



**“Racism is still a prevalent problem in America. We must first acknowledge this before we can take steps to fight it.” -Jessica Liebau**

As your representative in Congress, Jessica Liebau will advocate for each and every American’s rights, regardless of race. In order to ensure a prosperous future for our country, we need to make sure that every citizen is living up to their full potential, and that cannot be done if some of our citizens are being held back by racial barriers.

### **Restorative Justice Programs**

Jessica will fight to end the school-to-prison pipeline by replacing zero-tolerance policies, which disproportionately remove black and Latino students from the mainstream education system, with restorative justice programs. Rather than removing students from the classroom and taking away their right to an education, she believes children need to be well-understood and widely supported in their school community.

### **War on Drugs**

Additionally, Jessica sees ending the War on Drugs as a top priority. The war disproportionately affects poor communities of color and penalizes the drugs found almost exclusively in them. Jessica envisions several potential solutions to this problem, including fighting to reduce mandatory minimum sentences, particularly for crack cocaine and marijuana. She believes the sentence should depend on the case, especially for nonviolent offenders. Jessica also promises to push for more humane treatment for addicts. Rather than throwing addicts in jail and expecting them not to relapse upon their release, Jessica advocates for the immediate treatment of those suffering addiction. By focusing on mental health, nonviolent offenders will avoid being labelled as felons and find healing from their disease.

### **Felon Rights**

Because sixty-one percent of the United States prison population is made up of black and Latino people, Jessica sees advocating for felons’ rights as an imperative component in the fight for racial justice. Those who are labelled as felons are, in 48 states, barred from voting in all

elections. This is a law that primarily targets black and Latino people, as they make up the majority of convicted nonviolent felons. Jessica seeks to end this discriminatory law by allowing nonviolent offenders to vote. She believes their rights as citizens to vote for who represent them in Congress is of the utmost importance for maintaining a democracy that is of the people, by the people, and for the

### **Law Enforcement Accountability**

Jessica knows that only working for the people of color already in the criminal justice will not stop the cycle of poverty alone. Working with other congresspeople, Jessica intends to enact preventative measures to make sure that laws are enforced equally among communities and that the people living in them are being protected by the police rather than targeted. Body cameras on all vests and police vehicle dashboards are the first step toward a less discriminatory criminal justice system. Additionally, she aims to remove arrest and traffic stop quotas. Jessica wants to require all officers to take and pass a mediation program so that we know officers are qualified to handle the difficult situations they face with nonviolent tactics.

### **Equal Funding for Public Schools**

Finally, Jessica wants to push for equal funding for public schools so that every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe, clean, and well-staffed environment. No student deserves to suffer a lesser education simply because the property taxes in their area are not as high as in others. Jessica knows that education is the key to success in our world, and she sees it as top priority to ensure all people have access to the same opportunities as every other.