I. Introduction

Sery Kim, Plaintiff, brings suit against The Texas Tribune and Patrick Svitek, Defendants, in a $10 million suit for defamation.

A few minutes before midnight, Easter Sunday, on April 3, 2021, The Texas Tribune published an article titled, “GOP congressional candidate in Texas special election loses prominent supporters after racist comment about Chinese immigrants” (here-to-for referred to as “racist comment”). The subtitle to the article stated, “Two of Sery Kim’s biggest backers – the first Korean American Republicans to serve in Congress withdrew their endorsements Friday after she said she doesn’t want Chinese immigrants to come to America.”

The Texas Tribune republished the story four days after the Wednesday, March 31, 2021 event where Sery Kim made remarks. The event was jointly hosted by the Arlington Republican Club and the Arlington Republican Women’s Club.
The quote used by The Texas Tribune had Sery Kim stating, "I don't want them here at all." At no point did The Texas Tribune have a quote saying Sery Kim said I don't want Chinese immigrants, or Chinese people, or any variations of China-related people, at all.

The Texas Tribune labeled Sery Kim a racist despite numerous other local and national publications, in the immediate aftermath of the event, choosing not to do so. Those who did not identify Sery Kim as a racist included The Dallas Morning News, The Fort Worth Star Telegram, The Washington Post, CNN, The Drudge Report, Bloomberg, etc.

II. Background

Sery Kim is a first-time candidate for public office. She is running in the May 1, 2021 Special Election for the Texas-06 congressional seat. She was born in Seoul, South Korea and immigrated to the United States when she was two-years-old. Her parents were janitors in the Sixth District of Texas and made a living emptying trash cans and cleaning toilets in Arlington, Texas. Sery grew up sleeping on the floors of the buildings her parents were janitors in.

Sery is an Asian and an immigrant, and despite growing up in immense poverty, she went on to go work for President George W. Bush at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; President Donald J. Trump at his 2016 Transition as Media Sherpa for the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicare Administrator nominee Seema Verma and the Ambassador to Israel nominee David Friedman; President Donald J. Trump as Assistant Administrator of the Office of Women's Business Ownership at the U.S. Small Business Administration; as Chief Counsel for then-Chairman Darrell Issa at the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, in 2010-2012; as well as several other political and public policy roles.
After the Trump Administration ended, Sery moved to Arlington, Texas to run for the Texas 6th District congressional seat Special Election.

On March, 31, 2021, the candidates for the aforementioned election were invited to a forum/debate hosted by the Arlington Republican Club and the Arlington Republican Women’s Club. During this debate, Sery Kim appeared on a panel with two other candidates in this race: Susan Wright and Michael Egan.

Sery Kim stated, in the forum, her position she is against the Chinese Communist Party.

The Texas Tribune was not in attendance.

The Texas Tribune did not write a story that evening, the following day, or for the following three full news cycles. Instead, The Texas Tribune, right before Easter Sunday, around approximately 11:00 pm issued a headline saying Sery Kim was a “racist.”

The Texas Tribune rendered judgment on what is the standard for a racist comment by using a quote by Sery Kim, “I don’t want them here at all.” However, The Texas Tribune’s direct quote from Sery Kim does not have any words relating to China, Chinese, Chinese immigrants or any nouns or pronouns or even adjectives other than “them.”

The Texas Tribune further acted with actual malice by inserting, outside of the direct quote made by Sery Kim, the phrase Chinese immigrants to paint Sery Kim as a racist. The racist comments article phrases the sentence in the racist comments article: “I don’t want them here at all,” Kim said of potential Chinese immigrants. At no point during the March 31, 2021, jointly by the Arlington Republican Club and the Arlington Republican Women’s Club did Sery Kim, in direct quotes, say she didn’t want Chinese immigrants here at all.
The Texas Tribune’s racist comments article states in its first paragraph, “A Republican candidate in the special election to replace the late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright, R-Arlington, is facing intense backlash and has lost two of her biggest supporters after saying she does not want Chinese immigrants in the United States.” However, The Texas Tribune fails to reproduce the “intense backlash” which they were given examples of directly by Sery Kim. Three examples include:

a. Erik Presley, email to sery@seryfortexas.com, on Friday, April 2, 2021 at 5:17 pm, via Fuckasians@sharklaser.com, stating, “Get the fuck back to fucking China you ugly Asian whore!!! Your lying whore mouth and your fake news can die with corona virus there! 병신 새끼 stupid mofo all Asians are Chinese hope your entire family dies of covid ASAP you stupid cunt.”

b. Anderson O’Mealy, email to sery@seryfortexas.com, on Friday, April 2, 2021 at 3:27 pm, via andersonomealy@gmail.com, stating, “We don’t want you here at all either, fucking cunt.”

c. Andy Sloan, email to sery@seryfortexas.com, on Thursday, April 1, 2021, at 10:36 am, via andysloan@yahoo.com, stating, “Withdraw from the race. You are ignorant racist trash, but what do you expect from a Trump fan.”

The Texas Tribune racist comments article validated these disgusting comments by simply dismissing these three examples of obscene hatred as “intense backlash.”

The Texas Tribune race comments article also legitimized the use of these phrase towards Sery Kim as not being racist comments: “Get the fuck back to fucking China you ugly Asian whore” (by Erik Presley), “We don’t want you here at
all either, fucking cunt” (by Anderson O’Mealy), and “You are ignorant racist trash, but what do you expect from a Trump fan” (Andy Sloan).

A. *The Texas Tribune republished with actual malice.*

By choosing to write the story, almost four days after the event, The Texas Tribune intentionally republished with actual malice a fresh take on the story.

For instance, The Texas Tribune did not write a story the day after the event, Thursday, April 1, 2021 when the two most prominent Texas newspapers – The Dallas Morning News and The Fort-Worth Star Telegram – wrote about the debate, and a prominent national outlet CNN wrote a story about Sery Kim speaking up about the Chinese Communist Party. *None of these three outlets attributed Sery Kim’s comments as racist.*

Additionally, The Texas Tribune did not write a story two days after the event, Friday, April 2, 2021, despite Sery Kim being on the front cover of The Drudge Report and stories were written about Sery Kim speaking up against the Chinese Communist Party in several national publications such as Newsweek and NBC News. *None of these outlets attributed Sery Kim’s comments as racist.*

The Texas Tribune did not write a story at 12:01 am, Saturday, April 3, 2021, and throughout the entire daylight hours when, for a second day in a row, Sery Kim was on the front cover of The Drudge Report and several more national publications such as Bloomberg wrote a story about Sery Kim speaking up against the Chinese Communist Party. *None of these outlets attributed Sery Kim’s comments as racist.*

By The Texas Tribune using the phrase “racist comments about Chinese immigrants” in a story directed at Sery Kim “loses prominent supporters,” The Texas Tribune has intentionally exposed Sery Kim to contempt and ridicule, and has irreparably damaged her reputation causing several financial harm.
In the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 12:14 am, stating, “U are such an idiot racist. Your plan to court the Trumptism is failing miserably. I will always remember you, and will pour all my efforts to against your future intention for public position.”

In the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 1:35 am, stating, “Traitor Sery Kim, You’re a fucking disgrace to the AAPI community! We definitely don’t claim you. Do us all a favor and fuck off! Fucking piece of shit coward. Don’t come crying to the AAPI community when there’s an AAPI hate crime committed against you because people can’t distinguish the difference Korean and Chinese. Karma.”

In the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 2:55 am, stating, “Sery Kim is a racist bitch. Go back to Korea! I can say that cause I’m a white American man.”

In the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 3:59 am, stating, “Thank you for embarrassing yourself, your family and your people.”

In the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 7:46 am, “You’re an idiot lol. You’re too dumb to realize it.”

In the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 8:05 am, stating, “Sery’s mother was more of a racist, lying bitch than Sery is. Sery’s entire family is a dishonorable pile of shit.”

In the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 10:31 am, stating, “UGLY KOREAN
WHORE!!! TEXAS WOULD BE MUCH BETTER WITHOUT YOU. YOUR VALUE AND BELIEF ARE TRASH TO THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND. GO BACK TO KOREA WITH YOUR FAMILY!! YOU(R) HUSBAND MARRIED YOU JUST BECAUSE HE CAN FULLY INSERT HIS DICK INTO YOUR BIG MOUTH TO GET A FEW MINUTES’ PLEASURE? I AM CURSING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY DIE FROM COVID-19 AND GUN VIOLENCES.”

In the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 11:18 am, stating, “A Republican congressional candidate in Texas said this week that she didn’t want Chinese immigrants to come to the U.S., blaming them for the spread of coronavirus. WHY DON’T YOU SO WHAT Koreans DO best – EAT KIMCHI AND FUCK JAPANESE SOLIDERS –.”

In the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 11:31 am, stating, “You are a fucking cunt.”

B. The Texas Tribune republication was actual malice and libelous on its face.

The Texas Tribune validated these attacks against Sery Kim’s virtue because The Texas Tribune stated she is racist despite the racist comments article saying, in the fourth paragraph, “The candidate has been unapologetic, however, arguing that she was speaking out against the Chinese Community Party and blaming the ‘liberal media’ for the uproar. She said she “will not back down from speaking the truth” about the party.

Even the only reporter physically present at the March 31, 2021 forum, Gromer Jeffers, wrote an article published on April 1, 2021 in The Dallas Morning
News, headlined "I don't want them here at all," Texas GOP congressional candidate says about Chinese immigrants.

The Dallas Morning News article published on April 1, 2021 headline very clearly does not include a direct quote from Sery Kim, nor does the article include any direct quotes from Sery Kim saying she did not want Chinese immigrants.

The Dallas Morning News article published on April 1, 2021 did not use the phrase “racist” or “racism” at all when referencing Sery Kim stating, “I don’t want them here at all.”

The Dallas Morning News article published on April 1, 2021 pointed out, “Kim’s panel including Wright’s widow, Republican activist Susan Wright and Army veteran Michael Egan. Neither candidate questioned or commented on Kim’s remarks.”

Yet The Texas Tribune identified her as racist.

C. Texas libel law is clear when it comes to a non-public figure.

Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Cost, Section 73.001 states the elements of libel. The elements of libel are: A libel is a defamation expressed in written or other graphic form that tends to blacken the memory of the dead or that tends to injure a living person's reputation and thereby expose the person to public hatred, contempt or ridicule, or financial injury or to impeach any person's honesty, integrity, virtue, or reputation or to publish the natural defects of anyone and thereby expose the person to public hatred, ridicule, or financial injury.

The Texas Tribune was placed on notice to retract their statement identifying Sery Kim as a racist but Patrick Svitek, the reporter who wrote the story, only apologized for not included Sery Kim’s full sentence and only inserting one sentence.
D. Sery Kim is not a public figure.

According to The Texas Tribune, Sery Kim is not a public figure.

The Texas Tribune has previously written three total stories mentioning Sery Kim’s name.


Finally, the only other time The Texas Tribune has ever written about Sery Kim, other than the racist comments article on Sunday, April 4, 2021, was published on February 24, 2021. “Race to replace late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright already crowded – with more candidates likely.”

In this The Texas Tribune article on February 24, 2021 pointed to a candidate, not Sery Kim, as “the most formidable-looking candidate.” The article went on to state in this same article that this same candidate’s, not Sery Kim, “most prominent GOP opponent” is another candidate, not Sery Kim. The February 24, 2021 The Texas Tribune article merely highlighted two items regarding Sery Kim. First the article stated, “On Thursday morning, another Trump administration alum, Sery Kim, jumped into the special election. Kim, a Republican strategist, worked for the Small Business Administration.”

The February 24, 2021 The Texas Tribune article also inserted a quote Sery Kim made on The Mark Davis Show: "What's great about an immigrant like me and so many other Texans is that you don't get to inherit a congressional seat," Kim
told Dallas radio host Mark Davis on Thursday. "You have to work for it, and I want to work for this seat."

III. Conclusion

Sery Kim is a non-public figure whose has been defamed by the republication by The Texas Tribune with actual malice the claim Sery Kim is a "racist." Because the Special Election is May 1, 2021, a story of this nature being published 27-28 days before the election, for a first-time candidate is irreparable.

Furthermore, at 42, Sery Kim has at least 40 more years of professional working experience. Since The Texas Tribune refuses to retract the claim Sery Kim is a "racist," this will damage her beyond this Special Election.

Actual damages are sought in the amount of $250,000, which is the amount of money Sery Kim would have raised in the final four weeks of the campaign were this racist comment not raise.

Sery Kim also requests $10 million for special and exemplary damages for The Texas Tribune's actual malice.

The monthly average viewership of The Texas Tribune is 4,500,598 views. In a year, this equals 54,007,176 views.

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Arlington, Texas 76006

**Actual physical address not included for the personal physical safety of Sery Kim due to the enormous amount of death threats.**
State of Texas County of Tarrant

[name of county where statement is notarized.] SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED

before me, the undersigned authority, on the 5th day of

April ____________________, 2021 year,

by

Shelly Leigh Guerry

____________________. [PRINT the first and last names of the person who is

signing this affidavit.] Shelly Leigh Guerry Notary

Public, State of Texas

SARY KIM COMPLAINT AGAINST THE TEXAS TRIBUNE, PATRICK SVITCK
Page 12 of 12
NO. 342 324470 21

SERY KIM § IN DISTRICT COURT

VS. § NO. ________________

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE §
AND § TARRANT COUNTY
PATRICK SVITEK §

AFFIDAVIT

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF TARRANT COUNTY

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared
Sery Kim, who swore or affirmed to tell truth, and stated as follows:

My name is ________________ Sery Kim _________________.

I am of sound mind and capable of making this sworn statement. I have personal
knowledge of the facts written in this statement. I understand that if I lie in this
statement I may be held criminally responsible. This statement is true.

1. A few minutes before midnight, Easter Sunday, on April 3, 2021, The
Texas Tribune published an article titled, “GOP congressional candidate in Texas
special election loses prominent supporters after racist comment about Chinese
immigrants” (here-to-for referred to as “racist comment”). The subtitle to the article
stated, “Two of Sery Kim’s biggest backers – the first Korean American Republicans
to serve in Congress withdrew their endorsements Friday after she said she doesn’t
want Chinese immigrants to come to America.” See generally, Exhibit A.
2. The Texas Tribune rendered judgment on what is the standard for a racist comment by using a quote by Sery Kim, “I don’t want them here at all.”

3. The Texas Tribune used a direct quote from Sery Kim.

4. **The Texas Tribune’s direct quote from Sery Kim does not have any words relating to China, Chinese, Chinese immigrants or any nouns or pronouns or even adjectives other than “them.”**

5. **The Texas Tribune further acted with actual malice by inserting, outside of the direct quote made by Sery Kim, the phrase “Chinese immigrants to paint Sery Kim as a racist.”** The racist comments article phrases the sentence in the racist comments article: “I don’t want them here at all,” Kim said of potential Chinese immigrants.

6. **At no point during the March 31, 2021, jointly by the Arlington Republican Club and the Arlington Republican Women’s Club did Sery Kim, in direct quotes, say she didn’t want Chinese immigrants here at all.**

7. The Texas Tribune acted, with actual malice, to injure Sery Kim’s reputation and expose Sery Kim to contempt and ridicule by saying an Asian-American immigrant such as Sery Kim is racist against fellow Asians and fellow immigrants.

8. The Texas Tribune has further acted, with actual malice, to impeach Sery Kim’s honesty, integrity, virtue, and reputation by saying an Asian-American, immigrant such as Sery Kim is racist against fellow Asians and fellow immigrants.

9. The Texas Tribune has exposed Sery Kim to public hatred and ridicule by saying an Asian-American, immigrant such as Sery Kim is racist against fellow Asians and fellow immigrants.

10. The Texas Tribune has exposed Sery Kim to severe financial injury by saying an Asian-American, immigrant such as Sery Kim is racist against fellow
Asians and fellow immigrants – and, at least, one prominent financial backer refused to provide any financial support.

11. Since she is only 42, Sery Kim will upon her future professional earning potential of 40 years always have this The Texas Tribune article identifying her as a racist.

12. The Texas Tribune’s racist comments article states in its first paragraph, “A Republican candidate in the special election to replace the late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright, R-Arlington, is facing intense backlash and has lost two of her biggest supporters after saying she does not want Chinese immigrants in the United States.”

13. The Texas Tribune fails to reproduce the “intense backlash” which they were given examples of directly by Sery Kim. Three examples include:

   a. Erik Presley, email to sery@serycortes.com, on Friday, April 2, 2021 at 5:17 pm, via Fuckasians@sharklaser.com, stating, “Get the fuck back to fucking China you ugly Asian whore!!! Your lying whore mouth and your fake news can die with corona virus there! 병신 새끼 stupid mofo all Asians are Chinese hope your entire family dies of covid ASAP you stupid cunt.”

   b. Anderson O’Mealy, email to sery@serycortes.com, on Friday, April 2, 2021 at 3:27 pm, via andersonomealy@gmail.com, stating, “We don’t want you here at all either, fucking cunt.”

   c. Andy Sloan, email to sery@serycortes.com, on Thursday, April 1, 2021, at 10:36 am, via andysloan@yahoo.com, stating, “Withdraw from the race. You are ignorant racist trash, but what do you expect from a Trump fan.”
14. **The Texas Tribune racist comments article validated these disgusting comments by simply dismissing these three examples of obscene hatred as “intense backlash.”**

15. The Texas Tribune race comments article also legitimatized the use of these phrase towards Sery Kim as **not being racist** comments: “Get the fuck back to fucking China you ugly Asian whore” (by Erik Presley), “We don’t want you here at all either, fucking cunt” (by Anderson O’Mealy), and “You are ignorant racist trash, but what do you expect from a Trump fan” (Andy Sloan).

16. **The Texas Tribune was not in attendance at the Wednesday, March 31, 2021 hosted jointly by the Arlington Republican Club and the Arlington Republican Women’s Club.**

17. Furthermore, The Texas Tribune waited four days before even reporting on this story, thus exhibiting actual malice in their intent to identify Sery Kim as a racist despite evidentiary proof.

18. The Texas Tribune did not write a story the day after the event, Thursday, April 1, 2021 when the two most prominent Texas newspapers – The Dallas Morning News and The Fort-Worth Star Telegram – wrote about the debate, and a prominent national outlet CNN wrote a story about Sery Kim speaking up about the Chinese Communist Party. **None of these three outlets attributed Sery Kim’s comments as racist.**

19. Additionally, The Texas Tribune did not write a story two days after the event, Friday, April 2, 2021, despite Sery Kim being on the front cover of The Drudge Report and stories were written about Sery Kim speaking up against the Chinese Communist Party in several national publications such as Newsweek and NBC News. **None of these outlets attributed Sery Kim’s comments as racist.**
20. The Texas Tribune did not write a story at 12:01 am, Saturday, April 3, 2021, and throughout the entire daylight hours when, for a second day in a row, Sery Kim was on the front cover of The Drudge Report and several more national publications such as Bloomberg wrote a story about Sery Kim speaking up against the Chinese Communist Party. *None of these outlets attributed Sery Kim’s comments as racist.*

21. Even through at least 11:00 pm Saturday, April 3, 2021, The Texas Tribune still did not write a story.

22. When The Texas Tribune finally wrote about Sery Kim, they accused Sery Kim of racist comments despite using direct, exact quotes from Sery Kim, which did not mention Chinese immigrants at all.

23. The Texas Tribune story added a new publication of their fact not previously reported, aka “racist comment(s).”

24. By The Texas Tribune using the phrase “racist comments about Chinese immigrants” in a story directed at Sery Kim “loses prominent supporters,” The Texas Tribune has intentionally exposed Sery Kim to contempt and ridicule, and has irreparably damaged her reputation causing several financial harm.

25. Exhibit B, in the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 12:14 am, stating, “U are such an idiot racist. Your plan to court the Trumpism is failing miserably. I will always remember you, and will pour all my efforts to against your future intention for public position.”

26. Exhibit C, in the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 1:35 am, stating, “Traitor Sery Kim, You’re a fucking disgrace to the AAPI community! We definitely don’t claim you. Do us all a favor and fuck off! Fucking piece of shit coward. Don’t come crying to the AAPI community when there’s an AAPI hate crime committed
against you because people can’t distinguish the difference Korean and Chinese. Karma.”

27. Exhibit D, in the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 2:55 am, stating, “Sery Kim is a racist bitch. Go back to Korea! I can say that cause I’m a white American man.”

28. Exhibit E, in the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 3:59 am, stating, “Thank you for embarrassing yourself, your family and your people.”

29. Exhibit F, in the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 7:46 am, “You’re an idiot lol. You’re too dumb to realize it.”

30. Exhibit G, in the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 8:05 am, stating, “Sery’s mother was more of a racist, lying bitch than Sery is. Sery’s entire family is a dishonorable pile of shit.”

31. Exhibit H, in the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 10:31 am, stating, “UGLY KOREAN WHORE!!! TEXAS WOULD BE MUCH BETTER WITHOUT YOU. YOUR VALUE AND BELIEF ARE TRASH TO THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND. GO BACK TO KOREA WITH YOUR FAMILY!! YOU(R) HUSBAND MARRIED YOU JUST BECAUSE HE CAN FULLY INSERT HIS DICK INTO YOUR BIG MOUTH TO GET A FEW MINUTES’ PLEASURE? I AM CURSING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY DIE FROM COVID-19 AND GUN VIOLENCES.”
32. Exhibit I, in the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 11:18 am, stating, “A Republican congressional candidate in Texas said this week that she didn’t want Chinese immigrants to come to the U.S., blaming them for the spread of coronavirus. WHY DON’T YOU SO WHAT Koreans DO best – EAT KIMCHI AND FUCK JAPANESE SOLIDERS –.”

33. Exhibit J, in the immediate aftermath of The Texas Tribune racist comments article coming out, Sery Kim received an email at 11:31 am, stating, “You are a fucking cunt.”

34. The Texas Tribune validated these attacks against Sery Kim’s virtue because The Texas Tribune states she is racist despite the racist comments article saying, in the fourth paragraph, “The candidate has been unapologetic, however, arguing that she was speaking out against the Chinese Community Party and blaming the ‘liberal media’ for the uproar. She said she “will not back down from speaking the truth” about the party.

35. In the fifth paragraph of the racist comment article by The Texas Tribune it states, “Sery Kim made the anti-Chinese remarks earlier this week at a GOP forum in Arlington while responding to a question about U.S. immigration issues.” However, The Texas Tribune was not at the aforementioned forum.

36. The Texas Tribune reproduced, almost verbatim, an article from Gromer Jeffers in The Dallas Morning News.

37. Exhibit K, Gromer Jeffers wrote an article published on April 1, 2021 in The Dallas Morning News, headlined “I don’t want them here at all,” Texas GOP congressional candidate says about Chinese immigrants.
38. The Dallas Morning News article published on April 1, 2021 headline very clearly does not include a direct quote from Sery Kim, nor does the article include any direct quotes from Sery Kim saying she did not want Chinese immigrants.

39. The Dallas Morning News article published on April 1, 2021 did not use the phrase “racist” or “racism” at all when referencing Sery Kim stating, “I don’t want them here at all.”

40. The Dallas Morning News article published on April 1, 2021 pointed out, “Kim’s panel including Wright’s widow, Republican activist Susan Wright and Army veteran Michael Egan. Neither candidate questioned or commented on Kim’s remarks.”

41. Exhibit L, when Patrick Svitek was notified on Sunday, April 4, 2021, at 6:18 am in a text from Sery Kim to Patrick Svitek, “You called me a racist in your story headline. It’s shocking. But you won’t even(t) tweet your own story and use Gromer’s. You should apologize and retract immediately.”

42. Exhibit M, Patrick Svitek posted on Twitter Saturday, April 3, Gromer Jeffers The Dallas Morning News story rather than the story he wrote for The Texas Tribune. (Exhibit

43. Exhibit N, in the text to Patrick Svitek, on Sunday, April 4, 2021, Sery Kim sent to Patrick Svitek a sample of the message The Texas Tribune caused, Exhibit K, at 4:39 am, “Bitch we don’t want your dumb Korean ass here either. Koreans are the worst Asians to ever come to this country. Just ask the people they all look down on just like you do. Come to this country and buy up businesses and treat Americans like assholes. I’ll take the Chinese culture over your sick culture anytime. One thing can be for sure. We could care less who wins this election, but we will make damn sure you don’t. skank.”
44. Sery Kim is not a public figure.

45. According to The Texas Tribune, Sery Kim is not a public figure.

46. The Texas Tribune has previously written three total stories mentioning Sery Kim’s name. See generally, Exhibit O.


49. The only other time The Texas Tribune has ever written about Sery Kim, other than the racist comments article on Sunday, April 4, 2021, was published on February 24, 2021. “Race to replace late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright already crowded – with more candidates likely.”

50. The Texas Tribune article Patrick Svitek, the primary political correspondent for The Texas Tribune, also wrote the February 24, 2021.

51. The Texas Tribune article on February 24, 2021 pointed to a candidate, not Sery Kim, as “the most formidable-looking candidate.”

52. The Texas Tribune article on February 24, 2021 went on to state in this same article that this same candidate’s, not Sery Kim, “most prominent GOP opponent” is another candidate, not Sery Kim.

53. The February 24, 2021 The Texas Tribune article merely highlighted two items regarding Sery Kim. First the article stated, “On Thursday morning,
another Trump administration alum, Sery Kim, jumped into the special election. Kim, a Republican strategist, worked for the Small Business Administration.”

54. The February 24, 2021 The Texas Tribune article also inserted a quote Sery Kim made on The Mark Davis Show: "What's great about an immigrant like me and so many other Texans is that you don't get to inherit a congressional seat," Kim told Dallas radio host Mark Davis on Thursday. "You have to work for it, and I want to work for this seat."

55. Patrick Svitek is the primary political correspondent for The Texas Tribune. According to the official bio of The Texas Tribune, “Patrick logged countless miles on the 2016 campaign trail, covering the many Texas angles of the momentous presidential race. He previously worked for the Houston Chronicle’s Austin bureau. He graduated in 2014 from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. He is originally from Fort Wayne, Indiana.”

56. Exhibit R, in writing the racist comment article for Texas Tribune Patrick Svitek texted Sery Kim at 3:20 pm, Saturday, April 3, 2021. “Hey Sery, this is Patrick Svitek with The Texas Tribune. Do you have a comment in response to Reps. Kim and Steel revoking their endorsements?”

57. Shortly thereafter, on Saturday, April 3, 2021, Sery Kim texted back to Patrick Svitek the official press release (Exhibit A) from the Sery Kim for Congress campaign, which had been released to the media Thursday evening, between 9:00 pm – 10:00 p.m.

58. Sery Kim also immediately sent a second text to Patrick Svitek, “Hi Patrick! Nice to hear from you. This is my official statement.”

59. Sery Kim also immediately sent a third text to Patrick Svitek. “My quote: ‘I am shocked that in an effort to counter Asian-American hate the liberal media is targeting me, an Asian and an immigrant, in an effort to paint me as anti-
Asian and anti-immigrant just for speaking against the oppressive Chinese Community Party."

60. Exhibit S, on Sunday, April 4, 2021, Patrick Svitek texted Sery Kim, saying, “Hey Sery, I made an honest mistake yesterday and did not see the attachment you sent with the full statement.” He refused to re-tract or apologize for the racist comments headline suggesting instead, “If you have any questions about the headline, you can reach out to our on-call editor today, Corrie MacLaggan. She is at cmaclaggan@texastribune.org.”

61. As of 1:04 p.m., Sunday, April 2, 2021, The Texas Tribune and Patrick Svitek refused to change the headline of the story to reflect Sery Kim did not say a racist comment.

62. As of 2017, the monthly average viewership of The Texas Tribune is 4,500,598 views. In a year, this is 54,007,176 views.

63. Sery Kim is a first-time candidate for political office.

64. The Special Election for Texas-6 congressional seat is Saturday, May 1, 2021.

65. The Texas Tribune published, “Until this week, Sery Kim was not a particularly well-known candidate in the special election.”

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Cell: 703-231-9678
Sery Kim for Congress
P.O. BOX 201326
Arlington, Texas 76006

**Actual physical address not included for the personal physical safety of Sery Kim due to the enormous amount of death threats.**
State of Texas County of _____Tarrant_____ 

[name of county where statement is notarized.] SWORN to and SUBSCRIBED before me, the undersigned authority, on the _____ day of 

_________________________ , 2021 year, 

by 

_________________________ Shelly Leigh Guerry 

_________________________ [PRINT the first and last names of the person who is signing this affidavit.] 

_________________________ Notary 

Public, State of Texas 

Sery Kim Affidavit against The Texas Tribune, Patrick Svitek 
Page 13 of 13
EXHIBIT A
GOP congressional candidate in Texas special election loses prominent supporters after racist comment about Chinese immigrants

Two of Sery Kim's biggest backers — the first Korean American Republicans to serve in Congress — withdrew their endorsements Friday after she said she doesn't want Chinese immigrants to come to America.

BY PATRICK SVITEK  APRIL 3, 2021  UPDATED: 7 HOURS AGO

Sery Kim is a Republican candidate for Texas' 6th Congressional District.  Twitter

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A Republican candidate in the special election to replace the late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright, R-Arlington, is facing intense backlash and has lost two of her biggest supporters after saying she does not want Chinese immigrants in the United States.

https://www.texastribe.org/2021/04/03/sery-kim-texas/
The comments by Sery Kim, a Korean American who served in the Small Business Administration under President Donald Trump, prompted California U.S. Reps. Young Kim and Michelle Steel to rescind their endorsements of her on Friday. Young Kim and Steel are the first Korean American GOP women to serve in Congress.

“We cannot in good conscience continue to support her candidacy,” the lawmakers said in a statement.

The candidate has been unapologetic, however, arguing that she was speaking out against the Chinese Communist Party and blaming the ‘liberal media’ for the uproar. She said she “will not back down from speaking the truth” about the party.

Sery Kim made the anti-Chinese remarks earlier this week at a GOP forum in Arlington while responding to a question about U.S. immigration issues.

“I don’t want them here at all,” Kim said of potential Chinese immigrants. “They steal our intellectual property, they give us coronavirus, they don’t hold themselves accountable.”

“And quite frankly, I can say that because I’m Korean,” she added.

Hate crimes against Asian Americans have increased since the coronavirus pandemic started in China. Trump has repeatedly blamed China for the pandemic and called the coronavirus “the Chinese virus.” Kim’s remark came less than a month after the Atlanta spa shootings that killed eight people, six of whom were of Asian descent.

The comments have received condemnation from groups including the DFW Asian-American Citizens Council and AAPI Progressive Action, which works to build political power around Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Kim is one of 11 Republicans — and 23 candidates total — on the May 1 ballot to fill the GOP-leaning seat of Wright, who died earlier this year after being hospitalized with coronavirus.
Sery Kim loses key support in Texas race after racist comments about Chinese immigrants | The Texas Tribune

Young Kim and Steel endorsed Sery Kim early on in the race, about a week after the filing deadline last month.

In their statement pulling their endorsements, the two lawmakers said they spoke Thursday with Sery Kim “about her hurtful and untrue comments about Chinese immigrants, and made clear that her comments were unacceptable.”

“We urged her to apologize and clarify her remarks, especially as hate against the AAPI community is on the rise,” the congresswomen said. “However, she has not publicly shown remorse, and her words were contrary to what we stand for.”

Asked for a comment on the loss of the endorsements, Kim provided a statement that said: "I am shocked that in an effort to counter Asian-American hate the liberal media is targeting me, an Asian and an immigrant, in an effort to paint me as anti-Asian and anti-immigrant just for speaking against the oppressive Chinese Communist Party."

In the statement, Sery Kim went on to call the Chinese Communist Party the “foremost threat to the free world.” She said she has received more “death threats and racist comments” since the forum controversy than she has in her entire life, and that the voters of the 6th District deserve “someone who will fight for them — who will literally put their life on the line for them.”
Until this week, Sery Kim was not a particularly well-known candidate in the special election. The Republican field also features Wright's widow, GOP activist Susan Wright, as well as state Rep. Jake Ellzey of Waxahachie.

On the Democratic side, at least one contender, Lydia Bean, pushed back on Sery Kim's forum comments, saying they target people like her: Chinese American husband, Norman, and their 10-month-old son. Norman's parents came to the United States from China in 1966, Bean said.

"This type of speech, no matter who it comes from, puts their lives in danger," Bean, a 2020 Texas House candidate, tweeted Thursday. "It's racist, and it's not who we are in Texas."

Early voting for the special election starts April 19.

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YES, I'LL DONATE TODAY
youRdone

racistHasNoPoliticalFuture

(000) 000-0000

patheticRacist@SeryKim.com

U are such an idiot racist. Your plan to court the Trumpism is failing miserably. I will always remember you, and will pour all my effort to against your future intention for public position.
EXHIBIT C
Subject: New submission from Contact

Date: Apr 4, 2021 at 1:35:38 AM
To: sery@seryfortexas.com

Sueie

Choi

fuckycu@gmail.com

Traitor Sery Kim,

You're a fucking disgrace to the AAPI community! We definitely don't claim you. Do us all a favor and fuck off! Fucking piece of shit coward. Don't come crying to the AAPI community when there's an AAPI hate crime committed against you because people can't distinguish the difference Korean and Chinese. Karma.
Nathan

Forrest

(682) 831-1770

serykimisstupid@yahoo.com

Sery Kim is a racist bitch. Go back to Korea! I can say that cause I'm a white American man.
EXHIBIT E
Thank you for embarrassing yourself, your family and your people.

Keep speaking your truth. Love America!

Ryan Hubris
EXHIBIT F
Jay just submitted your form: Contact
on Adventures In Sery

Message Details:
Name: Jay
Email: jayjaysu@gmail.com
Subject: You fucking suck lol
Message: You’re an idiot lol. You’re too dumb to realize it.

Reply directly or go to your site’s Inbox:

Respond Now

If you think this submission is spam, report it as spam.
Sery’s mother was more of a racist, lying bitch than Sery is.

Sery’s entire family is a dishonorable pile of shit.
EXHIBIT H
UGLY KOREAN WHORE!!! TEXAS WOULD BE MUCH BETTER WITHOUT YOU. YOUR VALUE AND BELIEF ARE TRASH TO THIS BEAUTIFUL LAND. GO BACK TO KOREA WITH YOUR FAMILY!! YOU HUSBAND MARRIED YOU JUST BECAUSE HE CAN FULLY INSERT HIS DICK INTO YOUR BIG MOUTH TO GET A FEW MINUTES' PLEASURE? I AM CURSING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY DIE FROM COVID-19 AND GUN VIOLENCES.

Sent with ProtonMail Secure Email.
EXHIBIT I
A Republican congressional candidate in Texas said this week that she didn't want Chinese immigrants to come to the U.S., blaming them for the spread of coronavirus.

WHY DON'T YOU SO WHAT koreans DO BEST - EAT KIMCHI AND FUCK JAPANESE SOLDIERS -
EXHIBIT J
You are a fucking cunt.
EXHIBIT K
‘I don’t want them here at all,’ Texas GOP congressional candidate says about Chinese immigrants

Former Trump official Sery Kim adds: “I can say that because I’m Korean.”

Sery Kim answers questions during a forum for Republican candidates running in the 6th Congressional District of Texas
A Republican candidate seeking to replace the late Ron Wright in Congress has unleashed a blistering attack against China and potential Chinese immigrants.

"I don’t want them here at all," Sery Kim, a former official in President Donald Trump’s administration, said Wednesday night during an Arlington forum for Republicans seeking Wright’s U.S. House seat. "They steal our intellectual property, they give us coronavirus, they don’t hold themselves accountable."

Kim, who is from South Korea, told the applauding crowd that it was safe for her to criticize the Chinese.

"Quite frankly, I can say that because I’m Korean," Kim said.
Kim's remarks come as hate crimes against Asian Americans have risen since the coronavirus pandemic began in China.

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On Tuesday, President Joe Biden unveiled a plan to protect Asian Americans from discrimination and hate crimes, including establishing a Justice Department program to curb attacks on them.

EDUCATION
'Derogatory' language against Asians on middle school test prompts investigation in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD

According to a study by the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University, 16 of America's largest cities saw a 2020 increase

of 149% in hate crimes against people of Asian descent.

Dallas patent lawyer Wei Wei Jeang, a Taiwanese immigrant, called Kim’s remarks “irresponsible.”

“Kim’s preposterous statement is a regurgitation of Trump’s talking points whenever the topic of China comes up,” Jeang said. “This kind of rhetoric did and will continue to divide the country rather than heal us.”

Jeang pointed out that Chinese immigrants did not bring the coronavirus to America and “have nothing to do with the intellectual property theft allegations against the Chinese government.”

“This kind of language will further bolster and encourage violence against the Asian American population,” Jeang said. “Kim’s statement is especially senseless when you realize that the people who will be unduly influenced by this kind of rhetoric can’t differentiate Chinese from Koreans from Japanese, and her clueless put-down of one segment of the Asian American population will cast an unjustified negative light on everyone, including herself.”

Kim’s remarks were denounced by AAPI Progressive Action, a liberal group that seeks
to politically empower Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

"Sery Kim’s words and actions are grotesque and immediately disqualifying," said AAPI Progressive Action’s executive director, Varun Nikore. "At a time where AAPI hate has reached new heights and a shooter gunned down innocent AAPI victims in Georgia, Kim’s statements perpetuate the cycle of hatred we’re seeing across the country."

Nikore said Kim’s comments are dangerous.

"Kim’s attempt to race to the bottom of the Trump barrel is sickening and frankly will not work," he said. "Her racist and ignorant remarks should be condemned by every politician in the state and the country."

Asked if she worried about the reported violence against Asian Americans, Kim replied, "No."

"The biggest difference right now is people are filming it — and the media choosing to report it," she said. "Asians have always faced violence. It’s not worse than before."

During the forum, Kim, an immigrant from Seoul, said China was responsible for violence against Asians.
Sery Kim speaks to audience members following a forum hosted by the Arlington Republican Club for Republican candidates running in the 6th Congressional District of Texas race in Arlington on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. (Juan Figueroa/ The Dallas Morning News) (Juan Figueroa / Staff Photographer)

“I am Asian American and I have never felt discrimination because I blame China for the problems they have actually created,” Kim said. “They are the ones that caused COVID. They are the ones that steal our technology. They are the ones that manipulate the borders. They are the ones that make you feel guilty because you want to shop at the small business down the street, as opposed to paying for the child labor that they have with the Uighurs.”

The forum, which featured the major Republican candidates in the 6th Congressional District race to replace Wright, was sponsored by the Arlington Republican Club and Arlington Republican Women. Because 11 Republicans participated, the candidates were questioned by author Nick Adams in groups.
Wright died in February after contracting COVID-19. Elected last year to his second term representing Tarrant, Ellis and Navarro counties, Wright was also battling cancer.

Kim was on a panel with Wright’s widow, the Republican activist Susan Wright, and Army veteran Michael Egan.

Neither candidate questioned or commented on Kim’s remarks.

**Politics**

**Trump looms large in North Texas congressional race to replace Ron Wright**

By Gromer Jeffers Jr.

Kim, who has openly sought the endorsement of Trump, parroted the former president’s claims that China is responsible for COVID-19, though she stopped short of calling it the China virus, as Trump frequently does.

Kim served as assistant administrator in the Office of Women’s Business Ownership at the Small Business Administration under Trump.

“We were lied to for the last one year and two months and stayed at home, because China created coronavirus in a Wuhan lab,” Kim said.

Kim’s remarks about opposing Chinese immigrants — and saying she can do so because she’s Korean — went viral on social
media after a tweet by *The Dallas Morning News*.

Gromer M. Jeffers ⬤ Mar 31, 2021 🔄
Replying to @gromerjeffers
Two long shot GOP candidates in CD-6 voice support for @mattgaetz as a potential candidate for House speaker.

Gromer M. Jeffers ⬤ @gromerjeffers

.@seryfortexas on Chinese immigrants coming to America: "I don’t want them here at all. They steal our intellectual property, they give us Coronavirus, they don't hold themselves accountable, and quite frankly I can say that because I’m Korean.”

8:23 PM ⬤ Mar 31, 2021

390

More on China from @seryfortexas

Sery Kim @seryfortexas
China jails and kills Christians.
China uses immigration to steal America’s intellectual property.
China created coronavirus in a Wuhan lab

China is a threat to American security. We must hold China accountable. twitter.com/gromerjeffers/...

9:31 PM · Mar 31, 2021

Ben Huh 휘대영
@benhuh

Hey Asian Am. Twitter! Let @seryfortexas that there is no place for racism in America — especially against fellow Asians when we are being murdered in the streets. She is a disgrace to us all.

Gromer M. Jeffers @gromerjeffers
Replying to @gromerjeffers
@seryfortexas on Chinese immigrants coming to America: "I don't want them here at all. They steal our intellectual property, they give us Coronavirus, they don't hold themselves accountable, and quite frankly I can say that because I'm Korean."

11:50 PM · Mar 31, 2021

19 6 Copy link to Tweet

Cat Sandoval @mcatsandoval

Nope! It's still racist.

Gromer M. Jeffers @gromerjeffers

Replying to @gromerjeffers

@serifortexas on Chinese immigrants coming to America: "I don't want them here at all. They steal our intellectual property, they give us Coronavirus, they don't hold themselves accountable, and quite frankly I can say that because I'm Korean."

Former Dallas County Republican Party chairman Jonathan Neerman tweeted, "I don't think that's how it works ..."

Jonathan Neerman
@JonathanNeerman

I don't think that is how it works...

Gromer M. Jeffers @gromerjeffers

Replying to @gromerjeffers

@serifortexas on Chinese immigrants coming to America: "I don't want them here at all. They steal our intellectual property, they give us Coronavirus, they don't hold themselves accountable, and quite frankly I can say that because I'm Korean."
The oppressive regime of the Communist Party of China is not only holding the Chinese people hostage but now Hong Kong. All democracies, particularly @乔拜登 @卡玛拉哈里斯 should be ashamed for staying silence while fake trials are being held in Hong Kong #istandwithJimmyLai

She also received other criticism and some praise, as well as hateful tweets that insist she’s Chinese, as Jeang predicted.

At the forum, Kim referred to her family’s immigrant history. Her parents waited 10 years to immigrate to America.

“T’m the child of janitors,” she said. “I grew up with absolutely nothing. My parents cleaned your toilets and emptied your trash cans, while I slept on your floors. And now I get to represent you in Congress.”
After her panel concluded, audience members rushed to greet Kim while she was still seated on the stage.

She had promised them, among other things, to counter the agenda of progressive House Democrats such as New York’s Alexandria Ocasio Cortez and Minnesota’s Ilhan Omar.

“I just asked you to consider Sery Kim for Congress, not because I’m so much better than anybody else but because I will take the fight to the squad and they will not know what hit them,” Kim said to cheers.

California GOP Reps. Young Kim and Michelle Steel, both of Korean descent, have backed Kim for Congress. On Thursday the lawmakers called Kim’s comments “hurtful” in a statement to CNN, but they didn’t revoke their endorsement.

“Sery’s comments were unacceptable and hurtful, especially at a time when hate targeting the (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) community is on the rise, and we made that clear to her today,” Young Kim and Steel said in a statement to CNN.

Gromer Jeffers Jr., political writer. The Howard University graduate and Chicago native has covered four presidential campaigns and written extensively about local, state and national politics. Before The News, he was a reporter at The
Kansas City Star and The Chicago Defender. You can catch Gromer every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. on NBC 5’s Lone Star Politics.

✉️ gjeffers@dallasnews.com
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What good is God if he doesn’t
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EXHIBIT L
You called me a racist in your story headline. It's shocking.

But you won't even tweet your own story and use Gomer's. You should apologize and retract immediately.

you

Bitch we don't want your dumb Korean ass here either. Koreans are the worst Asians to ever come to this country. Just ask the people they all look down on just like you do. Come to this country and buy up businesses and treat Americans like assholes. I'll take the Chinese culture over your sick culture anytime.

One thing can be for sure. We could care less who wins this election, but we will make damn sure you don't.

skank
EXHIBIT M
Sery Kim @seryfortexas · 17m
@PatrickSvitek You must retract your own article. This is how the liberal media constantly lie & distort reality. He called the alleged statement racist but he won’t even tweet his OWN story!! Instead Patrick Svitek tweets @gromerjeffers @dallasnews #TX06

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Patrick Svitek @PatrickS... · 18h
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EXHIBIT N
Bitch we don't want your dumb Korean ass here either. Koreans are the worst Asians to ever come to this country. Just ask the people they all look down on just like you do. Come to this country and buy up businesses and treat Americans like assholes. I'll take the Chinese culture over your sick culture anytime.

One thing can be for sure. We could care less who wins this election, but we will make damn sure you don't skank
EXHIBIT O
Race to replace late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright already crowded — with more candidates likely

At least 11 candidates have surfaced for the May 1 special election, including Wright’s widow, Susan Wright.

BY PATRICK SVITEK  FEB. 24, 2021  UPDATED: FEB. 25, 2021

The race to replace the late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright, R-Arlington, has already attracted a crowd of candidates — and more are expected in the coming days.

Even before Gov. Greg Abbott announced Tuesday that the special election would be May 1, Democrats and Republicans were lining up for the seat, and as of Wednesday, at least 11 contenders had entered the contest. They range from the obscure to well known, most notably including Wright’s widow and longtime GOP activist Susan Wright, who made her bid official Wednesday morning.

The filing deadline is a week away — 5 p.m. March 3.
The district has been trending Democratic in statewide results, though Ron Wright won his races comfortably, and national Democrats are now faced with the decision of how hard to push to flip the district in the special election. Last year, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee targeted 10 GOP-held districts in Texas — including Ron Wright's — and captured none of them.

Still, some Democrats see opportunity.

The district "fundamentally changed as the Republican Party has changed," said one of the Democrats running, Jana Lynne Sanchez, the 2018 nominee for the seat.

For Republicans, the race could turn into a referendum on the direction of their party after the presidency of Donald Trump, who has connections to multiple potential contenders. So far, though, much of the discussion on the GOP side of the contest has centered on the candidacy of Susan Wright, who starts off as the most formidable-looking candidate and was already collecting endorsements Wednesday.

The Republicans

Her most prominent GOP opponent is state Rep. Jake Ellzey, R-Waxahachie, who filed papers to run for the seat Wednesday afternoon with the Federal Election Commission. Ellzey, who just started his first term in the state House, faced Ron Wright in the 2018 Republican primary runoff for the congressional seat and lost by 4 percentage points.

The GOP field could still get a nationally recognized name in Katrina Pierson, the former Trump campaign spokesperson from Garland. She has said she is considering running, as has another Republican with Trump ties: Brian Harrison, who was chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under Trump. Harrison is an Ellis County native.

On Thursday morning, another Trump administration alum, Sery Kim, jumped into the special election. Kim, a Republican strategist, worked for the Small Business Administration.
Among the lower-profile Republicans already running, there is Mike Egan, an Army veteran and former Green Beret who earned two Bronze Stars, as well as John Anthony Castro, a 2020 primary challenger to U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, who got 5% of the vote.

The Democrats

On the Democratic side, the first to declare was Sanchez, who faced Ron Wright for the congressional seat when it was open three years ago and lost by 8 points. When Sanchez announced her special election campaign on Feb. 16, she said she had already collected $100,000 for the race.

"I am the only candidate who will be able to raise the money that's necessary," she said in an interview.

Sanchez was followed by fellow Democrats Shawn Lassiter, an education nonprofit leader in Fort Worth, and then Lydia Bean, the Democratic nominee last year against state Rep. Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth. Lassiter, who was previously running for the Fort Worth City Council, released a launch video Wednesday morning in which she speaks directly to the camera, inside a powerless home, about the leadership failures that led to the Texas winter weather crisis last week.

A fourth Democratic candidate, Matthew Hinterlong of Dallas, filed FEC papers for the seat later Wednesday.

The non-candidates, potential candidates

The Democrat who ran against Ron Wright in November, Stephen Daniel, announced Tuesday he would not be a candidate in the special election. And on Wednesday evening, state Rep. Chris Turner, chair of the House Democratic Caucus, opted against running, saying he wanted to remain focused on the "huge set of challenges facing our state in the current legislative session."
"The Sixth Congressional District is an increasingly competitive seat and I am grateful we will have several talented Democratic candidates seeking this office," Turner said in a statement.

Among Republicans, the seat’s previous holder, Joe Barton, and Tarrant County Sheriff Bill Waybourn have similarly removed themselves from consideration. On Wednesday evening, state Rep. Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington, erased any speculation he could run, endorsing Susan Wright.

There appear to be more Republicans than Democrats who could still jump in. In addition to Pierson and Harrison, potential Republican candidates include local officials like Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams and Manny Ramirez, president of the Fort Worth Police Officers Association.

Ramirez told The Texas Tribune on Wednesday that he was "still kicking it around" and planning to make up his mind in the next couple of days. He noted he has "great respect for Susan Wright and Congressman Wright, so that’s a heavy consideration knowing that she’s in."

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The Wright stuff?

Susan Wright looms large. She serves on the State Republican Executive Committee and has been district director for former state Rep. Bill Zedler of Arlington and his successor, David Cook of Mansfield.
"I'm running for Congress to continue my husband's legacy by supporting economic growth, reforming our broken healthcare system and defending Texas conservative values," Susan Wright said in a news release, which also noted her husband had been a "staunch defender" of Trump.

Within hours of launching her campaign, Wright got the endorsement of Rick Barnes, the chair of the Tarrant County GOP. Tarrant County is the largest of the three counties that make up the congressional district.

In his statement backing Susan Wright, Tinderholt said the Wrights "have been like family" to him and that he looks forward to hitting the campaign trail with her.

Still, Susan Wright could face some resistance based on the circumstances of her run — and some candidates are already getting at the tension.

"What's great about an immigrant like me and so many other Texans is that you don't get to inherit a congressional seat," Kim told Dallas radio host Mark Davis on Thursday. "You have to work for it, and I want to work for this seat."

Abby Livingston contributed reporting.

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EXHIBIT P
Democrats view Texas congressional special election with a mix of optimism and caution after disappointing 2020

Ten Democrats are among 23 candidates running to replace the late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright, R-Arlington, in a May 1 special election.

BY PATRICK SVIDEK MARCH 23, 2021 5 AM CENTRAL

The U.S. Capitol looms in the background as a woman walks among flags at the Washington Monument in Washington D.C. on May 27, 2020. While Democrats have cause for optimism — the district has rapidly trended blue in recent presidential election results — some are urging caution. © REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

Democrats running to replace the late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright, R-Arlington, believe they can flip the seat in an unpredictable off-year special election. But Democrats at large are not as sure — or willing to say it out loud.

That is becoming clear as campaigning ramps up for the May 1 contest, when 23 candidates — including 11 Republicans and 10 Democrats — will be on the ballot in Texas' 6th Congressional District. With so many contenders, the race is likely...
to go to a mid-summer runoff, and Democrats involved hope they can secure a second-round spot on their way to turning the district blue.

While Democrats have cause for optimism — the district has rapidly trended blue in recent presidential election results — some are urging caution. They are mindful of a few factors, not the least of which is a 2020 election cycle in which high Democratic expectations culminated in deep disappointment throughout the ballot.

“We’re not counting our chickens before they hatch and we’re gonna work to earn every vote,” said Abhi Rahman, a Texas Democratic strategist who previously worked for the state party. “This is not a bellwether. This is the first of many battles that will eventually lead to Texas turning blue.”

With just under a month until early voting begins, national Democrats are showing few outward signs that they are ready to engage in the race, even as candidates and their supporters press the case that the district is flippable. They point out that Trump carried the district by only 3 percentage points in November after winning it by 12 points in 2016. Mitt Romney carried the district by 17 points in 2012.

“It absolutely is a competitive race,” said Stephen Daniel, the 2020 Democratic nominee for the seat, who opted against running in the special election. He added he thinks that national Democrats need “to get involved because I think the more resources you have to get out there and help you reach these voters can only help.”

On the flip side, Wright, who died in February weeks after testing positive for the coronavirus, won the seat when it was open in 2018 by 8 points and by 9 points in 2020. Both times the seat was a target of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, though the designation came late in the cycle and the group did not spend significant money in either election.

And while Trump carried the district by only 3 points in November, every other statewide Republican candidate, including U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, won it by more comfortable margins ranging from 6 to 8 points.
Whether to engage could be an especially difficult decision for the DCCC, which made a show of going on offense in Texas last cycle, opening an office in Austin early on and building a target list that grew to include 10 Republican-held districts, including Wright’s. They ended up flipping none of them.

Asked for comment for this story, a DCCC spokesperson pointed to comments that the committee’s chairman, Sean Patrick Maloney, made to The Washington Post in mid-February. Asked if the DCCC would compete in the special election, Maloney said the committee was “looking at it” but that Democratic members were currently focused on helping constituents recover from the deadly winter storm that had just battered the state at the time.

Democrats make up 10 candidates in the 23-way race. The more prominent Democratic candidates include Jana Lynne Sanchez, the party’s 2018 nominee for the seat; Lydia Bean, the Democratic challenger last year to state Rep. Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth; and Shawn Lassiter, an education nonprofit leader from Fort Worth.

EMILY’s List, the powerful national group that works to elect Democratic women who support abortion rights, is in touch with the Democratic women running in the special election and watching the race closely but currently has no plans to endorse, spokesperson Kristen Hernandez said. The organization backed Sanchez when she was the nominee in 2018 but is often more cautious about taking sides when multiple Democratic women are running in a primary or special election.

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It is still somewhat early relative to the special election timeline — the filing deadline was March 3 — but at least two Republican contenders are already running TV ads, and some Democrats worry they could get locked out of the runoff if the national party does not start paying closer attention.

Lassiter, in a statement for this story, said Democrats cannot “sit on the sidelines and watch the failed leadership of the Republicans be a disservice to our communities.”

“Texas’ 6th is eager to elect someone who represents our growing diversity and who has the political courage to serve the people,” Lassiter said. “With the right candidate and with Democratic investment, we can flip this district and win.”
Lassiter is one of at least two Black Democrats running, one other being Mansfield pastor Patrick Moses. Twenty-seven percent of 2020 Democratic primary voters in the district were African American, according to the Lassiter campaign’s analysis. Thirty-three percent were Black in the lower-turnout 2018 primary.

Lassiter is not the only candidate contemplating a potential all-GOP runoff. A recent polling memo provided to another Democratic campaign warned that a Democratic lockout is a “real danger.”

Kelly Blackburn, chairwoman of the Ellis County Democratic Party, said she thinks “some people will start coalescing toward or one or two [Democratic candidates] by April, but we’ll see.” As for investment in the race by national Democrats, she said she “would welcome it, and I’m sure the candidates would as well.”

“If we really wanna fight for it, I think we need more money — and big money,” Blackburn said.

The Republican side is headlined by veteran GOP activist Susan Wright, Ron Wright’s widow. Some of her most serious-looking GOP competitors include state Rep. Jake Ellzey of Waxahachie and Brian Harrison, the former chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President Donald Trump; and Sery Kim, another former Trump administration official. One wildcard is Dan Rodimer, the former professional wrestler who ran for Congress last year in Nevada and scrambled to file last-minute for the Texas special election.
Some of the Democrats are already finding convenient foils in the GOP field. Bean has repeatedly called out Rodimer on social media and sent fundraising emails targeting Harrison at length, deriding him as "Bootlicker Brian." (He has taken encouragement from the attacks.)

For now, though, the Democrats may have to focus on differences among themselves if they want to advance to an anticipated runoff against a Republican.

During one of their first major forums last week, the Democratic field was largely harmonious. Sanchez and Bean leaned heavily on their previous campaign experience to argue they were best positioned to turn out Democrats for the special election. Sanchez also brought up a sore subject for Democrats last election cycle.

"I think we saw from 2020, where down-ballot was extremely disappointing, despite all of our efforts, that what was missing was the door-knocking, and you can't substitute TV for door-knocking — so it's very important to me that we continue that," Sanchez said, adding that she had already hired two field staffers and her campaign is "going to be door-knocking every day and I will be out there as well."

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"You may remember that just four months ago, I ran for the Texas House here in Tarrant County and we had one of the strongest field programs in the whole state of Texas," said Bean, who also touts that she raised over $1 million in her November challenge to Krause, who won by 9 points.

Bean got one of the first major endorsements among Democratic candidates last week, unveiling the support of the Tarrant County AFL-CIO. Sanchez, meanwhile, launched with $100,000 raised and a list of 10 endorsements from across the district, and she has led the Democratic field in the two private surveys of the race that have surfaced so far, though large shares of respondents were undecided in each.
National Republicans are dismissive of Democratic ambitions in the district. In a statement for this story, a spokesperson for the National Republican Congressional Committee, Torunn Sinclair, said Democrat “should be talking less about their laughable prospects in Texas’ 6th Congressional District and spending more time fixing the border crisis they’ve created.”

Still, some of the GOP candidates are not discounting how competitive it could be for Democrats, if only because it reinforces their campaign strategies. After Elzey launched his campaign, he emailed supporters that he was running because he heard from people in the district that they “don’t want liberals taking away our voice in Congress.”

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“"I think the Democrats could flip this seat,” Harrison said in an interview, putting an emphasis on "could."

“They’re gonna throw everything at it, and that’s why the Republicans absolutely have to rally for the strongest possible candidate in the field,” Harrison added, pitching himself as the only contender with “deep roots in the district, small-business experience here and a track record of going to Washington” and making change.

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https://www.texastribune.org/2021/03/23/texas-congressional-district-6-special-election-von-wright/
EXHIBIT Q
23 candidates join the race to replace late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright

The field for the May 1 special election features 11 Republicans, 10 Democrats, one independent and one Libertarian.

BY PATRICK SVITEK  MARCH 3, 2021  6 PM CENTRAL

The special election to replace U.S. Rep. Ron Wright will be May 1, 2021. © Montinique Monroe for The Texas Tribune

A crowd of 23 candidates — including 11 Republicans and 10 Democrats — has filed for the May 1 special election to fill the seat of the late U.S. Rep. Ron Wright, R-Arlington, according to the secretary of state's office.

The filing deadline was 5 p.m. Wednesday. The race also attracted one independent and one Libertarian.

The GOP field saw a last-minute surprise. With less than an hour until the deadline, Dan Rodimer, the former professional wrestler who ran as a Republican
for Congress last year in Nevada, arrived at the secretary of state’s office in Austin to file for the seat.

“We need fighters in Texas, and that’s what I’m coming here for,” Rodimer told The Texas Tribune. “I’m moving back to Texas. I have six children and I want them to be raised in a constitutional-friendly state.”

Some of the other candidates had already announced their campaigns, most notably Wright’s widow, longtime GOP activist Susan Wright. Other prominent Republican contenders include state Rep. Jake Ellzey of Waxahachie and Brian Harrison, the former chief of staff at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President Donald Trump.

On Tuesday evening, one potential major GOP candidate, former Trump campaign adviser Katrina Pierson, announced she was not running.

On the Democratic side, the field includes Jana Lynne Sanchez, the 2018 Democratic nominee for the seat; Lydia Bean, last year’s Democratic nominee against state Rep. Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth; and Shawn Lassiter, a Fort Worth education nonprofit leader.

Ron Wright died last month after being hospitalized with COVID-19. He had also been battling lung cancer.

His death created a vacancy in the Republican-leaning 6th Congressional District, which spread southeast from the Dallas-Fort Worth area to rural Ellis and Navarro counties.

The district has been getting increasingly competitive in statewide results, with Trump carrying it by only 3 percentage points last year. However, Ron Wright won it by more healthy margins when he was first elected in 2018 and then reelected in 2020. National Democrats targeted the seat that year, but it remains to be seen how involved they plan to be in the special election.

Early voting for the contest starts April 19.
Democrats

- Jana Lynne Sanchez
- Patrick Moses
- Lydia Bean
- Shawn Lassiter
- Matt Hinterlong
- Brian K. Stephenson
- Manuel Richard Salazar III
- Daryl J. Eddings Sr.
- Chris Suprun
- Tammy Allison

Republicans

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- Michael Ballantine
- Travis Rdermund

Independent
- Adrian Mizher

Libertarian
- Phil Gray

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EXHIBIT R
Hey Sery, this is Patrick Svitek with The Texas Tribune. Do you have a comment in response to Reps. Kim and Steel revoking their endorsements?

Hi Patrick! Nice to hear from you. This is my official statement.

My quote:

"I am shocked that in an effort to counter Asian-American hate the liberal media is targeting me, an Asian and an immigrant, in an effort to paint me as anti-Asian and anti-immigrant just for speaking against the oppressive Chinese Communist Party."

Thank you
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: media@seryfortexas.com

I am shocked that in an effort to counter Asian-American hate the liberal media is targeting me, an Asian and an immigrant, in an effort to paint me anti-Asian and anti-immigrant just for speaking against the oppressive Chinese Communist Party.

It is indisputable that, even here in TX 06, the Chinese Communist Party is the foremost threat to the free world.

I will not back down from speaking the truth about the Chinese Communist Party being a perpetrator of genocide.

I will not back down from speaking the truth about the Chinese Communist Party stealing intellectual property.

I will not back down from speaking the truth about the Chinese Communist Party spying on Texans.

And I will not back down from speaking the truth about the Chinese Communist Party’s role in spreading coronavirus around the world.

The people of Tarrant, Ellis and Navarro County deserves someone who will fight for them – who will literally put their life on the line for them. I have received more death threats and racist comments in the past 48 hours than in my previous 42 years combined. Jesus Christ saves. Christ is Risen.

From: Sery for Texas <info@seryfortexas.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 5:17 PM
Subject: New submission from Contact
To: <Sery@seryfortexas.com>

Erik
Presley

Fuckasics@sharklaser.com

Get the fuck back to fucking China you ugly Asian whore!!! Your lying whore mouth and your fake news can die with corona virus there! 병신 새끼 stupid mofo all Asians are Chinese hope your entire family dies of covid ASAP you stupid cunt.

From: Anderson O'Mealy <andersonomealy@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 3:27 PM
Subject: Racist cunt
To: <sery@seryfortexas.com>

We don't want you here at all either, fucking cunt.

-------- Forwarded message --------
From: Andy Sloan <andysloan@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 10:36 AM
Subject: Withdraw, ignorant racist trash
To: sery@seryfortexas.com <sery@seryfortexas.com>

Withdraw from the race. You are ignorant racist trash, but what do you expect from a Trump fan.
EXHIBIT S
liberal media is targeting me, an Asian and an immigrant, in an effort to paint me as anti-Asian and anti-immigrant just for speaking against the oppressive Chinese Communist Party."

Thank you

Hey Sery, I made an honest mistake yesterday and did not see the attachment you sent with the full statement. I just saw your text that started with "My quote" and thought that was the entirety of your response. I apologize for that. We are updating the story to reflect the full statement.

If you have any questions about the headline, you can reach out to our on-call editor today, Corrie MacLaggan. She is at cmaclaggan@texastribune.org