



Carey Lashley, Jr. Interview: Candidate for Texas State Representative – District 131

By [HoustonTXBlack](#) -

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HoustonTXBlack.com had the opportunity to speak to State Representative Candidate Carey Lashley, Jr.

Name: Carey Lashley, Jr.

Age: 37

Candidate for which Office: State Representative – District 131 (Texas House of Representatives)

Family: Renee Jenkins and children

Hometown: Born in Hayward, CA, been living in Houston, TX since 2006

School (High / College): Attended Texas Southern University, but, graduated from Chabot College with an Associates degree in Liberal Arts; graduated from Victory University (Online) with a bachelors in Psychology and Masters in Professional Counseling

Profession: Educator, worked as a high school teacher and school counselor; currently working as a Social Worker.

Why are you running for State Representative?

I am energized by the way government works with lawmakers being able to accomplish change. Seeing positive change with President Obama, Congressman Al Green and the Black Girl Magic Movement, our community and government can accomplish real

positive change and empowerment when the right people and resources are utilized. I am running for office to continue to build positive change within my district and community. I want to energize, empower and educate my community and to bring real positive change to state government that will empower our community.

How did you get your start in politics?

In middle school I knew I wanted to make changes within the park and recreational district, to make sure everyone has a fair and equal right to participate in recreational sports. The City took down my neighborhood basketball courts and told us the basketball courts caused a public nuisance. I knew from that day forward that I wanted to empower my community to fight back and make real positive change that affects people that look like me. I went door to door asking for support from neighbors to write letters to the park and recreational district.

What political or community experience do you have?

I have initiated and supported change in my community working with the NAACP and several Non-profit agencies and I lead communities, families and youth to continuous learning, self-awareness and change.

What organizations are you a part of?

Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, NAACP, South Houston Concerned Citizen Coalition

What is your campaign platform?

My platform focuses on Energizing, Empowering and Educating our community by Securing Local Jobs and Increasing Employee Rights; Free Adult Vocational Training; Focus on Youth Jobs – Not Jails; Bring Focus to Social Emotional Learning; Financial Literacy; Support Minority Businesses; Increase Minority Farmers; and Community Health and Wellness.

It's Time for New Energy in Texas Politics!

What do you aim to accomplish during your term, should you be elected?

I plan to Introduce bills that will improve the economic climate for minority small businesses and minority farmers in Texas, this will increase local jobs and bring additional economic resources to our community.

I plan to introduce bills that will reform the Texas public assistance program. I want to intentionally empower my community, our community, with adult vocational training for all low-income adults and seniors.

Continue to fight to reform the juvenile justice system and prison system in Texas. I pledge to collaborate and work with businesses and submit legislation to create a learn to earn program that will hire 50 thousand Texas youth.

I plan to introduce legislation that will bring a focus to social emotional learning in all Texas schools and limit the number of assessments. I also want to bring awareness to mental health in our community and increase the number of minorities that get screened and support for mental health disorders.

Work with local government agencies to bring awareness to community health and wellness.

What/Who inspires you?

I am inspired by seeing real positive change in my community. President Obama, Congressman Al Green and the Black Girl Magic Movement, all have inspired me to be an advocate for my community, city and state. I want to energize, empower and educate my constituents and to bring real positive change to state government that will empower our community.

What are you most passionate about?

I am passionate about having mental health treatment more accessible to our community. We need to bring an intentional focus to black mental health treatment in our community and in the classrooms. On the state level we need to increase access to mental health services. 4.3 million Texans have a diagnosable mental health disorder. 1.5 million people cannot function at work, school or in the community. 37.5% of Texan adults with mental health illness receive treatment or

counseling. And that number decrease to 35% of children and adolescents. Texas per capita spending on mental health services is only 38.99. The national average is 120.56, ranking Texas second to last in the nation.

Have you received any endorsements?

I have received a few local endorsements from black owned businesses, but, I am currently actively seeking endorsements.

What are the biggest issues affecting the people in your district and how does your platform seek to resolve those issues?

Problems and challenges I been hearing from my community are the lack of black owned businesses and the need for more grocery stores. Many residents shared as a community we need to support minority owned businesses, increase pay and wages and have accessible vocational training for low income adults.

How can people support your campaign?

You can support my campaign by visiting www.careylashley.com and you can donate online using paypal or a credit/debit card. Please, Energizing the vote starts with people like you. Donate now.