

## Personality Profile of Joaquin Castro

It is sometimes hard to tell one from the other when the Castro twins, Joaquin and Julian are together. They frequently are asked, “Which one is which?” prompting Joaquin to joke, “I’m the good-looking one” (Weisburg, 2013).

Joaquin Castro was born in San Antonio Texas on September 16, 1974 one minute after his brother Julian. They grew up on the city’s Westside where they attended public school. Joaquin’s mother has said, “Both boys are quiet but Joaquin likes to go out and see and do. He just likes meeting people and trying something new.” (Weisburg, 2013) Joaquin graduated from high school a year early. He went on to graduate from Stanford University with honors, and later graduated from Harvard Law School with his Juris Degree in 2000 (Joaquin Castro, 2017).

Joaquin Castro is currently a Congressman for Texas’ 20th district. He got his start in public office as a state representative for district 125, where he served five terms (Joaquin Castro, 2017). You could say activism runs in the family, Julian Castro served three terms as mayor for San Antonio beginning 2009 and their mother Rosie, was a Chicano Activist in the sixties. She helped form the La Raza Unida; a third party that challenged the power structure of politics in San Antonio. Rosie later ran a voting-rights program at St. Mary’s University (Weisburg, 2013). As congressional representative, Castro serves on the house Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence as well as the house Foreign Affairs Committee. He is also Vice Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (Joaquin Castro, 2017).

When Castro is not in Washington D.C. championing on behalf of his constituents he is back in San Antonio spending time with his family and continues to give back to the community. Castro created the Trail Blazers College Tour, which sends underprivileged kids on college visits. He also founded SA READS, San Antonio’s largest literacy campaign and book drive. The drive has distributed over 200,000 books to 150 schools and shelters across the city. Castro created the annual Families Helping Families dinner and awards, which celebrates grandparents and other family members raising relatives that are not their own children. Castro also serves actively on several boards of education-related, non-profit organizations, including the National College Advising Corps, and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials’ (NALEO) Taskforce on Education (Joaquin Castro, 2017).

Rumors are swirling that Joaquin Castro or his brother will be the Democratic Candidate for the 2020 presidential election. When asked about it Castro does not rule it out but he does not say yes either. You can follow Congressman Castro on Twitter at @JoaquinCastrotx for updates.