

**Name: Averie Bishop**  
**Title: Miss Texas**

### **Y'ALL MEANS ALL**

Spaghetti-O's and food stamps supported my family following my mother's immigration from the Philippines. Of all places, she and my father settled in McKinney, Texas – closer to the Dallas Cowboys than actual cowboys, but still a world away. Growing up, I was the only person who looked like me in a small town of less than 4,000 people. As if being Asian-American in a small town wasn't hard enough, both my parents worked two jobs and my family experienced housing insecurity. I never dreamed that someone like me could go to college and leave their hometown, much less that I would finish law school and compete for Miss America. I had no role models who I could see my future self in.

Eventually, I found my voice through higher education and accidentally going viral on social media while sharing my favorite study snack of cantaloupe. At Southern Methodist University, I studied Human Rights and Law and discovered that Texas was home to so many different communities. The Lone Star state is one of the most diverse places in America, and one of only five states where People of Color are, surprisingly, the majority of the population. This new Texas I grew to know housed one of the world's largest South Asian communities, a thriving Black music industry, generations of Latinx and Chicano cultures, and some of the best Vietnamese food this side of the Pacific. During law school, my social media following continued to grow through snacks and laughs, and connected me to an even larger, global community. Across TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram, I share educational guidance, cultural recipes, and authentic day in the life videos with nearly one million young, ambitious followers, most of them first generation students like myself.

Every child, from Plentywood, Montana to Brownsville, Texas deserves to feel at home in their community and to see themselves reflected in the world – regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, or religion. The United States is and has for over a century been a nation built of immigrants and rooted in mixing cultures. My platform as Miss America will expand my own educational and governmental advocacy to hold a mirror up to the lived experiences of every American so that young people know that they belong and can find role models who show them exactly how big they can dream.

*Y'all Means All* expands upon work I began when I was appointed by the Dallas City Council in 2020 to address the rise of anti-hate & discrimination blazing through Texas. Using my years of educational advocacy and Fortune500 media consulting, I will continue to expand *Y'all Means All* through (1) a social media campaign that publishes educational content on diverse cultural histories around America and collaborations with national figures who can provide visibility and mentorship to young people. Taking advantage of my legal education, I will (2) combine public education with regional policy partnerships, such as UNICEF, to diversify education curriculum through legislation and policy writing. And finally, I will develop & broaden what Miss America does best, (3) direct community engagement by leading primary school, collegiate, and local-level programming centered on diversity, cultural traditions, and showing America's young people the importance of including and seeing "all."

I have spent the last three years not just studying how the law impacts and reflects the population, but I have demonstrated a professional ability to execute successful national campaigns with partners like Apple, Google, and Microsoft. I have grown a vibrant, inclusive community of ambitious young people who are hungry to see themselves represented in the world around them. I have continued to run a global 501c3 nonprofit providing education to young girls in the Philippines, walked in New York Fashion Week, grown my digital brand into a small business, and even found time to plant a vegetable garden back home in The Colony, Texas. Miss America must reflect the people she serves, she must change with the tides of technology and culture to stay relevant, and she must help young women to dream of scholarship and see who they might be. I have developed a plan for my year of service that breaks down programming from the first seven days to the completion of my year. Being Miss America will help me continue to cultivate everything I've planted on a scale that I can share with others. I cannot wait for the opportunity to get back into the garden, get my hands in the dirt, and *grow* the next generation of diverse women pursuing higher education, sash, cantaloupe, and all.