

Letter to My Constituents

My name is Jordanne Stewart, and it is with the greatest honor that I accept the position of elected Representative for Florida's 2nd Congressional district. As the first female representative of our district, I will strive to make my term a positive one for us all.

I was born on the beautiful island of Jamaica to a Cuban and Honduran family, and am currently a resident of Tallahassee. I believe that the best way to make a change is for everyone regardless of gender, nationality or religion to unite. Truly, united, we stand, but divided, we fall. As your representative, I pledge to stand by the needs of all the citizens of my district.

My main concern as representative is the level of homelessness and poverty ravaging our region. Too long have we batted an eye to those in need, some even who are veterans. In Tallahassee, 29.7% of the population lives below the poverty line. That is far too great for us to be satisfied. It has often been said that poverty is correlated with crime, and Leon County currently has the highest crime rate of any county in Florida. How can we have a peaceful place for the next generation to flourish if we continue like this? As your representative, I will move swiftly in implementing programs to help the less fortunate, and in turn, help make our district the safest place to raise a family.

As this is my first political office, many may question as to why I decided to get into politics. I was first inspired by Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, representative from Florida's 27th congressional district. Ros-Lehtinen was the first Cuban-American or Latina elected into Congress. Her ancestors were Jewish refugees from present-day Turkey. When she was only seven, her family

packed up and moved to the United States to escape the communist regime. She attended both the University of Miami and Florida International University, with degrees in Arts and higher education. She taught and owned a private school in Miami-Dade County, helping to ensure that every child could receive a quality education. She has been elected for a whopping fourteen full terms. Perhaps, I would need to write a book to list all that she has done but here are a couple more:

1. She proved that you can do anything, even if it's never been done before.
2. She was influential in making laws to prevent child marriage.
3. She was a trailblazer in foreign policy and was not afraid to condemn inhumane acts, even by her native country.
4. She stood by her values, even if her party did not agree.

I hope to be an inspiration to all the citizens of District 2, just as Ileana Ros-Lehtinen was to me. I know the road will be tough at times, but I believe the only failure is in giving up. I, Jordanne Stewart, vow to never give up no matter the obstacles we face.

Together we stand.

Sincerely,

Jordanne Stewart

Member of Congress