architect at Dell Technologies, Justin continues to protect critical infrastructure and advocate for community resilience. He and his wife, Toni, are proud parents of seven adult children and reside in Georgetown, Texas.

#### **Suggested Quote – Justin Early:**

“Service isn’t just a job, it’s a calling that’s been passed down in our family for generations. I’m running for Congress to ensure every Central Texas family has a voice in Washington and a representative who never forgets where they came from.”

### **The Next Generation: Matthias Early, 21, Brings Fresh Perspective**

Matthias Early, Democratic nominee for Texas House District 20, is one of the youngest candidates in Texas history. At just 21, he advanced from the Democratic primary on March 3, 2026, and is now campaigning to represent Williamson county. Matthias's journey into public service was shaped by a personal health crisis that led to an extended hospital stay and left his family facing crushing medical debt. This experience fuels his passionate advocacy for affordable healthcare, Medicaid expansion, and transparency in medical billing.

Matthias's platform also champions stronger public schools, higher teacher pay and the creation of good-paying entry-level jobs. These issues resonate deeply with young Texans and working families.

**Suggested Quote – Matthias Early:**

“I know what it’s like to worry about how you’ll pay the next medical bill, or whether your family will have to choose between groceries and healthcare. I’m running to make sure no Texan has to face those choices alone.”

**A Rare Father-Son Duo in Texas Politics**

The Earlys’ simultaneous candidacies are nearly unprecedented in Texas. While political dynasties like the Bushes have shaped the state’s history, it is exceedingly rare for a parent and child to run for high office in the same election cycle. Recent local examples, such as the Havard father-son sheriffs in East Texas (2024), and national stories like the Jacksons in Illinois and the Florences in Rochester, NY, highlight a growing trend of families entering public service together, but the Earlys stand out at the state and federal level in Texas.

**Riding the 2026 Blue Wave: Families Answer the Call**

This election cycle, Texas is experiencing a “Blue Wave” of Democratic energy, driven by a desire for change after years of failed leadership from the Trump administration. NBC News and other outlets have documented a surge in politicians’ children and family duos running for office nationwide, reflecting a broader movement of families going “all in” to fight for their communities and the future of the country.

**Youthful Ambition: Matthias Early Among the Youngest in Texas History**

At 21, Matthias would be among the youngest people ever to serve in the Texas House. The youngest on record, Homer Hendricks, was elected at age 20 in 1921, a feat rarely matched in the century since. Most recent “youngest” Texas House members have been in their late 20s or early 30s, with the average legislator age at 55. Democratic Nominee for Senate, Jame Talarico, was just 28 when he got elected to the Texas House. Nationally, Gen Z lawmakers have increased by 170% in recent years, but candidates in their early 20s remain exceptional.

**Family Values, Real-World Experience, and a Vision for Texas**

The Earlys’ story is one of service, sacrifice, and hope. Justin’s military and cybersecurity background, combined with Matthias’s firsthand experience with the healthcare system and youthful vision, offer voters a compelling blend of experience and fresh perspective. Their campaigns are rooted in the belief that strong families and strong communities go hand in hand and that public service is both a duty and a privilege.

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## Suggested Headlines & Media Angles

Headline/Angle	Description
“Father and Son Duo Make Texas Political History in 2026”	Focus on the rarity and human interest of a parent/child running for high office together
“From Battlefield to Ballot: Veteran Justin Early and Son Lead Blue Wave”	Emphasize Justin’s military service and the family’s commitment to public service
“Gen Z Candidate Brings Healthcare Fight to Texas House Race”	Spotlight Matthias’s age, health story, and advocacy for affordable healthcare
“Family Values on the Ballot: The Earlys’ Legacy of Service Inspires Change”	Explore the intergenerational transmission of civic duty and family-driven political ambition
“Texas Blue Wave: Families Step Up to Lead in 2026 Midterms”	Place the Earlys in the context of the broader Democratic surge and family involvement
“Crushing Medical Debt Fuels Young Texan’s Run for Office”	Human interest angle on Matthias’s personal health crisis and its impact on his policy vision

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## Media Angles Reporters Might Pursue

- **Human Interest:** The emotional and inspiring story of a father and son running together, shaped by service and sacrifice.
- **Political Family Trend:** The Earlys as part of a national surge in political family duos and the legacy of public service.
- **Veteran’s Perspective:** Justin’s military background and its influence on his leadership and values.
- **Healthcare Policy:** Matthias’s firsthand experience with medical debt and his fight for affordable healthcare.
- **Gen Z in Politics:** The rarity and significance of a 21-year-old candidate in Texas, and the rise of young lawmakers.
- **Blue Wave Context:** The Earlys as emblematic of the Democratic momentum and family-driven activism in 2026.

# Boilerplate

## About Justin Early for Congress

Justin Early is a U.S. Army veteran, cybersecurity architect, and lifelong Texan running to represent Texas's 31st Congressional District. Committed to service, community, and protecting the American Dream, Justin brings real-world experience and a deep-rooted dedication to Central Texas families.

Website: <https://voteJustinEarly.com/>

## About Matthias Early for Texas House

Matthias Early is a 21-year-old community advocate and Democratic nominee for Texas House District 20. Inspired by his family's legacy of service and his own experiences overcoming health challenges, Matthias is fighting for affordable healthcare, strong public schools, and good-paying jobs for all Texans.

Website: <https://voteMatthiasEarly.com/>

**For interviews, photos, or more information, please contact:**

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## Sources

### Research on Family Political Legacies

- [All in the family: In 2026, a surge of politicians' kids are running for office](#)
- [Father and son elected for sheriff in Jasper and Newton counties | 12newsnow.com](#)
- [Father and son announce historic candidacies in Rochester](#)
- [It Runs in the Family | Political Behavior | Springer Nature Link](#)

### Youngest Texas Legislators & Gen Z Candidates

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_the\\_youngest\\_state\\_legislators\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_the_youngest_state_legislators_in_the_United_States)
- [James Talarico, youngest state representative in Texas Legislature, settles in for the 86th session](#)
- [Round Rock Rep. James Talarico becomes youngest member of the Texas House | kvue.com](#)
- [Youngest member elected to North Carolina General Assembly at 22](#)
- [Ready for the World: 8 of the Nation's Youngest State Lawmakers](#)
- [Gen Z Legislators in the U.S. - Future Caucus](#)

### Texas House District 20 Demographics and Data

- [Texas House of Representatives District 20 - Ballotpedia](#)
- [Texas is a young state with older elected officials. Some young leaders are trying to change that.](#)