

## RESEARCH MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties  
From: Adam Cahn, American Accountability Foundation  
Date: April 5, 2023  
Re: Political Donations by University of Texas Regent Janiece Longoria.

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On March 16, 2023, Governor Greg Abbott announced three nominations to the University of Texas system Board of Regents<sup>1</sup>: Austin businessman Rob Gauntt, Houston attorney Janiece Longoria, and San Antonio businessman James “Rad” Weaver.

Longoria and Weaver are incumbent regents who have been renominated for a second six-year term. Gauntt is a first-time regent nominee.

The American Accountability Foundation has conducted a preliminary review of the nominees. An audit of Regent Longoria’s campaign contributions disclosed a ***potential misalignment*** between Regent Longoria’s priorities and the values held by Texas voters.

Our key findings of Regent Longoria’s contributions include:

- At least **\$73,357 in Democrat donations.**
  - Counts Houston mayor; does not count Houston City Council.
    - *Note on methodology: To confirm the partisan affiliation of each Houston city council candidate is beyond the scope of a preliminary review. The partisan affiliations of Annise Parker and Sylvester Turner, by contrast, are widely known.*
  - Former Houston Mayor **Annise Parker**: \$16,500
  - State Senator **Carol Alvarado**: \$16,000
  - State Senator **John Whitmire**: \$11,750 (announced 2023 Houston mayoral candidate)
  - U.S. Representative **Sylvia Garcia**: \$5,200 (State/Federal combined)
  - State Senator **Judith Zaffirini**: \$3,000
  - Houston Mayor **Sylvester Turner**: \$2,500
  - State Representative **Trey Martinez Fisher**: \$1,000
  - State Representative **Jessica Ferrar**: \$500
  - U.S. Representative **Sheila Jackson Lee**: \$500 (announced 2023 Houston Mayoral Candidate)

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<sup>1</sup> [Governor Abbott Appoints Three To University Of Texas System Board of Regents | Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott](#)



- \$15,200 in Democrat donations **during first term on UT board.**
  - Carol Alvarado (2018)
  - Sylvia Garcia (2017, '18)
  - John Whitmire (2022)
  - Judith Zaffirini (2020)
- \$ 61,100 in donations to Greg Abbott.
  - \$50k in 2022 (2 donations of \$25k each).
  - Even with the 2022 donations has still **donated more to Democrats than Abbott.**
- \$28,500 in donations to Rick Perry.
- \$31,800 in non-Perry/Abbott R donations.
- Besides Greg Abbott, she's a **lifetime D majority donor.**
- Besides Greg Abbott and Rick Perry, she's a **lifetime 2:1 D donor.**

Regent Longoria's donation history is, at best, ideologically incoherent. While she has donated large sums to Governor Abbott, *her other donations point in a different direction.* Senators might want to *probe this discrepancy* during the confirmation process.

We have shared detailed documentation of Regent Longoria's political donations with Nominations committee staff.

We are available to answer your questions. Our review remains ongoing.

