

# 2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

Tracey Gulley

**Constable precinct 1 Dallas County**

*All Dallas County Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

The LGBTQ is a large part of my district that I cover mainly in the Downtown area. It has been more than an honor to have received the Endorsement with the LGBTQ in my previous term as Constable for Pct.1. The support you have given me has been greatly appreciated as I plan to continue great work in the community as your Constable for Pct. 1

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes I do and will continue to make such an affirmation. Since I have been of age and eligible to vote, it has been a privilege to be a registered voter so that my vote will continue to be my voice.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

For the past 7 years, I have been Elected as the Constable for Pct. 1. I began my duties as a reserve officer at Pct. 1 (over 20 yes ago), after 5 years of service, I was promoted to Sargent in the Warrant Division at Pct. 1. Soon after the promotion as Sargent, I was then promoted to Leiutenant of the department. With hard work and dedication, I was again promoted to Chief. With the experience of being cross trained for every department at the Constables office, the support of the community, the Commissioners, many endorsements such as LGBTQ and others

friends, friends, family, and prayer, I was Elected to serve as Constable for Pct. 1

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

I was Elected in 2015 as the Constable for Pct. 1. I have worked closely with many organizations to improve the safety in our community. Constable's duties are typically to work from court orders received from JP's as well as District Judges. However, while serving my term as Constable, I have felt the need to step above and beyond the scope of my duties in order to serve the community by joining forces with other Law Enforcements to serve the best of my abilities.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

It has been an honor to have received my my previous Endorsement from Stonewall and extremely proud to announce your support throughout my social media page on Facebook as well as all of my advertisements. What a great supporter you have been!!

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create an inclusive environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

As Constable for Pct. 1, my staff can confirm that the environment at our Pct is very much a close family in accepting several staff members of the LGBTQ family.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes I will.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

As mentioned before, my office has always been a close family working department and do NOT discriminate with the employees that are staffed at Pct.1 based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?***

As Law Enforcement officers, we all took an Oath to protect and serve the duties of this office. However, some have their religious beliefs whereas others chose to honor their own “Higher-up”... which is their choice. Some Officers in my department wish to not pray with others and I do not force them to, but at the end of the day, we all work together to protect and serve Dallas County.

*All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Since my first Endorsement

## 2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

Kaletha L Dotson

**Justice of the Peace 5-2**

*All Dallas County Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I sure the understanding of the LGBTQ community because I have a cousin at a very young age he realized that the person he was born was not the person that he was inside because he chose to live his life in his truth and not with a lie and he would also dress in Drag people would make fun of him and judge him not because of the beautiful person he was inside but because of the person they thought he was outside and I've always thought you can never judge a book by it's cover you need to read the story and not to mention I raised my daughter as a flower child and that was to live in her own truth and my daughter is pansexual and I want everyone to have the experience of being able to live there truth inside and outside no judgment should be made on a person because of their sexual preference

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I affirm I am a solid and strong Democrat I I have been a clerk for many many years I've also been employed at the Democratic party and I have been the director for the Democratic party on the Southside I Bleed Blue

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I am and I have been a paralegal for the last 16 -17 years I have

dealt in family law business law Criminal also bankruptcy it all different types of research pertaining to different parts of the law I'm also a mediator and arbitrator I'll make Phi Theta Kappa I was also currently attending law school I have a 4.0 average but had to put school on hold due to covid

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

I plan to make sure that everyone has a better experience when it comes to the courtroom I plan to get extended hours once or twice a month for possibly evening night court for those who cannot attend due to work hours I also plan to have classes that will teach you what certain words in the legal language meaning so that you may have a clear understanding and I also plan to have some type of online Court to also help with everyone's situation to give you better opportunities to be heard in court in-house different options and to make sure that there are help courses that would definitely help those who are in need

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I would make sure to mention of the endorsement that I received from Stonewall any endorsement that you receive it is an honor and I plan on honoring my endorsement to the fullest I will put it on my media make sure that I verbally let everyone know and if t-shirts is well I will be most proud of my endorsement and I will let everyone know how proud I am by vocally and Visually letting everyone know who has supported me

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create an inclusive environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I'm a person that believes in One race and that is a human race I do not judge no believe in judging anyone based on race Creed color disability and especially sexuality I plan on I plan on everyone having compassion and sensitivity and also exercising it also letting everyone know that there is no room for discrimination no exclusion I plan on having a showing diversity also letting everyone know to respect as a person also everyone's opinion thoughts and feelings We Are All Made different for a

reason we should be able to learn and grow from one another

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Most definitely I would be willing to appoint someone to be a liaison for the LGBTQ community we're all constantly learning and the laws and rules are also changing we all need to be informed and stay informed of any changes in any parts of our community and the LGBTQ community is growing everyday

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

That goes without saying to have a non-discriminatory policy I plan on protecting all and also protecting our most vulnerable parts of our community I do not want anyone ever feeling that they are not protected and no one is fighting for them as a black woman I understand the discrimination and how hard it is to be accepted also coming as a woman with a child with disabilities and also a pansexual child I always remember my own position also my child

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to "deeply held religious beliefs"?***

Fair is fair equality is equality if a person is qualified for something regardless of how you feel religiously you may do the right thing and if you are a religious person we all know that you treat others as you want to be treated it is not you to judge this for the powers-that-be to do it is you to do as you say and as is stated in the law do what is right and what is fair

### *Justice of the Peace Candidates*

***As many people faced evictions during the COVID pandemic, how would you or did you ensure that the process is fair and compassionate for people facing it?***

Doing these unprecedented times of covid and also Financial strife I believe in being fair and always showing some type

of compassion sometimes people just need a little guidance and help I would make sure that I would have rent assistance programs in place to help with evictions I would give the defendant time for assistance and rent and also as the plaintiff if he also applied show them how to apply with help to get things paid give an opportunity instead of take an opportunity and also taking advantage of the less fortunate

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No there is nothing

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Yes I would love to be a member

# 2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

Juan Jasso

**Justice of the Peace 5-2**

*All Dallas County Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

Over the years I have had LGBTQ+ clerks employed in our office. Performing same sex marriages has been an honor as well. Precinct 5 has one of the highest, if not the highest, LGBTQ+ community and I believe has been instrumental in all my elections.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes. I have always voted Democrat

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

27 years experience as a justice of the peace has kept me motivated to continue serving with fairness and integrity

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

I will continue to maintain an efficient office and treat everyone with dignity

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

Always have and always will.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create an inclusive environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I constantly impress upon our staff to treat everyone with respect

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?***

I don't anticipate such a situation occurring in our court as we adhere to a non-discriminatory ethos

### *Justice of the Peace Candidates*

***As many people faced evictions during the COVID pandemic, how would you or did you ensure that the process is fair and compassionate for people facing it?***

I followed all recommendations set forth by the Supreme Court directives and disseminated information about rental assistance. I also required that all landlords give the Covid 19 Notice of Possible Eviction as required by the city of Dallas ordinance. Where applicable abated many cases for 60 days

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats***

***of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

At least 10 years

## 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Abel Mulugheta

**Congressional District 30**

*All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

As a proud member of the LGBTQ community, I'm excited at the opportunity to serve as the first openly gay member of Congress from Texas. I grew up in Pleasant Grove and have lived in District 30 as an adult, serving the community as a staffer in the state legislature where I fought to defend the rights of all LGBTQ individuals. I know firsthand how it feels to be discriminated against for loving "differently", and I want to show young people in North Texas and across the country, they don't have to hide who they are, that they are loved, and they can accomplish their dreams.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I have been a Democrat my entire life and have only voted for Democratic candidates since casting my first ballot as a 19-year-old college freshman for President Barack Obama. I deeply believe in the platform and policies of the Democratic Party: equity, inclusion, accessibility and believing that government is a force for good that can help people, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

As Chief of Staff, General Counsel and Legislative Director for

State Rep. Rafael Anchía, I pursued efforts to improve the lives of all Texans: introducing common sense gun safety measures, fighting against bigoted policies designed to intimidate Blacks and Latinos, defending the rights of the LGBT community, and passing legislation to assist the wrongfully imprisoned. This past year witnessed firsthand the vulnerability of our republic and learned just how delicate our democracy truly is as I engaged in the fight to defend our freedom to vote. That's why I'm running for Congress, to serve the communities and constituents I have grown to love in Texas's 30th District and ensure their rights and civil liberties are protected.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

If I'm elected to represent TX CD-30, I will fight for Democratic priorities, including:

Secure equity and opportunity for all Americans by guaranteeing by passing the Equality Act.

Ensure a fair economy and economic development in the southern sector of Dallas County; implementing a national living wage, empower unions, and close the ever-increasing wealth gap.

Increase access to affordable healthcare by ensuring everyone, regardless of age, income, or preexisting conditions, is covered without incurring massive debt.

Defend our democracy and the freedom to vote by prosecuting individuals who work to undermine our system of government and restore our democracy.

Tackle climate change and create a sustainable economy by

transitioning to 100% renewable and clean energy by 2050—leading to better paying, more sustainable jobs.

Build a just and humane immigration system by replacing artificial immigration caps with a more responsive system; establish a humane asylum/refugee program and improve overall enforcement.

Combat disinformation by empowering educators; prevent the politics of today from mis-educating our future leaders by amplifying facts over fiction.

Protect our communities from gun violence by requiring universal background checks; invest in community-based strategies to prevent gun violence before it happens.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

Should I receive the endorsement of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, I would include the endorsement on campaign media, proudly share the endorsement on social media, and seek to hold events with the organization in the district to ensure that the members of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas are aware of what's at stake in this election.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

As a member of the LGBTQ community myself, I know from personal experience how important it is to create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff. When members of the LGBTQ community and their allies feel comfortable being themselves they are happier and more productive.

This all begins by recruiting talented members of the community

to work in our office. It is important to have different perspectives in a workplace, especially in a legislative office. I will work to retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff by ensuring all staffers are aware of our office's commitment to equality, equity, and diversity; by partnering with LGBTQ organizations like Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and LGBTQ job boards when hiring candidates; by implementing ongoing diversity training in our office; and by creating and advertising a non-discrimination policy for employment, interactions with our LGBTQ constituents, and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes, I am committed to appointing a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis. This is critical to ensuring the needs of the LGBTQ community in our district are being addressed, and that any injustice or discrimination against members of the community is quickly addressed.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes. I am committed to a comprehensive non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

In order to protect the precedent set by the Court in Roe v. Wade, Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA). The WHPA protects the right to access an abortion free from medically unnecessary restrictions and bans on abortion, similar to the current policies in Texas, (which have effectively unconstitutionally overturned Roe). WHPA would also create a statutory right for healthcare providers to provide abortion care, and a corresponding right for their patients to receive that care, free from medically unnecessary restrictions that single out abortion and impede access. Once elected, one of the first pieces of legislation I will co-sponsor would be the WHPA.

Even beyond the protections of Roe, we must work to ensure equitable access to an abortion for everyone—no matter their income or zip code. So I will also proudly add my name to the EACH Woman Act, which would restore insurance coverage of abortion for individuals enrolled in Medicaid and other federal programs by lifting the discriminatory Hyde Amendment that disproportionately impacts low-income women and Black/Latinx women in our district.

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was a landmark legislation that has saved lives and made healthcare more accessible for millions of Americans.

Since the Biden-Harris Administration took office, 4.6 million have signed up for healthcare made possible by the ACA. Those are record numbers, but we must get them even higher. Our goal is to build on the successes of the Affordable Care Act and work to expand healthcare to the 28 million uninsured Americans.

I'll work with the Biden-Harris Administration to continue ramping up advertisement and outreach efforts so that our neighbors can easily sign up for an affordable healthcare plan.

And similar to the proposals within the Build Back Better Act, we should improve the ACA's current premium and cost-sharing subsidies and add a reinsurance program for the individual market, protecting insurers against very high claims. I also support removing so-called "junk plans", short-term, limited-duration plans, from the exchanges. We should also explore implementing an auto-enrollment mechanism for individuals who receive TANF or SNAP benefits.

Even as we continue to bolster the ACA, I want to work towards a universal healthcare program that gives workers the ability to opt into subsidized non-group coverage, rather than their employer's plan.

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

As aforementioned, the ACA has saved millions of lives and made healthcare more accessible. We should definitely work to improve the ACA so that it is capable of providing healthcare to the 28 million Americans who still do not have healthcare. The fastest way to get these Americans coverage is by making the ACA so more efficient and more affordable. We should improve the ACA's current premium and cost-sharing subsidies and add a reinsurance program for the individual market to protect insurers against very high claims. I also support removing so-called "junk plans," short-term, limited-duration plans, from the exchanges. We should explore implementing an auto-enrollment mechanism for individuals who receive TANF or SNAP benefits.

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

The foundation of our democracy is under attack—the freedom to vote. And through it all, our republic continues to serve as the gold standard to the world. But democracy is not guaranteed, nor self-sustaining. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Each of us has a duty to be active to ensure its vitality, constantly recommitting ourselves to the mission of the organizers of Freedom Summer.

If elected, I would proudly join as a co-sponsor of the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. As we learned recently, the only way to pass bold progressive legislation that protects the right to vote is through either the abolishment of the filibuster or by maintaining a 60-seat majority in the US Senate. I fully support the abolishment of the filibuster, not only because it's antidemocratic, but because its history is deeply rooted in racism. I will loudly advocate for the abolishment of the filibuster and campaign wherever I can to help elect Democrats to the US Senate.

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

I believe there are shortcomings within the Build Back Better Act, specifically when it comes to climate change. However, I will never let perfect be the enemy of good and oppose legislation that contains trillions of dollars for social welfare programs that I support and that will help millions of Americans, and many in our community. In addition, I was disappointed that provisions to make community college free, expand Medicare to cover dental and vision, and allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices, were removed from the bill. If elected, I'll continue to fight for these progressive initiatives that will benefit millions of Americans.

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

I support ending the filibuster. The filibuster is preventing much needed legislation from being passed, is rooted in racism, and is inherently antidemocratic.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

President Biden's American Rescue Plan has been transformative in changing the course of our pandemic response and delivering immediate financial relief for American workers and families bearing the brunt of the crisis. The plan helped our nation to mount a national vaccination program, mitigate the virus, and safely reopen our schools; lifted millions of children out of poverty by increasing the child tax credit; helped Americans stay in their homes by providing emergency housing aid; and more. I would have proudly voted for this bill, and I also support the Build Back Better Act that builds on its successes by expanding, extending, or making permanent so many of the programs that families are still relying on as we continue to battle the pandemic.

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

The rise of the Omicron Variant teaches us that we need to increase investment in pandemic preparedness so that we can improve the detection, monitoring, and mitigation of not only COVID-19 variants, but that of any future potentially life-

threatening viruses. Congress provided, and the Biden-Harris Administration has implemented \$1.7 billion to invest in genomic sequencing that allows us to more effectively fight any emerging COVID-19 mutations. I believe Congress should double down on that investment and provide the additional funding necessary to protect the United States from any catastrophic biologic threats. Public health has been woefully underfunded in this nation, and if elected, I will fight to ensure that we thoroughly assess lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare ourselves from the next one.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

As a Chief of Staff in the Texas Legislature, I was required to complete sexual harassment and anti-discrimination training on an annual basis. This requirement was extended to all staffers and interns who worked in the legislature, and yes, I would proudly support and co-sponsor legislation that required similar mandatory training and Equal Employment Opportunity training in the United States Congress. This training should be ongoing, and require public certification.

***How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)***

As the son of immigrants, I am the American Dream personified. And to countless people around the world, the United States serves as an aspiration—the land of opportunity. I support the DREAM Act and a pathway for citizenship for the millions of undocumented young people that live in our country. For many of them, the United States is the only home they have ever known. These Dreamers are our coworkers, our caregivers—they're part of our American family. I will support the DREAM Act and will advocate not only for permanent residency status for Dreamers, but a true pathway to full citizenship.

***B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)***

One in six Texas residents is an immigrant. In Congressional District 30, that figure is slightly higher; approximately 150,000 residents (nearly 20%) are foreign born. Although more than one-third of all immigrants in Texas are naturalized U.S. citizens, an estimated 1.7 million are undocumented. I believe we should continue to widen the scope of TPS for immigrants and provide a pathway to citizenship, so that these individuals can fully contribute and participate in our society.

I will support comprehensive immigration reform that replaces artificial caps with a system that incorporates the principles of supply and demand. Additionally, we must establish a humane asylum and refugee program and improve enforcement by instituting statute of limitations and committing to true due process.

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

I believe in science, including the clear evidence of climate change, full stop. The ripple effect caused by climate change is alarming. The United Nations categorized climate change as a “crisis multiplier.” No other singular issue has the potential of causing complete destruction to humanities security—food production, access to fresh water and habitable temperature, particularly to low-income, vulnerable communities.

As the greatest existential issue of our generation, we must work together to find realistic solutions to tackling the climate crisis. We must reduce emissions, create more resilient communities, and ensure environmental justice for areas that have been disproportionately affected by our reliance on fossil fuels.

While I worked as the Legislative Director for Representative Anchia, I staffed him on the House Committee on Energy Resources, authoring numerous legislative proposals that would save businesses, government, and residential consumers money, while protecting the environment. We must begin transitioning

to 100% renewable and clean energy, which will lead to better paying, more sustainable jobs. A stable climate is the greatest gift we can offer future generations. It is possible to find balance between our current energy needs and fighting climate change—we just have to work together to get it done.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

NA

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

No, I am not a current member but I will pledge to join before the endorsement screenings.

## 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Jessica Mason

**Congressional District 30**

*All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

Working as a medic in the Navy, I've worked with many LGBTQ+ service members. The health and well-being trends we see in LGBTQ+ military personnel reflect trends in the larger LGBTQ+ community. In the military, I advocated for our LGBTQ+ service members who have poorer mental health; report more stigma and barriers to mental healthcare; experience more sexual trauma, and have poorer physical health than heterosexual service members.

As an affordable housing administrator, I've worked with many LGBTQ+ people, especially LGBTQ+ youth. The state of housing in this country is broken, but the way homelessness has impacted the LGBTQ+ community is especially significant and requires a deep level of care. Most of the LGBTQ+ youth I've worked with are dealing with complex home issues or aged out of foster care, and they are more vulnerable to facing violence and sexual exploitation.

I know the LGBTQ+ community in TX-30 has very specific needs from my work. We cannot ignore the epidemic of Trans homelessness and Trans violence in Dallas. Texas leads the nation in transgender murders, and nearly half of them have occurred in Dallas. Talking to members of the Dallas' Trans community, I know we need to pass the a nationwide ban of the LGBTQ+ panic

defense. Affordable housing and universal healthcare are two of my main policy pillars because I understand how transformative they can be for working-class people. We need to ensure these policies cover the LGBTQ+ populations; for example, Medicare for All must include gender-affirming care for Trans people and the Fair Housing Act but include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” as protected characteristics.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes, I have been a lifelong Democrat and I come from a family of lifelong Democrats.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I spent five years in the Navy. I served as a medic counseling service-members ailing with the mental tolls of war, sexual harassment and sexual violence, and substance abuse. During my time in the Navy, I earned my bachelor’s degree.

I briefly worked in the Virginia General Assembly while earning my Master’s degree. It was there I saw the corrosive effects of money in politics, so I turned my focus to organizing and providing direct support to communities in need.

At the onset of the COVID pandemic, I returned to Dallas to begin working as an affordable housing administrator focused on delivering life-sustaining resources to low-income communities, assisting families and individuals with rent assistance, providing food and nutrition services, and helping navigate healthcare services.

I’ve organized with Dallas Stops Evictions, helping tenants organize unions to fight against eviction, poor living conditions,

and predatory landlords. As the proud daughter of a Teamster truck driver, I've stood on the picket line with the professors of Colin College, the workers of Amazon, the St. Vincent nurses, and the Teamsters fighting for a union at Albertsons. Wherever there's a picket line, you can expect me.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

In 2020, Black, Brown, and Immigrant folk delivered Democrats the presidency and the Senate on the promise of change: voting rights; the Equality Act; canceling student debt; COVID relief; childcare; Medicare expansion, lower pharmaceutical prices, and more. The American people voted for this agenda. In office, I will work to get these things done. I accept no corporate PAC money, so I will always be accountable to the people and their wishes.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I would proudly showcase my endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, and yes, I would include the endorsement in my campaign media.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

My campaign manager, Kavin, likes to say he's a statistic in the LGBTQ community. He proudly shares he is a low-income queer male of color who was disowned by his parents after coming out. He was formerly homeless and has experienced difficulty getting access to mental health and medical resources due to a lack of insurance.

People with stories like Kavin are rarely ever given the chance to be in senior roles in politics. While we have the most diverse Congress ever, Hill staffers lack diversity. Those closest to the pain must be closest to the power. When elected, I am committed to hiring people of diverse backgrounds because we need more staffers of color, more staffers with disabilities, more staffers who

identify with LGBTQ+ community, and more staffers from poor and working-class backgrounds. This is the bare minimum. We need a government that accurately looks like the people being governed.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes, it's important the LGBTQ+ community have a liaison to voice their concerns. I also plan to host frequent town halls to allow all of our neighbors the opportunity to discuss their needs.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes, and we need to pass the Equality Act and similar laws to ensure we outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. I am happy to support other proposals that will protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination.

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

We need to enshrine the right to abortion in federal statutes. I also believe we must repeal the Hyde Amendment, which bans federal funding for most abortions. Furthermore, we must pass the Women's Health Protection Act to prevent TRAP laws. The act prevents states from passing restrictions on abortion clinics that do not "significantly advance women's health or the safety of abortion services." Additionally, we need to pass the EACH Woman Act, which would ban abortion restrictions in private insurance.

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

What Texas immediately needs is Medicare expansion. I will use my platform to amplify the need for Medicare expansion on the state level. I will also work with the Biden administration and fellow members of Congress to pass the healthcare reforms in the Build Back Better Act. These reforms include closing the "Medicaid coverage gap"; lowering prescription drug costs by limiting seniors' out-of-pocket drug spending; capping cost-

sharing for insulin at \$35; among other things.

I ultimately support Medicare for All and will work tirelessly to get it passed.

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

As I've mentioned above, I support Medicare for All. We need to get Medicare for All to a floor vote. Medicare for All is supported by 69 percent of registered voters, including 87 percent of Democrats, the majority of Independents, and nearly half of Republicans. There is no reason why we shouldn't have universal healthcare.

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

We need more voices in Congress that are unafraid to voice the people's concerns. Democrats promised in 2020 the passage of voting rights, among other things. We have to hold bad-faith actors in our party accountable to ensure we are delivering on the promises of our party.

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

First, I want to say implementation is important to the success of any social or economic program. That means they need to be properly funded so that they can do what they were designed to do. Taking away funding truly hinders the effectiveness of these programs, so it's quite unfortunate to see that House and Senate Moderates have shrunk the agenda president Biden was elected to execute.

I believe the Build Back Better Act is a good framework for getting the nation back on track, but there is always more work to be done. Working people in our country are hurting. They are looking to our government to solve crises of mass evictions,

unemployment, lack of health care, environmental catastrophe, workers' rights, and more. I also know we need to restore working peoples' faith in our democracy by expanding the Supreme Court, abolishing the filibuster, reforming our broken campaign finance system, passing the For the People Act, passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, and making D.C. our 51st state.

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

Yes, I support ending the filibuster.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

Since the onset of the COVID pandemic, I've worked as an affordable housing administrator. I've always believed our government should have paid people to stay at home from the start. This pandemic has disproportionately impacted communities of color. Working people can't afford to stay at home while their kids are at home for virtual school because they have rent and other bills to pay.

Also, I support Rep. Ilhan Omar's Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act; this bill would constitute full payment forgiveness, with no accumulation of debt for renters or homeowners and no negative impact on their credit rating or rental history. It would also provide landlords and mortgage holders relief to cover losses from the canceled payments.

Additionally, expanding the SNAP program during the pandemic was, and still is, essential. Many states have allowed the expanded SNAP benefits to expire on September 30th, 2021. A recent study showed that during times of economic downturn, a \$1 billion increase in SNAP benefits would increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by \$1.54 billion and support 13,560 jobs.

Furthermore, we need to continue the Child Tax Credit that expired on December 15th, 2021. The credit was projected to

cause a 40% drop in poverty amongst recipients. I am in support of making the Child Tax Credit permanent. Lastly, I am glad that the Biden Administration has paused student loan repayment till March 31st, 2021, but I believe we must cancel student loan debt.

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

To be prepared for future pandemics, we need to make investments in research and preparedness. President Biden's American Job plan provides \$30 billion in funding to boost our nation's strategic national stockpile and makes investments in research and development; in particular, it accelerates vaccine development and production.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes.

***How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)***

We are a nation of immigrants; I believe in creating a pathway to citizenship and permanent protection from deportation for all 11 million undocumented Americans in our country, including DREAMERS and TPS recipients.

I support decriminalizing border crossings, divesting from military equipment and personnel, investing in our asylum claims system with more immigration judges, court staff, interpreters, and clerks, and ensuring that minors are guaranteed effective representation.

***B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)***

See above

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

The climate crisis is here, and we need solutions now. In TX-30, we have several toxic waste dumps, and our water has high

lead concentration levels. Access to clean water and fresh air are human rights. We must act to clean up hazardous sites and enforce strict punishments for illegal dumping and contamination; this starts by reforming the Environmental Protection Agency to prioritize the clean-up of toxic waste sites in predominately minority neighborhoods. Additionally, we must invest in green infrastructure to revamp Texas's outdated power grid, make Dallas-Fort Worth a leader in clean energy production, and create millions of new jobs through a federal jobs guarantee. I commit to the #NoFossilFuelMoney pledge, and I support a Green New Deal.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I have been a member of Stonewall since Jan 2021.

# 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Vonciel Jones Hill

**Congressional District 30**

*All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

My faith-based position is known. What I do not believe is known is a full understanding of that position.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Life-Long Democrat

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

Eight (8) year Dallas City Council Member - all of which included chairing the Legislative and Transportation Committees. Those assignments took me to Washington on a regular basis, with the responsibility of securing funding for Dallas and North Texas - including that for the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, which has led to such incredible development in Trinity Grove.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

My priorities are jobs, education, and healthcare.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I include any and all endorsements that I receive on my campaign

literature and social media.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I hire and work with anyone who is qualified to do the job - again as evidenced by my time with the City Council.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Such an appointment would be helpful to me and to your community.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes.

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

Congress cannot control the Supreme Court's rulings. However, Congress can pas laws making those rulings null and void.

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

Medicare expansion is absolutely essential for this State. Other options include federally-funded community health facilities.

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

ACA can support improvements. Universal health care (such as in England) is a doable- with creative financing and hard negotiation regarding the cost of medicines.

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

By lobbying other Congress members and bringing public pressure on reluctant ones. also by speaking out early and often for the enactment of the law. However, the problem is not Democrats. The problem is with the Republicans, and the solution

to that issue is encouraging Democrats to vote.

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

Yes; but, even that Act can use improvement.

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

Support.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

Actually, Build Back Better would go a long way in that effort.

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

Ensure that there are adequate and equally available health resources available for all segments of the population. COVID has hit hardest in the population segments that were most healthcare impaired in the first place.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes.

***How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)***

DREAMERS should be afforded citizenship. Period.

***B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)***

These persons should have a clear, speedy, and understandable path to full citizenship.

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

Improve and enhance public transportation, so that the nation moves in the direction of less auto dependency, and, thus, less

auto pollution; require oil and gas producers to use non-polluting methods of manufacture; require manufacturers to use non-polluting methods of production. Climate change is very real and very potent; and if we do not get a handle on the environmental necessities soon and very soon, we will destroy this planet.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

i do not think so, but i will answer any question that I am asked, truthfully and fully.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I will not pledge to join Stonewall, based upon my faith stance. i do pledge to listen to you and respect your right to your beliefs, while simultaneously asking the same of you to me.

## 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Dr. Keisha Williams-Lankford

**Congressional District 30**

*All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

Currently, I serve as an elected Trustee to the Cedar Hill community and Independent School District where our students are apart of the LGBTQ community. In this position, I am a staunch advocate for fairness and equity for our students.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes. I am a life-long Democrat.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I was an Educator for 23 years. And now, I currently serve as a Trustee for nearly three years.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

Once I'm elected as a Congresswoman it will be my duty to secure resources for our community; advocate for fairness and equity for our community; support Build Back Better; and ensure crime is greatly reduced in our community.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

We will, if fortunate to have your endorsement, on our campaign publications.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

Upon my potential election as a Congresswoman one of my first order of business is to create a liaison office connected with the LGBTQ organization and it's community.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes.

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

My role as your next Congresswoman on District 30 is to co-sponsor legislation that would Roe v. Wade permanent.

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

I would lead efforts to provide better funding for healthcare and better health options by co-sponsor legislation to improve Obamacare and make it more efficient.

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

I would lead the effort by sponsoring universal health care with an option of single payer. I do agree that improvements can and should be made to Obamacare.

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

I will lead diligently to work with others to find common ground to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted.

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

Yes.

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

Yes. I do support ending the filibuster.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

The current legislation on the table to improve recovery efforts for the economy from COVID would be President Biden's 'Build Back Better' plan.

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

Congress could encourage President Biden to reinstitute the National Safety Council's Pandemic Unit that was built to prepare us all for pandemics. This unit was removed by former President Donald Trump which placed all Americans in serious danger.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

I would lead efforts to require EEOC trainings for sexual harassment trainings for the public.

***How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)***

I would lead the effort to encourage the resurrection of the Dream Act in the US Senate sponsored by Senator Dick Durbin.

***B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)***

Yes. I believe Congressman Darren Soto's legislation on TPS is vital to our community.

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

My idea is that climate change is happening and there's no more opportunities to deny it. The best idea to this cataclysmic event is to push for the Congresswoman Alexandria Ocosio-Cortez' 'Green New Deal'. This will bring plenty of resourceful and climate change saving jobs to the Dallas community.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I'm currently not a member. I will consider joining Stonewalls.

## 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Barbara Mallory Caraway

**Congressional District 30**

*All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I served in the Texas Legislature, Dallas City Council where these issue were debated and voted on. I have a voting that reflects my history of support of equal rights for all citizens. Additional we live in a society where there are on going conversations in the media and society regarding the continued efforts for right afforded by the U.S. Constitution.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes. I have a history of supporting equal rights for every citizen that can be researched by topic and legislation.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I have experience in elected office. I serve in the Texas House of Representatives for six years and a member of the Dallas City Council for eight years. I also served as a Democratic Precinct Chair. I am also a Small Business Owner. I have also worked in the education field which allows me to understand the issues pertaining to education.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

To represent every constituent regardless of race, color, creed,

religion, sexual orientation, or gender identification. My mission also is to advocate for, introduce, and vote for legislation that is affirmative to the interest of my District. To work to bring federal dollars to improve and support District 30 residents quality of life.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

If I am endorsed by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, I would include the endorsement on all campaign materials and in public conversations. Yes, I would include the endorsement in campaign media.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

By promoting and enacting non-discriminatory hiring and office policies.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes,

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

Congress should pass legislation that affirms a woman's right to choose.

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

I support more funding for the Affordable Care Act for Veterans healthcare. I support limiting the cost of prescription medication and more funds for pre-natal care. Federal government needs to attach a condition by which if states refuse to fund Medicaid expansion, the funds received by the states should be reduced by that amount in other areas. Support making child tax credit credit

permanent that would help limited income families take better care of their children.

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

I would join in with other legislators who have already developed a universal or single payer health care plan and improve by bringing in all stakeholders for negotiations and caucus for it.

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

I will support and vote for the John Lewis Voting Rights Act as is. I have and will continue to encourage its passage in the public and in congress.

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

Currently the Build Back Better Act is stalled in the Senate. I support its passage but I also believe that if we could get more we would, but since it is the best we can get, I support it.

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

I support ending the filibuster for voting rights. But not for the budget and debt limit, and consideration for Supreme Court Judges and cabinet positions.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

Continued testing, mandates for vaccinations.

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

Congress needs to continue funding and support scientific research. Congressional members should depoliticize healthcare crises and promote more civility when facing these types of issues.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the***

***resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes.

***How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)***

Congress should enact laws that clearly define and delineate the differences between a refugee, Green Card Workers, Visa Workers, immigrants and illegal immigration. Congress should pass legislation that ensures that people who want to come to the U.S. can and in all areas make the process more efficient. I do not support open borders. I support full citizenship for DREAMERS.

***B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)***

I support..

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

Listen to the scientist. Support Green Energy policies, support of the Paris Climate Agreement, promotion of the infrastructure .

*All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

I don't believe so.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I will not join any organization during the campaign season that would affect my pledge for impartiality and independence. However, I will pledge to support my constituency unbiasedly.

## 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Arthur Dixon

**Congressional District 30**

*All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

As someone who has questioned their sexuality in the past and has identified as Asexual I know first hand the struggles and fight of the LGBTQ+ Community. As someone who protested and fought on the steps of our nations Supreme Court just 7 years ago when the Supreme Court struck down state's bans on same sex marriage in 2015 I know first hand the struggles and fight of the LGBTQ+ Community. As someone who has multiple LGBTQ+ friends I see first hand the struggles they face not only from the outside world, but from within our own community. The African American and Latinx Communities in the south both have very homophobic cultures. It has led to the death of hundreds if not thousands of deaths in the LGBTQ+ community and even the Trans community more specifically. Now is not the time to get complacent! We must continue to fight for equal rights for ALL CITIZENS and realize the work is not done! It's just getting started...

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes! I am a BOLD PROGRESSIVE that believes that BOLD PROGRESSIVE CHANGE that actually makes a difference in people's lives requires BOLD PROGRESSIVE ACTIONS! I have always supported Bold Progressive Democrats and people fighting to truly make a difference. I affirm my affiliation with the

platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I am a Community Organizer, Activist, and Progressive Democrat that has dedicated my life at only 25 years old to fighting for BOLD PROGRESSIVE CHANGE!

## EXPERIENCE

Direct Hire State Coordinator

Grassfire, LLC | Community Organizing

Coordinated the hiring process of 1,000+ Volunteers in a 3 month period all over the state

Assisted in the gathering of over 1 Million Signatures towards a political campaign and petition gathering for a ballot initiative

Coordinated high dollar ad campaigns to find potential employees that shared our organization and campaigns 7 core values...

Founder/CEO

Anavrin Media, LLC | Progressive Digital Media

Founded the fastest growing digital media, entertainment, and social media marketing brand.

Accumulated over 100 Million video views and 1 Billion impressions across our Social Media brands.

Coordinated high dollar ad campaigns with media companies and brands like Disney, MTV, Vice, etc...

Regional Field Director

## The Fund For Public Interest | Non Profit Organization

Coordinated environmental campaigns and helped track legislation and lobbying efforts pertaining to our environmental justice and equality campaign.

Coordinated and helped implement a comprehensive plan to gather over 500,000 signatures during an environmental campaign to ban pesticides in low income communities.

## Regional Field Director

### Democratic National Committee | Community Organizing

Wrote and Implemented a modern day comprehensive, data-driven field plan.

Coordinated field organizing with fundraising operations of the Democratic National Committee Victory Trail. Trained and managed high performing volunteers and staffers for the Presidential Campaign.

Coordinated with the DNC and campaign Liaisons on finding ways to increase minority voter turnout.

## Deputy Director Of Operations' Intern

### National Political Convention | Political Organizing

Help implement logistics and operations management for over 10,000 people including Delegates, Media, Protestors, and Volunteers.

Assisted the Deputy Director of Operations in coordinating contracts and venue setup with corporate companies like Disney, Coca-Cola, etc.

## Transportation Director Assistant

U.S Chamber of Commerce Congressional Affairs | Infrastructure Investment & Environmental Reform

Attend Meetings with Congressman and staffers to urge them to pass legislation investing in America's infrastructure and pushing for environmental Reform .

Worked specifically on implementation of the FAST ACT and FAA Reauthorization that laid the groundwork for President Biden's Build Back Better Act.

Students for Bernie Regional Director

Bernie Sanders Presidential Campaign| Community Organizing

Grassroots organizing in Virginia and Maryland that mainly consisted of voter contact and GOTV.

Maintained a political donor database and called constituents to turn out votes.

Executive Assistant

U.S Chamber of Commerce - International Department,  
Washington, DC Jul 2015 - Dec 2015

Coordinate events for dignitaries, including Prime Ministers, Presidents, and Cabinet Members.

Organize and maintain the schedule of high ranking Departmental Executives while managing office logistics.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

On Day 1 of Congress I will pass 6 Resolutions focusing on the 6 key pillars of my campaign that will bring BOLD PROGRESSIVE CHANGE to the people of Tx-30 and the Nation as a whole. For too long we have had representatives that pander and play the political game instead of taking BOLD ACTIONS on policies that would actually make a substantial impact in people's lives.

1. A Universal Basic Income
2. A \$15 Minimum Wage
3. Free/Affordable Healthcare
4. Free Community College
5. A Green New Deal
6. The Legalization of Marijuana

I am a true believer that the only way we'll see BOLD PROGRESSIVE CHANGE that actually makes a difference in people's lives we have to take BOLD PROGRESSIVE ACTIONS!

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

When I get the endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas I will put it on all of my campaign literature and on all of my campaign media! I will also blast it across all of my social media and do everything I can to showcase the support and show that no matter how you identify you have rights and you have a voice!

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

The culture of a work environment is one of the most important aspects of running a successful organization. EVERYONE no matter who they are must feel completely welcomed and comfortable in order to perform their duties. Not just that, but creating an inclusive work environment is the morale and humane thing to do!

I will work closely with the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and other LGBTQ+ Communities to recruit as many people that share our values as possible & then create an inclusive work

environment to retain those people not only throughout the campaign, but throughout my time in office.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

YES!

Throughout the election and once elected I will have a full time liaison meeting with the the LGBTQ+ Community on a regular basis! Proper representation is important! It is necessary that whoever is elected in to office is someone that realizes that this fight is about THE PEOPLE!

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

YES!

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

The Judicial Branch isn't the only branch of Government that can protect women's rights! The legislative Branch also has that power and with a simple majority vote can pass legislation that protects women's right to choose. There is a Bill in congress now called the "Women's Health Protection Act" that with a simple majority vote would make strides in protecting women's right to choose!

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

Texas is ranked 47th in the nation in access to healthcare! This is unacceptable! Poor people shouldn't die just because they're poor. Besides pushing for a Federal Universal Health care system, but I would start off PUSHING Texas to accept Federal Medicaid expansion. Texas is refusing to accept over \$15 Billion worth of federal funding for medicaid that would save thousands of lives and help millions of people!

We need a BOLD PROGRESSIVE leader willing to stand up and fight for BOLD PROGRESSIVE CHANGE that will actually make a

difference in people's lives. We can't wait.

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

Like I mentioned above I would be very vocal in fighting for Universal Healthcare in the United States! I think we as a nation need a moral revolution. We spend close to \$1 Trillion a year on our military budget, yet we question simply providing affordable healthcare to those in need.

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

One of the core values of my campaign is empowering BOLD PROGRESSIVE CHANGE! I will do exactly that by being the most vocal member of congress. I truly believe that we have to take BOLD PROGRESSIVE ACTIONS if we want to see change and that starts with having a representative that is loud, vocal, and BOLD!

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

No! I think we need more BOLD PROGRESSIVE ACTION not a continuation of failed policies. We need a Green New Deal, we need a Universal Basic Income to stimulate our economy and help people transition into new jobs, We need investments into space, infrastructure, etc...

It's time for America to have a morale revolution and invest into things that actually matter and make a difference in the everyday lives of people.

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

I support ending the filibuster

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

One of the key platform points of my campaign is fighting for a Universal Basic Income. The only way to lift America out of our

current economic slump is to implement a “Trickle Up Economic” effect. Millions of people have lost their jobs due to COVID and millions of more are losing their jobs due to automation. We have to save the American economy and provide people with funds to stimulate the economy.

No individual can pursue life or liberty or the pursuit of happiness if they simply can't afford to eat and pay their bills!

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

There are multiple steps Congress can take to prepare for the next pandemic, but that starts with creating a bipartisan commission to study the pandemic, our nation's response to it, and how we can move forward as a nation and prevent the downfall we saw this time. We have to figure out ways to protect first responders, provide access to PPE at a reasonable cost, provide adequate testing, etc...

We have to take BOLD PROGRESSIVE ACTIONS!

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes

How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)

Under the Dream Act of 2021 388,000 Texas immigrants will be eligible for Permanent citizenship! We have to fight to pass the pending immigration bills in congress and stand up for BOLD PROGRESSIVE CHANGE!

***B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)***

Similar to the dream act we have to protect the (TPS) program. By passing the pending immigration legislation it would grant Green Card access to millions of people simply seeking a better life!

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

It is an UNDENIABLE fact that climate change is real. We saw the effects of it last winter in Texas when over 200 people died from the winter storm and with the failure of our power grid leading to millions of people losing power. We see it in California and Oregon where wildfires are ravaging the mountainside leading to countless deaths and billions of dollars of damage. We have to take BOLD PROGRESSIVE ACTION now!

*All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Yes, I will pledge to join!

# 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Jane Hope Hamilton

**Congressional District 30**

*All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

As a Congressional Chief of Staff, I implemented a non-discrimination policy for all employees. I also worked to recruit members of the LGBTQ+ community in both the capitol and district office. When working with government agencies it is critical to have staff who are able to be sensitive to the needs of all constituents. There are some concerns that are unique to the LGBTQ+ communities and I wanted to be certain that our office staff was qualified and competent to handle the concerns accordingly.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes, I am a lifelong Democrat, who has consistently voted for strong democrats up and down the ballot as well as serving as a national delegate twice. I've managed the campaigns of many strong Democrats here in Dallas and as the campaign manager in 2006, I helped flip Dallas County from Republican to Democrat.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I am the only candidate who has worked on Capitol Hill. I served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Marc Veasey from 2013-17 earning my Top Secret Clearance and previously was an aide to Congressman Martin Frost at the U.S. House Democratic

Caucus and on the U.S. House Rules Committee, one of the most powerful committees in the United States Congress. I understand how to move legislation through to passage and I understand the importance of building coalitions to get things done.

In addition, I have led Democratic campaigns across Texas, including President Biden's primary campaign in Texas in 2020, Marc Veasey's Campaign for Congress, Clay Jenkins Campaign for Dallas County Judge, and the 2006 county-wide campaign that turned Dallas County blue. Given my electoral and federal experience, I can say I truly understand this role, its challenges, and the work involved, but also how vital it is that the person elected is prepared to serve on day one. For over 20 years I have been fighting and delivering results for the residents of CD 30. I understand the challenges facing our communities but most importantly, I know how to get things accomplished and deliver the results needed.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

First and foremost, my office will be open, accessible, and transparent to the constituents of CD30. Whether representing constituent legislative objectives or constituent services, my staff and I will remain accessible to the community and eager to help, listen and provide information about resources available to them. Beyond that core goal, I will be working to address the needs of the district by expanding healthcare, protecting voting rights, and ensuring that economic and educational opportunities are available to all residents of CD 30 regardless of zip code.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I would be proud to have the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. If endorsed, I would post about the endorsement on social media, include it on my website, and printed materials.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly***

***environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

As mentioned below, I will of course have a non-discrimination policy in place for LGBTQ employees just as I did as Chief of Staff for Marc Veasey, but I believe this is the minimum step towards inclusion. As a former Chief of Staff on Capitol Hill, I have a reputation for running an open and welcoming office and I will maintain that atmosphere if elected to Congress. As a Black woman, I know that having a diverse staff is not just about checking a box; but also about including diverse voices in all conversations and listening. I am adamant about hiring the best candidates and generating the best ideas to work on behalf of all the constituents of CD30.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

I am extremely concerned that the current make-up of the Supreme Court makes it more likely than it has ever been that Roe v Wade is in serious jeopardy of being overturned. Given how quickly the court is losing the trust and respect it previously enjoyed due to its partisan decisions, I believe that we must seriously consider all proposals for judicial reform, including expanding the Supreme Court.

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

The best option to provide better funding for health care for all Texans would be for Texas to expand Medicaid as provided in the ACA. Unfortunately, our Republican state leadership has chosen to score political points rather than act in our state's best interest - both morally and economically. As a Member of Congress,

I could not change that decision, but I would support recent proposals that would encourage non-expansion states to expand, that would extend ACA subsidies to those who should have been covered by Medicaid expansion, and other policies targeted to helping these individuals gain coverage. Finally, I would support other policy proposals, such as a public option and drug pricing reform, that would help lower healthcare costs for everyone, including those with insurance.

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

I am a pragmatist when it comes to expanding healthcare; although it is clear that universal or single-payer healthcare would likely be the most effective and cost-efficient measure by which to ensure everyone is covered, I am willing to consider any other proposals that are likely to obtain sufficient support to pass and which would help immediately expand coverage. It is too desperate a need to reject better in order to demand the best.

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

I have been on the front lines fighting for voting rights for over a decade. I sued both Governors Rick Perry & Greg Abbott to protect our voting rights, pushing back against a discriminatory Redistricting map and voter ID law, and won resulting in both being ruled intentionally discriminatory and struck down. When I served as Chief of Staff to Rep. Veasey, I led the effort on the staff level to create the Voting Rights Caucus in the House. If elected, I would join that caucus and co-sponsor the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to ensure that everyone who is legally entitled to vote is able to do so without intimidation or barriers being placed in their path.

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

I support the Build Back Better Act and would have voted in its favor had I been in Congress. That does not mean that the bill includes every provision I think is necessary; for example, I was disappointed that provisions to allow Medicare to negotiate drug

pricing were not included and that paid family leave requirements have been reduced to only four weeks. However, I also recognize that a bill that passes is better than no bill at all, and I still believe that the Build Back Better Act would still be a huge leap forward for progress in the United States.

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

I do. Current Senate rules function only when both sides are acting fairly and with a genuine desire to have a functioning government. Senate Republicans have proven that they are interested only in obstruction and political wins; with that mindset, they cannot be allowed to hold this country hostage with the use of the filibuster.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

While passage of the Infrastructure package was critical, Congress must also press forward with the passage of the Build Back Better legislation which will create millions of jobs, implement the largest federal investment in child care to date, combat climate change and expand affordable health care. In addition, Members of Congress should be vigilant with regard to the disbursement of funding. Federal funds are appropriated by Congress; however, these funds are dispersed to state officials. As the next Member of Congress, I would work with community stakeholders to ensure that funding is distributed equitably to include underserved and diverse communities.

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

Unfortunately, this pandemic proved that we were not ready. Our supply chain for vital medical supplies was too dependent on China; our national security stockpile was outdated and poorly maintained, and there was not a clear process in place for how to proceed. Many of these issues have now been corrected or are already being improved. However, once the panic of the pandemic has faded, we must maintain the urgency of correcting these problems and I hope to be leading those conversations.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual***

***harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

My understanding is that the U.S. House already requires a “Workforce Rights and Responsibilities” training that includes training on how to recognize and report sexual harassment, and those offices that do not fulfill this requirement are publicly listed. However, to the extent that more training or transparency is needed, I would certainly be supportive.

***How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)***

I would support, co-sponsor, and vote in favor of the DREAM ACT or any similar legislation. It is past time to recognize that these young people are Americans and deserve to be treated as such.

***B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)***

I support extending opportunities for permanent residency and then citizenship to TPS holders. Many of these individuals have been in the United States for decades and have made their homes and families here. And in many cases, it remains unsafe for them to return to their home countries. I believe we have a moral responsibility to confirm that those individuals who have been law-abiding residents of the United States can continue to live here.

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

Climate change is real and all signs point towards it being an even more imminent threat than originally thought. I support the climate change provisions, including methane fees and incentives for alternative energy, that are in the Build Back Better Plan. I also recognize that we will likely need to do more to ensure that we are eliminating our reliance on fossil fuels as quickly as possible. Our children’s future depends on it, and I will always keep that in mind.

## *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Since October 2020

## 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Jasmine Crockett

**Congressional District 30**

*All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

During my freshman term in the Texas House, we witnessed unprecedented levels of attacks on trans youth. Session after session in 2021, the rights of trans youth were in the GOPs crosshairs. I am proud to have stood up and fought against every single attack on the House floor, and stalling some bad bills in the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. On days where there were long committee hearings on LGBTQ+ bills, I was proud that our office was a refuge for those testifying and showing allyship. On those long days we would make sure to have three hot meals, a place to rest, monitor the hearing, prepare statements, and provide some comfort. I'm proud of my staff and their relentless dedication. With a team of 29, we had one of the most diverse offices in the capitol with 73% of our staff being LGBTQ+, and 89% minorities. Our staff represented a wide cross section of the gender and sexuality spectrum, races, faiths, abilities, ages, and backgrounds.

I was also privileged to witness, firsthand, the bravery, beauty, and resiliency of HD 100s very own Libby Gonzales and her family as she was a prominent voice and the face of the opposition against the trans youth sports ban.

Her mother, Rachel, brought me to tears at our campaign launch as she described having a safe space at the Capitol for the first time, and that safe space was our office. Rachel had a ray of hope amidst the clouding darkness in knowing that she was

represented by a fighter who would not concede in this fight for trans rights. I filed a bill to prohibit LGBTQ+ discrimination in foster care and adoptions and am a proud member of the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I am a proud lifelong Democrat and have only voted in Democratic primaries. I also served as the chair of the Democratic Party in Bowie County Texas from 2012-2016.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I am a civil rights and criminal defense attorney and the current State Representative for HD100. I am the only candidate in this race that currently represents almost 200,000 people in North Texas. Before elected office, I served as a voice for more than 5,000 Texans in the courtroom. I am the only candidate in this race with a track record and who has been able to legislate and govern while in the minority. This will be important in an election year where Democrats are poised to lose our majority in the US House. I am licensed to practice law in federal courts and understand how federal law is written and applied. I've worked closely with our federal partners to advance voting rights legislation and provide key constituent services. As the only candidate who had to flee Texas because a warrant was issued for her arrest because she dared to take a stand for voting rights — I know exactly the kind of help we desperately need from the federal government. I am the only one who can walk into the Capitol on day one and get straight to work.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

As the US Congresswoman for TX-30 I plan to continue the charge for voting rights legislation as it is the foundation of any and all other rights we seek to preserve. While the Senate stalls the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the For The People Act, I would move to advance piecemeal legislation

that is amenable to Senate Democrats so that we can get some protections on the books for extremist states like Texas.

As an attorney who practices in federal courts, I would work to improve our criminal justice system from one that is outdated, ineffective, and fiscally irresponsible into one that is smart, rehabilitative, and equally applied.

As we try to grapple with living in a pandemic and rebuilding our economy, I will focus on making sure that investment and opportunity is accessible to all in my district.

Having been in close contact with many constituents in CD30, I know that the plague of environmental discrimination has long term effects for our community. I will continue my legacy of fighting for clean air, water, and environmental sustainability. Our office has forced more public hearings with the TCEQ than any other representative before us and allowed the public a chance to be heard.

I will join my colleagues in fighting for affordable healthcare access in our communities, universal coverage, and a system that is compassionate and equitable without regard to anyone's identity or economic position.

I will be laser focused as well to ensure that the Dallas Medical District continues receiving federal funding to the level they have enjoyed under Congresswoman Johnson's leadership. I will also work to secure funds for major projects in our district including Fair Park, affordable housing, and infrastructure projects.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I will proudly showcase my endorsement, just as I did last cycle, on my website, social media, campaign literature, mail, and anywhere else I can! Stonewall has done the work to make sure this endorsement holds real value with the voters, and I hope to earn your endorsement again and build upon our strong partnership.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I will continue the culture we have established in our office to be on that is inclusive, respectful, intersectional, and dedicated to service. I am proud of the team I currently have, made up of 73% LGBT+ people. Our office does not believe in discrimination nor tokenism. We seek out the best talent and those who are committed to the cause and it so happens that the best applicants we selected are from the LGBT community. We have a zero tolerance policy for bigotry and harassment of any kind and our doors are always open to staff to ensure everyone feels safe, valued, and their best selves while serving the people.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

Congress must, at a minimum, codify Roe v. Wade to protect the right to abortion and enshrine it into law and end the Hyde Amendment as well. These actions are the floor for what we can achieve to expand reproductive justice. I would also support eliminating and prohibiting frivolous and mundane requirements placed upon abortion providers and facilities that cause less doctors to be able to provide abortion care. I was proud to fight against each abortion restriction that came before the House floor, including SB 8. I am also proud to be a lead signer on

multiple amicus briefs submitted to the Supreme Court of the United States asking them to uphold Roe v. Wade. I support expanding the Court to restore balance to our judiciary.

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

I believe healthcare is a human right and that it should be accessible in our communities when and where we are sick. I believe when you leave the doctor's office you should be able to recover without fearing how the bill can break your back. I support access to preventative healthcare and efforts to keep people healthy because an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I support increasing investments in and expanding the ACA while we figure out a long term solution to healthcare access that boosts coverage to everyone, is not tied to employment, and includes dental, vision, mental, and the full spectrum of reproductive health. I support a policy to allow county judges and mayors to expand Medicaid in their jurisdiction and accept federal Medicaid funds even if their governors do not.

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

I would organize. I think that's what's been missing. There has to be an inside/outside plan to bring about more awareness, understanding, buy-in and ultimately the pressure that's needed to move the needle. I believe healthcare is a human right and support universal health insurance coverage that is not tied to employment, and covers dental, vision, mental, and the full spectrum of reproductive health. I absolutely believe we should make improvements to the affordable care act as we explore a long term solution with the goal of universal healthcare.

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

I led the charge to break quorum and pressure the House to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. The very first bills I filed were bills to expand voter access and many are included in the John Lewis bill. I know voting is the most fundamental and sacred right we have and without voting rights

we will never have healthcare, environment justice, abortion rights, LGBT+ equality, or anything else that matters to us. I will continue being a voice on the national stage in advancement of voting rights and continue building a coalition to build power on voting rights.

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

I believe the Build Back Better Act is historic in its investments and a great first step to reversing course after four devastating years under Trump's failed leadership. Like any policy, I believe Build Back Better has room to improve and that there are many who will still desperately need relief as it relates to childcare, education debt, keeping their businesses open, and investing in the infrastructure we need.

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

I do.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

I believe we must take this pandemic as seriously as possible because our lives and livelihoods depend on it. I support making free rapid testing and at-home test kits available to everyone. I believe the moratorium on evictions and student debt payments should continue for at least one year following the end of the pandemic to give people an opportunity to financially recover as well. I also support a universal mask mandate and stronger support for vaccinations because it will truly take a national, international, and all hands on deck effort to end this pandemic and eradicate COVID-19. I would also be open to ideas where we use our military infrastructure to deliver rapid tests, vaccines, medical equipment and personnel, as well as fill in where the need presents relating to our shortage in the economic supply chain so that farmers are not wasting precious resources and we can still put food on the table for hardworking families.

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

We must go back to being global leaders in medicine as we were under the Obama Administration. If President Trump had not pulled funding for studying and monitoring disease at the international level, we would have been in a far better position to detect and respond to this threat earlier and save millions of lives across the globe. Congress must act immediately to increase the public's awareness and understanding of this communicable disease as well as ways to prevent and protect ourselves from the spread. Laying this foundation now will combat disinformation early and before people lose their lives to harmful treatments like ivermectin and hydroxichloroquine. The pandemic highlights our most urgent need for universal healthcare access now.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes

***How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)***

Immigrants are what make district 30 and the US a vibrant and strong community. We must dedicate ourselves to creating a real pathway for citizenship that protects DREAMers, those with TPS, and allows those currently undocumented to acquire legal status and a pathway to citizenship. Currently, immigrants must wait almost thirty years in limbo to become citizens and enjoy the full rights and privileges enshrined under our US Constitution. This is unacceptable, unfair, and ultimately deprives our country of hardworking, top talent and upstanding community members. Our immigration system needs to be one of compassion and efficiency not discrimination and delay. The goal of our immigration system should be to screen for credible threats to national security, not to keep people out based on creed or origin. As it relates to DREAMers, those who arrived here as kids and grew up in our backyard, contribute to our society, and call America the only home they've known — we must do what is right and grant them citizenship. We must also ensure a pathway

to citizenship for their parents and do our best to keep families in tact. We must immediately end the practice of childhood detention and family separation — especially for those seeking asylum and lawfully presenting themselves at a port of entry.

### ***B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)***

TPS must be protected and extended for those who are here because of untenable circumstances in their home country. These are folks making an honest living, giving back to our communities, and building our country up. There is no good reason to turn them away or send anyone back to instability. I support protecting those under TPS and allowing them to attain green cards and citizenship to maintain a lawful presence in America.

### ***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

Climate change is a most pressing issue with a strict timeline that can only be exacerbated by the increase in carbon emissions we see. I support policies to achieve net zero carbon emissions, while creating clean energy jobs, retraining those currently working in the energy sector for the green jobs of tomorrow to ensure no one is left behind, and I support a collaborative approach to reach these end goals, but that approach must start now. The data is conclusive and concerning, if we fail to act we will have failed not just a generation but our entire civilization. I believe in holding polluters accountable, just as we have done in the House, and investing in clean, renewable, and sustainable energy sources to meet our demands. I believe those who pollute should pay the price of their harmful effects and that we must increase our regulation of the energy industry in the interest of protecting the public. Increasing our investment in clean-energy public transit will also help reduce our dependency on fossil fuels and reduce our carbon footprint.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I am a current Stonewall member in good standing and have been since 2019.

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Dan Patterson

Dallas County Criminal Court at Law No. 1

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I have many close friends and associates in the LGBTQ community and have always sought to be inclusive in both my personal and professional life.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes. I've voted Democratic my entire life.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

16 years as an attorney and 15 years as judge on the bench for which I'm seeking reelection.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

I plan to continue the good work we've done over the years. Our court has been recognized many times as exemplary in bar polls of both the Dallas Bar Association and the Dallas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I would be extremely proud of the endorsement and would

certainly include it in my materials.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I hope my record of inclusion speaks for itself.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?***

I would try and be sensitive to the situation, but I feel that we live in a pluralistic society and we work for and serve the entire public. There is no place in my court for bigotry and I would handle any such situation accordingly.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you’ve identified as needing improvement***

Docket management is a big part of a successful court and a judge must seek out and maintain competent, high quality support personnel.

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

No, but I’m open always to suggested improvements.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

In Dallas County, I believe the juries we sit are very representative, certainly far more so than in the past. The judge has to be aware and be active in the voir dire process.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

***I simply strive to be like the judges I appeared before in practice who I admired. They were confident, but never arrogant. They were always available and were good listeners. They were kind. I hope I live up to those ideals.***

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Currently a member and have been so in the past.

# 2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

Mike Collier  
Lt. Governor

## *All Texas Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

Over the course of my life, I have watched as two close family members have come out and both the relief and pain they have endured as part of that process. But through resilience, love, and time, many of the difficulties they endured personally have made way for acceptance by other family members that were hostile to the LGBT community.

Professionally, as a partner at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, nearly twenty-years ago, I helped pushed efforts in the corporate world for inclusivity and being an ally against discrimination in the workplace.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes, in fact, I have been on the platform committee as well as have been a previous Democratic nominee for statewide office.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

In 2018, I was the Democratic nominee against Dan Patrick — running the closest race for Lt. Governor in nearly two decades and outperforming the top of the Democratic ticket in 2/3 of Texas' counties.

Since then, I've continued to serve as a watchdog on the State Legislature by ensuring that they deliver on their promises made to Texas teachers and retirees, and in 2020, I was appointed President Biden's Senior advisor for the State of Texas and go-to surrogate to deliver President Biden's message of hope, decency and competent leadership across the state.

I have also served as the finance chair for the state party in 2015 and have remained heavily involved in politics across the state.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

As Lt. Governor, I would control the flow of legislation making it to the Senate floor as well as committee appointments. All my decisions will be guided by a laser like focus to fully fund our public schools. fix the damn grid, make corporations pay their fair share, pass common sense gun safety measures, and protect our constitutional rights, from a woman's right to choose to the right to marry who you love.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I would proudly share it on my social media and mention it in my remarks when in Dallas.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

The job of Lt. Governor is to represent all Texans. In our history, we have never had a Lt. Governor that has been an ally to the LGBT community and that will all change when I am elected. There will be a very senior staff member on my team responsible for ensuring that all of my staff hires, committee appointments, and nominations to boards reflect the diversity of this state and are inclusive of the LGBT community.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Of course.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection***

***of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Without a doubt.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support state legislation and/or constitutional amendments pertaining to: A. LGBTQ Couples adopting and providing foster care?***

As I said before, Texas has never had an ally as Lt. Governor. I will appoint committee chairs and support legislation that protects the rights of the LGBT Texans to live and love as their maker intended, not how Dan Patrick intends.

***B. Supporting the repeal of the sodomy law that was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court?***

Yes.

***C. Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?***

Yes.

***D. Supporting the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment?***

Yes.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address the recent passage of H.B. 25 regarding Transgender Student Athletes ability to participate based on their gender assigned at birth.***

The state has no role to play in determining who can or cannot play school sports. The NCAA and UIL have already been addressing the issue without state involvement, and as long as those decisions respect the dignity of every Texan and are in accordance with the constitution, then they must be free to make them.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address S.B. 8, the state's Abortion Bill, including private citizen's ability to report anyone involved in supporting report?***

SB 8 mocks the rule of law, it mocks our Constitution, and it mocks Texas women. This law was ill-conceived from the beginning and must be wiped off the books. If the Supreme Court refuses to act, then as Lt. Governor I will put it to a vote to have it

rescinded.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support to improve our state economy and address the income inequality and growing poverty rate in Texas, especially as respects recovery from COVID19?***

We must begin by raising the minimum wage followed by investing heavily in public education both at the secondary level and for our public colleges. Likewise, I have always said that the labor movement built the middle class and will protect the middle class. We must encourage more participation in organized labor and support apprenticeships and trade school. Further, the state must prioritize investment and economic development especially in disadvantaged communities across the state and ensure that our state is creating opportunities for all Texas, especially communities of color.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

We must begin by expanding Medicaid. That decision alone will insure millions of Texans and bring billions in our tax dollars back to Texas. We must then also work to bring transparency to the cost of prescriptions drugs in order to bring prices down. The state must also work to assist marginalized communities through efforts such as addressing the maternal mortality crisis facing women of color by ensuring that they have the pre and post-natal state assistance they need.

***If applicable to your office, what specific ideas do you have to overhaul the Texas Power Grid?***

Texans froze, Texans died, and corporations, aided by Dan Patrick, got rich.

The grid requires four essential and immediate fixes:

1. The state needs to invest to ensure we have more reserve capacity within the grid in order to ensure our grid keeps up with our state's growth and can be dispatched in any weather condition

2. We need to have emergency pricing schemes to ensure that some corporations don't get rich as Texan's are left in the dark

3. Texas needs a smart grid — not a dumb one — that invests in battery storage and distribution that makes our grid more efficient and clean energy-ready

4. As extreme weather events become more and more frequent, we need a state plan to build more resilient electrical infrastructure that withstand repeated storms

As a businessman and an energy expert, I am perfectly suited to solve the challenges facing Texans today. I believe in Texas first and I believe in common-sense solutions to ensure that Texas remains the best place to raise a family, invest in our communities, and thrive. Our lack of energy investment hurts those goals.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation restoring previous funding for HIV prevention in Texas including access to PrEP?***

I would appoint a chairman of the health and human services committee that understands the healthcare challenges facing the LGBT community and will prioritize bills that address such concerns.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing reparative/conversion therapy in Texas?***

As stated before, I would appoint a chairman of the health and human services committee that understands the challenges facing the LGBT community and understands the damage and abuse that can be done through conversion therapy practices on young Texans.

***If applicable to your office, what are your ideas for immigration reform in the state level?***

Immigration is an issue entirely dictated by federal law. The state must coordinate with federal and local officials, but the solution lies solely with the federal government. As Lt. Governor, I would heavily advocate to federal officials to reform our immigration system as Texas relies heavily on cross-border migration and trade for our economic growth.

***What could the state do to improve COVID19 reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

The first responsibility of the state is to provide accurate and timely public health information. Dan Patrick has done nothing, in fact, he encouraged grandparents to be ready to die for the Dow. The state must also work to ensure that we have healthcare capacity in vulnerable regions of the state, such as rural Texas and communities of color, where hospitals were easily overwhelmed by cases and lacked sufficient resources. Expanding Medicaid will go a long way in bolstering these hospitals, but we must also work to incentive doctors to work and stay in these communities, both in preparing for a pandemic and for daily medical care.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their office' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

There is no doubt, Texas is on the frontlines of climate change. From more frequent and more intense storms to prolonged droughts and water shortages, it is a problem for the here and now. We are an immensely wealthy state with some of the world's top research universities and talent. I want to position Texas to lead the way in creating the jobs and plan for the future so that we can address climate change while creating millions of jobs right here in Texas.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address voter suppression in Texas and work to expand access to voting by eligible voters?***

I'm fully supportive of local efforts to expand access to voting, such as drive-thru voting. Furthermore, Texas must join states across the nation in allowing online voter registration. We must also work to ensure that Texans can access ballot-by-mail and remove schemes designed to confuse and thwart voters from being able to vote. The right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, and I will do everything in my power to strengthen

and protect the right to vote.

***In your opinion and applicable to your office, what needed to happen in the past redistricting cycle?***

Texas must move to an independent redistricting commission so that voters pick their elected leaders—not the other way around. The Texas GOP worked tirelessly to ensure that voters of color, despite accounting for the majority of the state’s growth, did not receive proportional representation. In my view, that is not only unconstitutional but immoral and bad for the health of our democracy.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

There is not.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Yes

## 2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

Michelle Beckley  
Lt. Governor

### *All Texas Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

Currently the Texas Statute doesn't sync with the Federal Statute concerning the LGBTQ+ community regarding sex & marriage. Both sessions I was elected to the legislature, I carried bills to bring Texas laws in line with Federal laws to ease any confusion that could happen. I am a current member of the LGBTQ+ caucus and consistently vote to support the community.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes, my personal voting history is Democratic. I voted consistently with the Democratic values in the Texas House.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I beat the author of the "bathroom bill" and became the first Democrat elected in Denton County to the Statehouse in 2018 in over 34 years. I was outspent 10 to 1 in 2018 so I know the struggle of winning while being the under dog. In 2020 I improved my margin when many others didn't. Voters trust me to fight for healthcare, education, and to fix the grid. I have a proven track record.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

I reassign committee chairs to reflect Democratic values & make

sure anti LGBTQ+ bills do not make it to the senate floor.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I would place on my website & media.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I will continue the open door policy I currently have to hire LGBTQ+ community members. I will be the ally in the senate that is not currently there.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

yes

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

yes

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support state legislation and/or constitutional amendments pertaining to: A. LGBTQ Couples adopting and providing foster care?***

yes

***B. Supporting the repeal of the sodomy law that was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court?***

yes, I carried that bill twice and got it to committee hearings. I have a proven track record of supporting the LGBTQ community.

***C. Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?***

yes

***D. Supporting the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment?***

yes

***If applicable to your office, how would you address the recent passage of H.B. 25 regarding Transgender Student Athletes ability to participate based***

***on their gender assigned at birth.***

I would support any legislation to reverse HB25.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address S.B. 8, the state's Abortion Bill, including private citizen's ability to report anyone involved in supporting report?***

I would support any legislation to reverse SB8.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support to improve our state economy and address the income inequality and growing poverty rate in Texas, especially as respects recovery from COVID19?***

Property tax reform, allow cities the ability to regulate minimum wage, & increase tax incentives for affordable housing.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

Texas needs to take the Medicaid expansion. I carried bills that allow small businesses the option to buy into Medicare & Medicaid.

***If applicable to your office, what specific ideas do you have to overhaul the Texas Power Grid?***

Texas needs look into getting back on the national grid.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation restoring previous funding for HIV prevention in Texas including access to PrEP?***

yes

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing reparative/conversion therapy in Texas?***

We need to repeal it.

***If applicable to your office, what are your ideas for immigration reform in the state level?***

The state needs to work with federal government not against.

***What could the state do to improve COVID19 response and to prepare for***

***the next pandemic?***

We should look to our state universities that have pandemic research & preventive specialist for solutions and become the leader in pandemic mitigation in the United States.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their office' fulfilled the requirements?***

yes

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

We need to follow the practical suggestions of the climate scientist.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address voter suppression in Texas and work to expand access to voting by eligible voters?***

Having served on the elections committee, I know we need to start with online voter registration. That, alone, would make the biggest impact to ease of voting in Texas.

***In your opinion and applicable to your office, what needed to happen in the past redistricting cycle?***

Having been cracked out of the district I currently represent, I know we need non-partisan redistricting in Texas.

*All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

[blank]

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I am not sure I am a current member. I will pledge to join if needed.

## 2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

Carla Brailey  
Lt. Governor

### *All Texas Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I have served as a panelist on several panels to advocate for issues related to the LGBTQ+ community along with other marginalized groups. I teach human sexuality, and I build consciousness with my students in a way that challenges any forms of discrimination or injustices.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes. I am the immediate past Vice-Chair of the Texas Democratic Party. I am a lifelong Democrat with a strong voting record supporting Democratic candidates and Democratic platforms and policies.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I served as the Vice-Chair of the Texas Democratic Party since 2018 championing for people and working families. I am a sociology professor that is an advocate for equity in education, economics, opportunity, and justice. My life work has been to support the work of those moving our state forward.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

As the Lt. Governor I would have a lot of authority on how and what the business of this state will be for the good of all citizens.

I would be responsible for committee appointments and deciding what legislation makes it to a vote. I would be the loudest voice for equity for all people and all communities and that would be reflective in the decisions I would make for the advancement of people and communities in Texas.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I would proudly display this on my website, place it on all social media platforms and with your support, host round tables in Dallas and around the Texas to discuss and advocate for the issues that are important to you.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I believe that inclusion must be intentional. With your support I would look to recruit members of the LGBTQ community and ensure that the announcements of all postings reflect our inclusivity in the Lt. Governor's office.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Absolutely. I think having voices from many communities makes a more reflective government. I would be dependent on the voices of all parts of our tapestry in Texas to ensure that we have a government that is inclusive of all ideals.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Absolutely.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support state legislation and/or constitutional amendments pertaining to: A. LGBTQ Couples adopting and providing foster care?***

All children deserve love and all those that want to provide a loving environment for children should be able to do so in Texas. As the Lt. Governor I would have the ability to set the agenda for the State Senate and move this legislation forward for the people

of Texas.

***B. Supporting the repeal of the sodomy law that was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court?***

Yes

***C. Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?***

Yes

***D. Supporting the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment?***

Yes

***If applicable to your office, how would you address the recent passage of H.B. 25 regarding Transgender Student Athletes ability to participate based on their gender assigned at birth.***

Legislation that will repeal this law could be moved to the agenda when I am Lt. Governor.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address S.B. 8, the state's Abortion Bill, including private citizen's ability to report anyone involved in supporting report?***

Legislation to repeal this law would be moved to the agenda when I am Lt. Governor.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support to improve our state economy and address the income inequality and growing poverty rate in Texas, especially as respects recovery from COVID19?***

Equity in resources and delivery of care is paramount to addressing poverty in Texas. Quality of education, materials and resources in paramount to moving communities out of poverty. I believe working with educational leaders, labor and working family organizations to craft legislation to address these needs are all things that are on the table when I am Lt. Governor.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

Expanding Medicaid is paramount to better funding for health care in our state. More resources for our Urban and Rural

communities for early detection of preventable and curable diseases with preventative care.

***If applicable to your office, what specific ideas do you have to overhaul the Texas Power Grid?***

First, we must fully weatherize our systems to prepare for any immediate severe weather events in the near future. Second, we must accept climate change as a fact and begin to put plans in place that fully embrace the unseasonable activities that our state will be facing in the coming years.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation restoring previous funding for HIV prevention in Texas including access to PrEP?***

Working with the State Senate to champion this funding in our budget and putting members on the right committees that will agree to do the same.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing reparative/conversion therapy in Texas?***

I would not support reparative/conversion therapy in Texas.

***If applicable to your office, what are your ideas for immigration reform in the state level?***

Immigration reform is an issue that must be dealt with at the Federal level. In Texas, as a border state we have thousands of people that cross our borders daily without incident. We are a great melting pot of cultures and ideals and can be an example to the rest of the nation. I believe it is important that we dispel the myths of the border and the people that come across. We need to treat all people with respect and dignity and support a pathway to citizenship.

***What could the state do to improve COVID19 reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

We must be honest with Texans about the science and the effectiveness of vaccines and masks. We need to support all efforts to educate Texans on the benefits of being vaccinated and support the national response to COVID-19.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their office' fulfilled the requirements?***

Trainings are a benefit for everyone in our community. In my administration I will require all of my staff to participate in trainings that educate on sexual harassment, diversity and inclusion. I would also support legislation to make these trainings mandatory for all legislators and staff.

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

We first must acknowledge that Climate change is real and happening daily. We need to listen to the experts and determine what steps need to be taken in the many different parts of Texas to slow the effects of what we are doing to the earth. We also must plan for the effects of climate change and as we experienced in the winter storm, our preparation is key to our success to not lose life and treasure due to our inability to plan for the inevitable.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address voter suppression in Texas and work to expand access to voting by eligible voters?***

The Lt. Governor is responsible for setting the agenda and appointing committees in the Senate. We must expand voter access and education. Voting is a fundamental right of our democracy and should be easy and simple for all to participate.

***In your opinion and applicable to your office, what needed to happen in the past redistricting cycle?***

Maps that are reflective of our diversity and not drawn to decrease the voting power of the citizens of color in Texsa.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

NO

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Yes

## 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Carlos Quintanilla

**Congressional District 33**

### *All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I have Children and Grandchildren who are LGBTQ

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I affirm, I have voted for every Democratic Candidate except Marc Veasey.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

Activist very results oriented, business owner, speak and write in English and Spanish.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

Create and bring into our district much needed programs for our community, vocational training programs, drug rehabilitation programs, summer jobs, access to capital, housing assistance programs, create a Congressional Advocacy Office that will assist, intervene and fight against unjust and immoral practices in our community, establish a 33rd Scholarship Program to increase minority participation in colleges and Universities, work extensive to create a corporate reinvestment program that will fund and develop programs that are absent in our Congressional District.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

Social media, in the community, among my social media followers, on radio, on television and at political and community forums reach out

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

Create a LGBTQ liaison program that will meet regularly with Stonewall Democrat leadership and other groups active in the LGBTQ community. I will be active with your community.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

YES! I answered that before I skipped to the next, this question.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Absolutely.

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

By making sure we elect individuals who are committed to keep Roe versus Wade, intact

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

I will work with the Medical service providers, with corporate America to create alternative health care programs that will provide quality Healthcare to those who need it the most. I will work with Parkland Hospital to make sure that it is getting the most federal funds it can get. I will push for Hospitals that have been less than enthusiastic to provide access to care for all, including creating preventive health care education and health intervention clinics that can address medical issues before they become critical needing emergency intervention

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single***

***payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

By speaking out forcefully and supporting the election of Democrats who share the same belief that quality Healthcare should and must be available to everyone, no exceptions!

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

By speaking out, by being an advocate and by being determined as I have always been, to bring change where change is necessary.

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

No, it exclude any Immigration Relief!

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

Yes..

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

Access to capital to small businesses through community groups, making it easier to access capital, create incentive stipend programs to employer when they rehire employees, provide tax exceptions for small business employers and provide direct stimulus checks to businesses.

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

Info and more community ground operations to reach those who have not yet been vaccinated.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes...

***How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration***

**reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)**

I believe that we must insure Immigration Reform for the Parents of Immigrabt Children, for much too long we have only been concerned with Dreamers, my priority is not the Dream Act, my priority is to provide Comprehensive Immigration Reform for the true Dreamers, the Parents who dreamed big, who risked their lives, who made it possible for Dreamers to Dream

**B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)**

TPS needs to be expanded to Mexican Nationals who face the same if not worse conditions, faced by TPS eligible countries.

**What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?**

Education and intervention. Create new energy sources, provide funding for solar paneling, create awareness programs, provide more funding to combat environmental contamination, put more strength into OSHA and penalties against workforce contamination.

*All Candidates*

**Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?**

I have a Felony conviction that has been previously addressed before Stonewall Democrats. It would be a very sad day for Democrats that based on someone's past in my case in the early 1980's, that everything you have done since is not important. To deny an endorsement based on someone's past is unconscionable, everyone must have a second chance. It is what you do moving forward, not what you did 40 years ago

**How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?**

Yes...

# 2022 Federal Candidate Questionnaire

Marc Veasey

**Congressional District 33**

## *All Federal Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I employ members of the LGBTQ community in my Congressional offices and have been a member of the Congressional LGBTQ caucus since 2012. I am also endorsed by the Human Rights Campaign.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

YES

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I have been representing Congressional District 33 since its inception in 2012. Prior to holding Federal office, I was the State Representative for Texas House District 95 and the Democratic Caucus Chair.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

Right now, I am working on legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs across the country. I will continue to prioritize healthcare legislation as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees most Healthcare legislation. In addition, I plan to continue pursuing opportunities to bring jobs to the metroplex and create a

long-lasting solution to comprehensive immigration reform.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I am happy to participate in an manner that would be mutually beneficial. Yes, I would include links in campaign media.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I already employ LGBTQ staff and will continue to afford that opportunity to all qualified candidates .

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes, I have one that currently exists.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

YES

***How can congress play a role to ensure that Rob v. Wade isn't overturned by the Supreme Court?***

I proudly voted to defend women's constitutional right to reproductive health care with H.R. 3755, the Women's Health Protection Act. The Women's Health Protections Act (WHPA) establishes the federal statutory right for health care providers to offer abortion care and the federal right for patients to receive that care, free from state restrictions.

***How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

As a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have the opportunity to work directly on protecting the ACA for two million Texans and Americans nationwide, fight for Medicare for All, advance America's leadership on clean energy and energy security, and ensuring families have access to clean water and air for generations to come. I am also spearheading an effort to bring down the prices of prescription drugs for Americans

everywhere.

***How would you lead or support an effort to establish universal or single payer health care for the United States of America? Should there be more improvements made to the Affordable Care Act?***

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I joined my colleagues of the full Committee to advance eight bipartisan pieces of legislation to ensure our nation's health care is both affordable and accessible. The package of bills included legislation to reauthorize public health and Medicare programs, improve drug pricing transparency and protect patients from surprise medical bills. I am proud to reach across the aisle to ensure we pass legislation that will continue our work for the people across America. These bills will strengthen our national health care system and ensure that both Texans in the district I represent and all Americans across our country have access to comprehensive and affordable health care.

***How would you lead or support efforts to ensure the John Lewis Voting Rights Act is enacted?***

As both a Texan and co-founder of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus (CVRC), I have long supported efforts to get both the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act signed into law. In my role as a member of Congress, I have proudly joined my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to pass both of these pieces of voting rights legislation out of our chamber. In my role as a co-chair and co-founder of the CVRC, I have led many letters urging the Administration and the Senate to prioritize these vital pieces of legislation to enforce national standards to protect the right to vote, especially as states like Texas are implementing dangerous voter suppression laws that allow partisan gerrymandering. In the upcoming weeks, I will also continue to push the Senate to change their rules and reform the filibuster to ensure that these voter freedom and pro-democracy reforms are signed into law.

***Did the Build Back Better Act in your opinion do enough to address the nation's needs?***

The Build Back Better Act delivers once-in-a-generation action

to lower the everyday costs that burden working families. Specifically, the legislation will lower costs that families pay – prescription drugs, child care, health care premiums. If someone is concerned about the impact that higher prices are having on families, this bill gives them a break. That is why I am supportive of this legislation and will keep working with my colleagues to get it signed into law; because delivering historic progress cannot wait.

***Do you or do you not support ending the filibuster?***

The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy. The House has done its job to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and Freedom to Vote Act, yet Senate Republicans have continued to thwart these critical voting rights through the filibuster--a racist, a procedure that is a relic of the Jim Crow era. I believe that in instances such as democracy reform and voting rights, Senate rules changes like filibuster reform are needed to get these bills passed.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support for recovery efforts for the economy from COVID?***

At the beginning of this Congress, I joined my colleagues to pass the American Rescue Plan that allocated billions to get our nation back on its feet by putting shots in arms, workers back in jobs, money in pockets, and children back in school. In just the last few months, my colleagues and I continued to build on our agenda to keep our country moving forward. I am especially proud of our recent work to bring much-needed funds to Texas through the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which will improve public transportation, repair roads and bridges, and provide broadband coverage to Texas. The U.S. House of Representatives also passed the Build Back Better Act, which will provide funding for child care, health care coverage, and combating climate change once signed into law. Together, these packages will spur economic recovery and help us get through the COVID pandemic by lowering the costs that burden working families, creating jobs, and strengthening our economy.

***What could congress do to improve COVID Reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

Congress has already passed the sweeping American Rescue Plan that was signed into law in early 2021 by President Biden. I was proud to vote for this sweeping COVID relief package which allocated billions to get COVID-19 relief put shots in arms, workers back in jobs, money in pockets, and children back in school. It also included more than \$3 billion to accelerate the discovery, development and manufacturing of antiviral medicines as part of the Biden Administration's whole-of-government strategy to develop the next generation of COVID-19 treatments. I believe we can build off of these advancements by keeping this funding to study and prevent further COVID outbreaks. I also believe Congress must work with the Administration to allocate appropriate funding to the Center for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and the World Health Organization so that they can properly research and prepare our country and the rest of the world to best deal with future pandemics.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes. Discrimination of any kind shouldn't be tolerated in the work place. Cultural, racial, ethnic, gender based, sexual orientation and religious rights must be protected, my office policies help to ensure this. At the point in which a circumstance called for special attention, I would personally engage in addressing any such situation brought to my attention.

***How will you lead or support efforts for comprehensive immigration reform, especially pertaining to: A. Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM ACT)***

I proudly fought against Republican efforts to repeal the state DREAM Act, which lets undocumented students that were raised in Texas go to college while paying in-state tuition rates. I have sponsored an issues forum for seniors and a screening of "The Dream is Now," a documentary showing the plight of DREAMers living in the United States. Likewise, I support the passage of a federal DREAM Act, whose path-

to-citizenship provision would allow kids seeking further education work in their professions after graduation.

### ***B. Temporary Protected Status (TPS)***

In 2021, I was proud to vote for the American Dream and Promise Act, and H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, two landmark pieces of legislation to modernize and reform our immigration system and secure permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. The American Dream and Promise Act provides relief to our nation's Dreamers, as well as to many Temporary Protected Status holders. I am also an original co-sponsor of the Reuniting Families Act which prioritizes the unification and stability of immigrant families, and the Uniting American Families Act, which allows U.S. citizens and permanent residents to sponsor permanent partners for residency.

### ***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

There is no denying the impact of man-made climate change. State agencies must work with the EPA rather than fighting the administration's greenhouse gas rules. Delaying only creates backlogs on permit applications and aides the lawyers in getting richer. I previously offered an amendment to H.R.8 that requires the Department of Energy to submit a report to Congress on the potential effects commercial utilization of Carbon Capture and Sequestration could have on the economy, energy infrastructure and greenhouse gas emission goals. Now, as a Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I have the opportunity to work directly on protecting the ACA for two million Texans and Americans nationwide, fight for Medicare for All, advance America's leadership on clean energy and energy security, and ensuring families have access to clean water and air for generations to come.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

I have been endorsed by Stonewall since I was a State Representative in 2004 and hope to continue having your crucial support.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

YES. I have been supported by Stonewall since my first election.

# 2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

## Venton Jones State Representative, Texas House District 100

### *All Texas Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

In addition to being an out and proud Black gay man; I have worked locally, statewide and nationally advocating for the rights of LGBTQ+ communities for over 15 years. One of my first leadership roles included serving on the Board of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for two years between 2007 and 2008.

House District 100 includes parts of Oak Cliff, West Dallas, and East Dallas. I have committed my life and career to fighting for equity and social justice for diverse populations of LGBTQ+ communities living throughout this House District. Public health, anti-LGBTQ discrimination, and safety are all issues I have worked on in my professional career and will continue to lead when elected as State Representative for House District 100.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes - I have voted with the Democratic Party for my entire voting history.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I have a long history of successfully implementing innovative and effective initiatives nationally, throughout the State of Texas, and locally in Dallas County. My work has included service in various high profile leadership roles working with some of the nation's leading public policy organizations, and with lawmakers

and community leaders improving health and economic policy. I am the Founder and CEO of the Southern Black Policy and Advocacy Network (SBPAN), a non-profit with the mission of improving health, social, and economic conditions impacting Black communities in the U.S. South.

I am active member of the Dallas County Democratic Party serving as a Precinct Chairman and Election Judge. In addition to my work with the Democratic Party, I also serve as the Chairman of the Dallas County HIV Task Force, former Vice Chair of the Dallas County Ryan White Planning Council, and appointee to the City of Dallas Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Board.

In 2019, I was appointed to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and STD Prevention and Treatment by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

- Increase funding for public health infrastructure and programs
- Introduce legislation that will support public schools
- Support State of Texas anti discrimination legislation
- Protect voting rights

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I would showcase an endorsement by Stonewall on my website and on all printed materials noting campaign endorsements.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

When elected I will work to always create an environment that welcomes and affirms members of the LGBTQ community.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support state legislation and/or constitutional amendments pertaining to: A. LGBTQ Couples adopting and providing foster care?***

I will oppose any legislation that will attempt to limit the ability of LGBTQ couples from adopting and providing foster care.

***B. Supporting the repeal of the sodomy law that was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court?***

I will support the repeal of the Texas sodomy law that has been ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

***C. Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?***

Support legislation that will aid public schools in create safe spaces for LGBTQ students.

Support legislation that require specialized diversity, equity and inclusion trainings for guidance counselors, all administrators, teachers, faculty and staff .

***D. Supporting the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment?***

I will strongly support the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address the recent passage of H.B. 25 regarding Transgender Student Athletes ability to participate based on their gender assigned at birth.***

I do not support the passage of this bill and will fight to support the passing of legislation to repeal H.B. 25.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address S.B. 8, the state's Abortion Bill, including private citizen's ability to report anyone involved in supporting report?***

I do not support the passage of this bill and will fight to support

the passing of legislation to overturn this bill. I believe strongly in a woman's right to all reproductive healthcare services, including abortion services.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support to improve our state economy and address the income inequality and growing poverty rate in Texas, especially as respects recovery from COVID19?***

Support funding for unemployment compensation fund.

Support additional funding for healthcare services (including mental health).

Support legislation that would prevent eviction due to COVID-19 or income disparities due to COVID-19.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

I support efforts to expand healthcare access to ALL texans!

***If applicable to your office, what specific ideas do you have to overhaul the Texas Power Grid?***

There must be an independent inspection of the independent power grid in Texas. Based on that inspection we must provide funding to make the necessary repairs to the grid and ensure all equipment is up to code and able to withstand extreme weather events.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation restoring previous funding for HIV prevention in Texas including access to PrEP?***

In order to support national efforts to end HIV by 2030, I will full support and will champion legislation that will restore funding for HIV prevention in Texas, including access to PrEP services.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing reparative/conversion therapy in Texas?***

I strongly support legislation that would ban reparative/conversion therapy in Texas.

***If applicable to your office, what are your ideas for immigration reform in the state level?***

I will support funding for healthcare, including undocumented families.

I will support legislation that will not separate families or lock children in cages.

***What could the state do to improve COVID19 reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

Healthcare will be at the top of my agenda as State Representative. I will support and champion legislation that will improve the ability for Texans to respond to COVID-19 and prepare for other pandemic impacting the residents of House District 100.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their office' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

I will support legislation that will help improve the environment and oppose legislation that will continue to accelerate harm to our air, water, and land.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address voter suppression in Texas and work to expand access to voting by eligible voters?***

Repeal any laws that will limit the ability of Texas to vote.

I support mail in ballots and for the ability for all Texans to be automatically sent ballots to vote.

***In your opinion and applicable to your office, what needed to happen in the past redistricting cycle?***

Democrats needed control of the Texas State House.

## *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I have been a member at the Roosevelt level since 2019. Prior to that I was an active member of the Stonewall Board for two years between 2007-2008.

## 2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

### Daniel Davis Clayton State Representative, Texas House District 100

#### *All Texas Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I have always stood up for civil rights and civil liberties for all Texans. My values are aligned with the LGBTQ+ community, and I look forward to being your voice in the Texas House as State Representative for District 100. We have to fight to make sure we deliver progressive change for everyday Texans in Austin.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

As a former Democratic Precinct Chair, SDEC member, state-wide Field Director for the TDP, state Black Caucus Chair, state chair for the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, founding member and state office holder of the Texas Democratic Veterans, and a former Executive Director for both the local Democratic Parties in Dallas and Tarrant counties, I strongly adhere to the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party.

I have voted in every Democratic primary, municipal, and general election since I was 18.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

My background as a 7-year aide to State Senator Royce West and 5-year Chief of Staff/Senior Advisor to State Representative Toni Rose gives me the state government experience necessary to serve. In fact, I'm the only candidate with any Texas State Legislative experience. The process of passing legislation differs

in each chamber of the Legislature and my dual legislative experience and experience working with the Calendars and Appropriations Committee of the Texas House affords a uniquely deep understanding of the process.

I was also solely responsible for managing multiple district offices in my roles with both Senator West and Rep. Rose. I've cleared hundreds of constituent casework, and my management of such has resulted in constituent clients calling the legislative offices for me specifically years after my departure in both roles.

I have also served my community through my membership on the board of Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI), board of Southeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the Dallas County Citizens Election Advisory Commission, and the Dallas County Vote Center Committee.

I have worked with the Texas AgriLife office to seed community gardens in food deserts. I have read to elementary students in DISD schools each Friday for the past 9 years. I created and ran a Social Emotional Learning mentoring program for 59 DISD elementary students last year and have been asked to expand my program to middle school as well for the current year. I was responsible for over 400,000 North Texas families signing up for Obamacare during the first two years of the ACA roll out, as the regional director in the most uninsured region in all of the United States... earning a letter from President Obama. I am currently working diligently to curb urban and mass shooting gun violence, currently concentrating my efforts on the crisis in South Dallas in District 100.

I am a proud union member and a proud Democrat.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

My priorities as a State Representative for District 100 are being a champion for well-paying jobs and strengthening small business, standing up for our public schools, fighting for Medicaid expansion, and quality, affordable health care for all Texans, criminal justice reform, working with the community and law enforcement to keep our neighborhoods safe, and

fighting for civil rights and civil liberties. I will also maintain a permanent district office and ensure bilingual access to our office, information, and services.

Specifically, I will work to legislate in the areas of my professional and volunteer life... expanding Medicaid, replacing punishment in elementary and middle school with social-emotional learning to put an end to the school pipeline to prison, freezing property taxes in neighborhoods at risk of gentrification, continuing to protect the freedom to vote, and working to kill bad legislation like the “bathroom bill” which I strategized against as a Chief of Staff, working the halls of Austin.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I will proudly showcase the endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas on my campaign website, all campaign literature and mailers, social media assets, and all campaign advertisements.

Yes.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I will make sure my campaign and if I am elected my legislative staff is a friendly environment for the LGBTQ community. I will point to my time as the Executive Director of Dallas County, when I intentionally hired a full staff that was reflective of all diversity points in the Democratic Party. I will also point to my time with Enroll America when I invited members of Dallas Stonewall’s transgendered community to speak to my staff about the shortfalls of the Affordable Care Act as it related to hormone therapy and other issues critical to the community. I was the only regional director in the state to do so because it was important that my staff understand the fullness of each and every community we were charged with serving.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

Yes, absolutely! I will personally be available as well.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support state legislation and/or constitutional amendments pertaining to: A. LGBTQ Couples adopting and providing foster care?***

I will sponsor appropriate legislation in the Texas House.

***B. Supporting the repeal of the sodomy law that was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court?***

I will sponsor appropriate legislation in the Texas House.

***C. Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?***

I will sponsor legislation in the Texas House.

***D. Supporting the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment?***

I will sponsor legislation in the Texas House.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address the recent passage of H.B. 25 regarding Transgender Student Athletes ability to participate based on their gender assigned at birth.***

I was disappointed that the legislature passed H.B. 25. As a staffer during the special session, I listened to the testimony of young children and their families that were affected by the legislation. While we did not have the votes to stop H.B. 25, I was proud of the young Texans who came to the Capitol to protest and make their voices heard on this issue. I support those who have said that banning Trans kids from athletics is cruel and unfair and keeps trans youth from participating in an important part of their development process. Young Texans deserve much more than what they have received from the leadership in Austin. What the mean-spirited members of the legislature did was wrong, and the only thing we can do is to have a strong turnout of progressive and independent Texans who will vote for change from the Governor on down the ballot so we can repeal this legislation.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address S.B. 8, the state's Abortion Bill, including private citizen's ability to report anyone involved in***

### ***supporting report?***

I was extremely disappointed that S.B. 8 passed and was signed by Governor Abbott. As legislative staff, we worked with our allies to make sure that progressive voices were heard loud and clear. Texas is on the front lines for the battle for reproductive freedom. Many women don't know that they are pregnant at 6 weeks, and the enforcement mechanism will allow for "bounty hunters," to run rampant, putting the fear into women all over the state. We can only hope that the US Supreme Court will do the right thing and repeal this law. If they don't, we will take this issue to the people of Texas and we will need a strong progressive turnout in the 2022 elections to change the leadership in Austin so we can repeal this law and its enforcement mechanism. We have strength in numbers and polls show that this legislation went too far as far as everyday Texans are concerned. I will always support the rights of women to make their own decisions when it comes to health care and reproductive issues.

### ***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support to improve our state economy and address the income inequality and growing poverty rate in Texas, especially as respects recovery from COVID19?***

I want to increase the number of women and minority owned small businesses in HD100. We need to increase opportunities for high paying jobs in District 100. I support efforts from creating state empowerment zones, to supporting MWBE businesses, to using incentives to bring large employers to West Dallas, South Dallas Proper, or Far East Dallas so they can create jobs in our district. I support paying workers a living wage so that they have the resources to take care of their families.

I want to form a partnership with the local chambers of commerce, City of Dallas, Dallas County, and DCCCD, in regard to workforce development. I will support all efforts for more federal funding and programs to help our local economy grow as we recover from COVID19.

### ***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

I will author or co-sponsor legislation for better funding for health care, including investments in mental care facilities, and increase our share of community care clinics. I left my job with the Texas Senate to work as an organizer signing up Texans for the Affordable Care Act, so the issue of Medicaid expansion in Texas is deeply important to me. I will do whatever it takes to pass Medicaid expansion as it has the support of working families in Texas and in the medical community.

This past legislative session, I helped secure full funding for the Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP) with a 36.3 million dollar appropriation, helped pass the 2021 Maternal Mortality Bill which extends comprehensive healthcare for new mothers on Medicare from 60 days to 6 months, and helped secure almost \$350 million dollars for a new mental health hospital for Dallas, which will begin seeing clients in 2024.

***If applicable to your office, what specific ideas do you have to overhaul the Texas Power Grid?***

We experienced one of the deadliest winter storms in Texas history. It is estimated that over 4 million Texans lost power, and hundreds lost their lives. What the legislature did to respond to the failure of the Texas Power Grid was not enough. The bills that passed leave too much wiggle room for companies to avoid weatherization improvements. There needs to be more regulations in place to enforce weatherization efforts. I agree with experts that say that we don't have a regulatory system that holds the industry accountable. We also need more oversight into ERCOT, PUC, and the Railroad Commission. These organizations and agencies need to be held accountable to the people of Texas, and not the big contributors from the Oil & Gas lobby.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation restoring previous funding for HIV prevention in Texas including access to PrEP?***

I will sponsor legislation to restore funding for HIV prevention in Texas. We need to make citizens aware that funding for HIV prevention programs have been cut, including access to PrEP, and to get them to attend rallies, testify in committee, and call their legislators. This past legislative session, I helped secure full

funding for the Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP) with a 36.3 million dollar appropriation and will continue work to build a safety net in Texas around prevention.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing reparative/conversion therapy in Texas?***

I would work to highlight why conversion therapy is not the right approach for our state in the same manner as my organizing work in other issue areas.

***If applicable to your office, what are your ideas for immigration reform in the state level?***

We are still a country of immigrants. While I am a believer in enforcing our immigration laws, I have concerns about how the current Administration is treating those trying to apply for asylum. I support a pathway for citizenship for immigrants already in the country. I also support increasing programs to bring in high skilled workers as long as they are not taking jobs that Americans can do. I personally reached out to Mr. Jeff Williams, the Regional Director of DPS to ensure that state troopers in Dallas were not asking people for “papers”. He assured me they were not. I will always take on a direct hands-on leadership approach.

***What could the state do to improve COVID19 reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

The legislature needs to review the emergency authorizations that allowed the Governor to make all of the executive decisions without the input of the legislature or local elected officials. Next, we need a better partnership with local elected officials, giving them all the tools they feel are necessary to prepare and better take care of their communities. We need a better strategic relationship with the federal government and officials than we currently have. Also, we need to take the politics out of current and future pandemic responses and trust the doctors and the experts on the ground.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their office' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

I believe climate change is real and we need to do everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint. More investments in wind, solar, and geo-thermal energy are needed. I'm from East Texas and our family grew or raised much of the food we ate. Protecting our environment is deeply important to me.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address voter suppression in Texas and work to expand access to voting by eligible voters?***

As a member of the Dallas County Citizens Election Advisory and Vote Center Committee, I worked to help expand countywide voting centers in Dallas County. I will work to get rid of the suppressive voter ID laws and will support legislation to allow online and same day voter registration and allow more Texans to vote by mail. I was also a litigant in the 2012 federal Voter ID lawsuit that was joined by then U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. I've also developed and managed numerous voter protection programs with teams of talented attorneys across the state. With that said, there is only so much we can do until the Congress passes H.B. 1 and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

***In your opinion and applicable to your office, what needed to happen in the past redistricting cycle?***

I believe that more seats in the Texas Legislature and the US Congress should have gone to districts that would elect more people of color to those districts since 95% of the growth in the State of Texas was from people of color. I think the Dallas County fared well in the redrawn Texas House map that strengthened legacy house districts like HD100. We will continue to lead the effort and fight for more minority representation in the Texas Legislature and US Congress.

*All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Though I am not a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I am an ally and will work to pursue the interest of the community across all areas of civil rights and civil liberties. I'd be proud to serve as a member of the caucus in the House of Representatives.

## 2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

Sandra Crenshaw  
State Representative, Texas House District 100

### *All Texas Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

Being a person of color, I have felt discrimination most of my adult life. I can relate even though I feel that discrimination against LGBTQ is much more cruel and vocal.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Certainly Most definitely YES. No voting history, wait until I get elected! You'll see an advocate.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

Since 2008, I have been a Lobbyist for Justice with the Texas Legislature and the Black Legislative Caucus In Washington DC as a fearless advocate for mental health and homeless. District 100 has the largest population of mental ill and the unsheltered. These factors contribute to crime, poor health, and deprive business opportunities and homeownership.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

with legal challenges against the 2022 Redistricting challenges, I hope to convince the surrounding district to reconstruct our district to ameliorate the gerrymandering in the southern sector. I have lobbied Rose and Sherman to retain the legacy district of 110 and was successful in that endeavor. We will lost Houston State

Rep with Garnet Coleman who is retiring after 30 years. Coleman is nationally known as mental ill who has tirelessly advocated for mental health reason. He was joined by Dallas rep Toni Rose who has authored bills that are related to mental health. She mostly recently was awarded funds to begin a state hospital in the Dallas area. I wouldlove to take Coleman's place to work along with Ms. Rose.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

Of course.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

Everyone would get treated the same. Many do not realize that the work environment is one of the most unhealthy environment that we live in today. A person calls on our government when distressed. Being courteous and of help to constituents is a must. Positive feedback gives the staff relief as well as the constituent. Otherwise, the staff will receive hell from me.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

I will not assign a liaison to represent me, I will want to meet with the LGBT community myself. LGBTQ are becoming more open and and therefore represent a larger constituents. Too large to send a liaison.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

YES

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support state legislation and/or constitutional amendments pertaining to: A. LGBTQ Couples adopting and providing foster care?***

Children deserve a home with a parent who loves them. Why would I not support LGBTQ couples adoption or foster care.

***B. Supporting the repeal of the sodomy law that was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court?***

NO

***C. Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?***

Of course. Texas has a good bill on Bulling. Let's get the bill enforced.

***D. Supporting the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment?***

I believe that marriage is a man made law and creates taxes, therefore it should apply to those who want to the same protection as others like insurance.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address the recent passage of H.B. 25 regarding Transgender Student Athletes ability to participate based on their gender assigned at birth.***

If the majority of the people of Texas is in support of the Bill, it would not become a priority.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address S.B. 8, the state's Abortion Bill, including private citizen's ability to report anyone involved in supporting report?***

The Abortion Bill is outright unlawful to include a private citizens ability is setting up vigilantes and putting citizens in harms way.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support to improve our state economy and address the income inequality and growing poverty rate in Texas, especially as respects recovery from COVID19?***

Most advocates says that the rainy day fund should be used to recover from COVID19.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

Any thing to include health care including mental illness has my vote.

***If applicable to your office, what specific ideas do you have to overhaul the Texas Power Grid?***

Not my expertise, I would pay close attention to which Republicans receives the highest donations.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation restoring previous funding for HIV prevention in Texas including access to PrEP?***

[blank]

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing reparative/conversion therapy in Texas?***

I would have to study more on it. I do know that the conversion therapy is controversial, but Texas has not passed any bills to outlaw the therapy.

***If applicable to your office, what are your ideas for immigration reform in the state level?***

I think we all saw the horrible photos of the Haitian refugees at the Texas border town. I would support more funding to support better shelters and better health care.

***What could the state do to improve COVID19 reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

I don't have any.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their office' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

[blank]

***If applicable to your office, how would you address voter suppression in Texas and work to expand access to voting by eligible voters?***

[blank]

***In your opinion and applicable to your office, what needed to happen in the past redistricting cycle?***

I lobbied in Austin during the redistricting therefore I saw first hand, the Republican stabbed Dallas in the back by discounting the fact that the highest growth in population was the Hispanics. One Dallas representative said from the “mike” that Dallas House did not fight for more non-black seats in order to have their own personal districts reconfigured to give the Republican two seats in the House they did not deserve. The Hispanics quickly fought back with pending lawsuits. District 100 representative only changed her condo in Cedar Springs into the district but pretty much the district remained the same. At redistricting hearings held throughout the state, Dist. 100 was shown as being gerrymandered but the district stays the same.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No. I've done nothing unlawful and I try to stay on the higher ground except in politics where life is fair game.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

No, I have other priorities with my limited income and I don't like candidates paying for memberships of endorsing organizations including PVL, and then buying endorsement. I would like to see a true survey of LBGTQ Community and not heterosexuals

## 2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

### Marquis Hawkins State Representative, Texas House District 100

#### *All Texas Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

My sister is one of my best friends. She's a hardworking middle-class woman who is sometimes caught on the lowest rung of the economic ladder. Sometimes she has a hard time finding a job because she wasn't given the skills she deserved to learn in school. Sometimes couldn't get to work because she had to care for our aging grandmother with MS who needed Medicaid years ago. And sometimes she thinks there's no reason to vote both because the government does care about her and wants to take that very right away. She also happens to be one of the first lesbians I met.

That's why I'm proud to be a candidate for House District 100- because I have the strongest track record of fighting hard to make sure we are improving the lives of people just like my sister and that's a fight I want to take to Austin. Whether it has been in my classroom as a teacher, on the streets fighting for expanded voter access, or when advocating for lower property taxes, I've been on the side of everyday working people.

The issues and needs of the LGBTQ+ community are all of our issues and needs, just like my sister. I'll work every day to expand rights and opportunity to everyone.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation***

***with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I do. I've only voted for Democrats and in Democratic Primaries since I could vote.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

Education: Morehouse College- BA, Cornell University MPA

Board Leadership: Board of Directors for the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, Board of Directors for CitySquare, Board of Directors for the OakCliff YMCA, After8ToEducate Steering Committee, Dallas ISD District of Innovation Committee Member

Professionally: Corps Member in Teach For America, Education Pioneers Fellow,

Compensation Analyst Dallas ISD , Compensation Analyst Omni Hotels & Resorts, Compensation Manager Harwood International, Compensation Consultant American Airlines, State & Local Government Affairs Advisor for Southwest Airlines for 14 states (including Texas).

Beyond my collection of professional experiences, I had a deep history of volunteerism and leadership across all of District 100, from a 4 year backpack giveaway in West Dallas, to toy drives in South Dallas, to a 6 year turkey giveaway in Oak Cliff.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

My priorities are: lower property taxes, expanded healthcare, stronger public schools, reimaging criminal justice, voting rights protection

I plan to continue much of the progressive agenda current HD 100 Rep. Jasmine Crockett started in the last legislative session. I plan to refile most of her bills and addition priorities the issues I mentioned above in legislation in Austin and local advocacy in Dallas.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I plan to put your endorsement on my website, social media, mailers and push card material.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

A diverse staff is integral to the success of any elected official. In my campaign, I want everyone to join our people-powered candidacy and will carry that same spirit when I'm elected State Rep. I will rely on friends, leaders and organizations like Stonewall to help identify strong talent in your ranks that would be available to help me serve all people in District 100.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

No. I'd make every effort to make myself completely available to meet with the LGBTQ+ community in all cases. I want to hear directly from the community so that I can be thoughtful about solutions.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

Yes.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support state legislation and/or constitutional amendments pertaining to: A. LGBTQ Couples adopting and providing foster care?***

I am in support of HB 730 & HB 4324 in the last legislative session and would support refiling in the next.

***B. Supporting the repeal of the sodomy law that was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court?***

I am in support of HB 1038 & HB 4425 in the last legislative session and would support refiling in the next.

***C. Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?***

I am in support of almost all of the student-focused bills and particularly those that target suicide prevention, anti-bullying, and inclusive curriculum because LGBTQ+ students are disproportionately affected by these laws. I would support refiling them in the next.

***D. Supporting the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment?***

I am in support of HJR58 in the last legislative session and would support refiling in the next.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address the recent passage of H.B. 25 regarding Transgender Student Athletes ability to participate based on their gender assigned at birth.***

It's a disgrace that right-wing Republicans use politics to attack our children. I would work to repeal HB 25 and work with local school districts to find carve-outs to ensure this law is not as harmful to our students and the bill is intended to be.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address S.B. 8, the state's Abortion Bill, including private citizen's ability to report anyone involved in supporting report?***

Republicans passed this bill in an attempt to take away a Texas woman's sacred privacy rights--it's wrong period. I would work to repeal SB 8 and work with our local members of Congress to pass a national law protecting a woman's right to choose.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support to improve our state economy and address the income inequality and growing poverty rate in Texas, especially as respects recovery from COVID19?***

The biggest driver of economic inequality that is going to be exacerbated by the COVID pandemic is access to quality education and educational outcomes. I have worked for several years trying to expand educational opportunities and will as a State Representative.

Among the list of items I would initially offer are:

- Raise the minimum wage to \$15/hr
- Maintain, strengthen, and expand safety net programs like SNAP and Medicare
- Expanded access to childcare access to parents by providing incentives for providers that serve certain income levels

Just these three items could help lift the boats of millions of struggling Texans.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

Healthcare is a fundamental right that should be affordable for every Texan. The best way to reduce our state's high uninsured rate is by expanding Medicaid, but the Texas Legislature refuses to accept billions of our federal tax dollars available to expand health coverage. That's putting politics over people and I will stand with people every time. I'll work to get that coverage expanded.

***If applicable to your office, what specific ideas do you have to overhaul the Texas Power Grid?***

The elected officials who stood by allowing our system to fail through inaction need to be held accountable and we need to in this election. The issue of grid stability, however, is not just a Texas issue. Many states are experimenting with new ways to stabilize their grid, such as battery storage, and some companies are distributing smart thermostats to encourage conservation during times of peak demand. I would also propose an Energy Commission that combines the Public Utility Commissioner, ERCOT, and the Railroad Commission to ensure the regulators are working for the people of Texas rather than the companies they are expected to regulate.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation***

***restoring previous funding for HIV prevention in Texas including access to PrEP?***

Access and availability to PrEP is integral to helping stave off the spread of HIV. I am completely in support of HB 907 and adding PrEP explicitly and would support refiling in the next.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing reparative/conversion therapy in Texas?***

I am in support of HB 2753, HB 2516, and HB 3196 in last legislative session and would support refiling in the next.

***If applicable to your office, what are your ideas for immigration reform in the state level?***

I'm going to always support legislation that is not divisive and avoids the scapegoating of immigrants. Among the first issues, I would like to tackle is allowing all Texas resident students to pay in-state tuition regardless of their immigration status. I want to also ensure we are providing additional incentives for bilingual education.

Outside of the education front on the workforce, I want to look for ways to provide verifiable forms of identification for all Texans to ensure public safety, while rejecting obstacles that prevent access to IDs or driver licenses.

These are the areas I'd start with.

***What could the state do to improve COVID19 reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

If the federal government does not make sure we have the necessary supplies to respond to the next pandemic Texas has to make sure we:

-Have a collaborative response system in place across all levels of government and all ensure we are moving in lockstep. In this pandemic, disagreements between the state and county, the county and the city, etc. cost Dallas County lives and these losses

were preventable.

-Carry one healthcare message. In this pandemic, politics played a greater role than anything in responding to the proliferation of vaccination and testing costing lives.

-Plan for a new normal. During the onset of this pandemic and after we permanently changed our way of life; that will likely be the case in the next. We should have a playbook on how we handle schools and how to provide students with everything they need to ensure they do not fall behind.

These are the first steps we should be taking to prepare.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their office' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

Humans are the cause of climate change and the federal government should prioritize real solutions to this issue. Everything should be on the table as a response including the items in the Green New Deal.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address voter suppression in Texas and work to expand access to voting by eligible voters?***

Voting is a fundamental right. I fully support online voter registration options, expanded early voting periods, and a repeal of voter ID laws that make voting more difficult. Voting is foundational to our democracy and I will support any effort to protect and expand the franchise for Texans.

***In your opinion and applicable to your office, what needed to happen in the past redistricting cycle?***

Republicans again used this process to maintain their grip on the political atmosphere of Texas. Two items I believe we should have

done:

We should have stepped in when the federal government decreased funding for hard-to-count populations including children, people of color, immigrants, rural residents, and low-income households. Other states did this and it was bi-partisan.

I believe should have established an independent, non-partisan commission for re-redistricting, which is done in several states I've worked in including in my work as a State & Local Advisor. This commission should be guided by computer algorithms to create the fairest districts.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Yes

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Vonda Bailey

**255th Family District Court**

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

As a practicing attorney for eight years, I have witnessed growth within the LGBTQ+ community but setbacks as well within the courtroom. One of the biggest setbacks, which I believe is not complicated to address, is misgendering individuals of the LGBTQ+ community and how some judges have been tolerant of it. The tolerance is unacceptable. It's very simple to ask someone "what are your pronouns" while addressing them and for the judge to immediately correct this behavior given it's offensive nature.

I often ask pronouns because it not only shows respect to the individual, it shows your intentional willingness to understand how to address someone in the LGBTQ+ community. Back in 2017, I went to pride in Los Angeles where I had lunch with television personality B. Scott (who is absolutely fabulous by the way)! We spoke about pronouns and how people were often confused between "he" and "she" while referring to them. B. Scott informed me they were trans non-binary and used pronouns "they" and "them." During this time, I was not well versed in pronouns as I am today so this was an amazing conversation. I learned so much just by listening.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make***

***such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes I do. I voted previously in the Democratic primary.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I am the current fundraising chair of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and a huge ally of the LGBTQ+ community. In order to hold such as position, you must understand the needs of the LGBTQ+ community. A plethora of my friends and family members are in the community and I make every effort to educate people about the various facets of the LGBTQ+ community. Additionally, I have represented a number of individuals in the community so I have an understanding of their needs and the sensitive nature of many of their situations, especially involving child custody and divorce cases.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

I plan to open "We The People" clothing closet in the George Allen Building. The purpose of the closet is to level the playing field so people in lower socioeconomic communities will have the opportunity to look presentable in court. The closet also affords people who are in court and need to go on a job interview or put in job applications to look their best. I have witnessed people be judged by other litigants and berated by judges based on their courtroom appearance. The closet lessens the likelihood of these occurrences.

I also plan to still use my YouTube channel as an educational tool for legal education and information. I understand everyone cannot afford an attorney so this would be a great resource. Topics would too include helping individuals of the LGBTQ+ community file documents they will need and walk them through the court process.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I will surely publish the endorsement from Stonewall on all campaign materials as well as on all of my social media platforms.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I believe education is extremely important in everything we do. I would continue what I currently do by educating people about the importance of pronouns and showing respect to people regardless of their sexual preference. Furthermore, I would implement courtroom policies that specifically address sanctions for violations. I doubt I'd have many issues with staff and LGBTQ+ issues considering they will be hired directly by me. I would never employ someone who disrespects the LGBTQ+ community in any form.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to "deeply held religious beliefs"?***

I'd first respect their decision and have a conversation with them to get some clarification to come to a solution. It'll also be a teaching moment for me to learn something I may not know or quite understand. I do not believe anyone should be terminated or disciplined for religious beliefs; rather, it may be an opportunity for rotation to a different position or area depending on the work duty.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you've identified as needing improvement***

The delay in orders getting signed by the court; different attorneys assigned to cases which involve ad litem and amicus attorneys; more diverse (minority) counselors and doctors appointed to represent parties and not just someone a friend of the judge; more counselors versed in issues involving the LGBTQ+ community; the use of more supervision facilities outside of those up in the northern sector; more supervision facilities in the southern sector of Dallas.

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

Yes. I believe judges should be more present in the community to educate people about what the court actually does, services that can be provided, and courtroom policies and procedures in general. Social media presence including podcasts and live sessions would be a great way to engage the community about court related services.

In 2015, I participated in a session at Lawrence and Marder Church of Christ called "Legal Ease" where a number of attorneys came to give free legal information about frequently asked questions. It was a great program and we answered so many questions people did not know about courtroom procedures and services offered by the state for various needs of people. I really enjoyed it.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

Absolutely not. Jury selection is inherently bias, in my opinion. I'd like to see the jury selection process done by third parties who know nothing about the case. This means neither the prosecutor nor the defense attorney would be selecting who would be on the jury pool. I believe this would keep the judicial process free of any biases.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

My judicial philosophy is simple: follow the law and show respect for others. It does not involve your personal feelings or opinions, or religious beliefs. I believe some judges get into trouble because their decisions are often based on the latter.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

I don't believe so.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Almost 2 years

## 2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

Francine Ly  
Texas Senate District 12

### *All Texas Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I have a deep and personal connection to the LGBTQ+ community through my late brother-in-law. He struggled with his gender identity and finding acceptance for his identity. For over 15 years, he went through both emotional and physical abuse. Because of my firsthand experience with individuals who have dealt with issues of physical and emotional abuse while finding acceptance, I have been a strong advocate for LGBTQ+ rights.

Furthermore, I believe children should be given a safe environment to discover their true self. Therefore, as a State Senator, I will consult with health and mental wellness experts, administrators, and members of the community to develop a plan to develop an infrastructure that includes policies, structures, practices, and services that meet the needs and preferences of youth who are LGBTQ+.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes, I support the Texas Democratic Party and Stonewall Democrats of Dallas platform. I am a lifelong Democrat and have voted in every Democratic primary I have been eligible to participate in but one.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I have met the legal requirement for the office I am seeking,

Texas State Senator. (U.S. Citizen, 5 years as a resident of Texas; 12 months as a resident of Texas, at least 26 years of age). I am better qualified to represent the people of Senate District 12 than my opponent. I am a strong, life-long Democrat with a long history of democratic activism.

I had previously worked as a legislative aide for the Texas House of Representative, with duties such as reviewing and researching proposed laws and resolutions, constitutional amendments, and appropriation of all funds for the operation.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

As a senator, I will listen to the people in my district for bill ideas and then work to solve the problem. I will have a bill recommendations committee to conduct studies when the legislature is not in session. The purpose is to research and determine what state law needs to be modified or created to best solve that problem. I will then author the bill, with legal assistance from the Texas Legislative Council, which is the legislative agency providing bill drafting services, research assistance, computer support, and other services for legislators.

If elected, I will work on a bill for the creation and development of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Asian American Studies. Texas public school students will learn and develop critical thinking skills when they learn about the ongoing struggle for Asian American equality as well as the study of racial and economic disparities in Texas and the United States. The creation of TEKS for Asian American Studies at this time will be interpreted by many within the context of such difficult conversations as race, privilege, power, stratification, homogenization, and inequity; however, it will be viewed as our way to empower our youth so they can be future leaders for a better tomorrow.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

The Stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsement will be on my campaign's website, social media posts, and on mailers.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

There are numerous studies showing that diversity and inclusion is good for business. However, despite the significant progress, LGBTQ inclusion in the workplace still faces unique challenges when it comes to employment. I will have an inclusive diverse equality achieving recruitment process that is open and affirming for LGBTQ candidates.

***Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why?***

YES.

***Will you have a non-discrimination policy for employment and protection of LGBTQ residents and protection based on sexual orientation or gender identity? If not, why?***

YES.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support state legislation and/or constitutional amendments pertaining to: A. LGBTQ Couples adopting and providing foster care?***

I believe that children are happiest when they are in a loving home/environment that protects and cares for them, ensuring that they are safe and healthy, and provides them with a good education and the opportunity to bond with their peers. It don't matter if this "loving home/environment" has 2 parental units who are heterosexual or not. There are shortages of foster care homes and couples approved for adoption as a result of personal self-interest over that of the child in need of a loving home/environment.

If elected, I will do everything I can to hold CPS accountable and work on updating the rules to allow for more inclusion of LGBTQ couples adopting and foster care homes from and by the LGBTQ community.

***B. Supporting the repeal of the sodomy law that was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court?***

The most basic human instinct is the need to love and desire to be loved. As long as consenting adults are sharing their love for

one another privately, I do not believe that any disinterested third party has a right to police what is going on in their bedroom.

If elected, I will support the repeal of the sodomy law.

**C. Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?**

For a child to reach his or her full potential, we have to allow them to grow and be creative and critical thinkers today so they can be future leaders tomorrow. A child must be afforded the opportunity to develop in a loving home, surrounded by loving and caring adults, teachers, mentors, and peers, no matter the social-economic background.

If elected, I will do everything I can to ensure safe schools for our future leaders.

**D. Supporting the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment?**

I will work to ensure that the Texas Constitution does not discriminate against anyone based on their gender, creed, race, or any other factors.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address the recent passage of H.B. 25 regarding Transgender Student Athletes ability to participate based on their gender assigned at birth.***

SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0834 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0834. INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC COMPETITION BASED ON BIOLOGICAL SEX.

(c) For purposes of this section, a statement of a student's biological sex on the student's official birth certificate is considered to have correctly stated the student's biological sex only if the statement was:

- (1) entered at or near the time of the student's birth; or
- (2) modified to correct any type of scrivener or clerical error in the student's biological sex.

If we are talking about the section above, I would say: Yes, I would work to modify this rule to add a provision to allow gender marker change of a child by court order.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address S.B. 8, the state's Abortion Bill, including private citizen's ability to report anyone involved in supporting report?***

As a mother of 4 children and having 3 of them prematurely was no fun, for a first time mom or not, and I can't imagine my life without them. I am Pro-Choice and believes that a woman should have the same privacy when it comes to healthcare decision affecting her, her family, her finances, and most importantly her mental well-being. An embryo is not a fetus, but it will grow into a neonate, a new human being.

Abortion need to be legal, safe, and available, free from duress and harassment, should a woman find herself in a situation where abortion is her only alternative.

***What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support to improve our state economy and address the income inequality and growing poverty rate in Texas, especially as respects recovery from COVID19?***

Work with Texas businesses to reverse the import/export trend. If we give a man a fish, he will eat for a day but if we teach him to fish, he will eat for a life-time. Same principle applies by getting Texas businesses back on track to be exporters of goods and services, instead of consumers. Producers create jobs for Texans. An educated workforce is key to the business workforce and economic success.

Vaccine and mask mandates are sensible precautions to protect yourself, your neighbors, your loved ones and strangers you come into contact with. Get the jab and mask-up.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents?***

Opt-in to the ACA and expand Medicare. Why are we rejecting tax money due Texans, for Texans to use to improve our healthcare system, housing storages, education, and

infrastructures. Each time Texas rejects the Texans' tax-payer money, the federal government will apportion those rejected funds and redistribute them to other states.

***If applicable to your office, what specific ideas do you have to overhaul the Texas Power Grid?***

Gov. Abbott's SB 3 requires the Public Utility Commission, which regulates ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas), to adopt weatherization rules for electric generation, transmission and distribution facilities within six months of the law taking effect but no timetable for when those rules would have to be enforced. I would add an enforcement deadline.

Gov. Abbott created a new council that would have until Jan. 1, 2022, to complete its mapping of the gas chain supply to better plot the distribution of gas during a crisis. Texas Railroad Commission (RRC), which regulates fossil fuels in Texas, is given the authority to determine what would be deemed "critical," and thus required to weatherize. Once the council finishes its mapping work, the RRC would then have six months to adopt rules requiring weatherization but there is no timetable for when the rules would have to be enforced. I would add an enforcement deadline.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation restoring previous funding for HIV prevention in Texas including access to PrEP?***

PrEP stands for pre-exposure prophylaxis. That means taking prescription medicine every day before you come in contact with HIV positive individuals to help reduce the risk of getting it. Like COVID, HIV is a public health concern and we need to ensure that adequate funding is provided to care for Texans living with HIV and the prevention of community spread.

***If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing reparative/conversion therapy in Texas?***

I would support legislation prohibiting licensed mental health practitioners from subjecting LGBTQ minors to harmful conversion "therapy" practices in attempts to change their sexual orientation or gender identity.

***If applicable to your office, what are your ideas for immigration reform in the state level?***

I am a first generation Asian American from Cambodia. Our family had to wait at the refugee camp in Thailand while our paperwork was being processed before we were able to come to America with “permanent resident” status, which allowed us to apply for citizenship. Our immigration system is not perfect but it works, we just need to staff it with individuals who care about human rights.

***What could the state do to improve COVID19 reponse and to prepare for the next pandemic?***

Listen to the experts and data backed by scientists. Do not disseminate false and misleading information that is not fact-based. We need to work to better educate the public. While current variants are not as deadly, they are more easily transmitted. Therefore, we need to ensure greater vaccination among residents.

***Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their office' fulfilled the requirements?***

Yes.

***What are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?***

I am a strong supporter of the environment. Therefore, we need to listen to experts in climate science and then produce legislation that truly slows and reverses the current harmful effects of climate change. It is up to us to fix the problems of climate change so that we can leave behind a planet that is cleaner and greener than the one we inherited.

Furthermore, our current electricity grid is neither reliable for the harsh changes in climate nor is it built on enough sustainable/renewable energy. We should have legislation that promotes and assists in creating new jobs in the sustainable/renewable energy sector. We should work to change our state's electricity grid to more reliable and sustainable sources so as to prevent issues like

those that we faced during last year's ice storm.

***If applicable to your office, how would you address voter suppression in Texas and work to expand access to voting by eligible voters?***

As your state senator, I would fight to protect voting rights for minority and overlooked communities. Every individual should have access to easy, reliable, and safe voting. Furthermore, I would have my staff continually work to increase voter outreach and access in Senate District 12. I would also work to repeal much of the voter suppression legislation that was passed in the previous session. I would also use my role to advocate to our congressional leaders to pass federal voting rights reform and thus prevent states like Texas from passing such suppressive voting reform.

***In your opinion and applicable to your office, what needed to happen in the past redistricting cycle?***

The new Senate District 12 is much too diverse. While I am committed to working to ensure both rural and urban constituents are represented, the state should understand that constituents in rural and urban counties face vastly different issues. For example, rural hospitals face considerably more issues than hospitals in urban counties (staffing, closures, Medicaid expansion, etc.). However, as your state senator, I would ensure that I would have both a rural and urban outreach staff position in my office to better focus on the different issues presented by constituents from those areas.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I am a current member as of September 6, 2021.

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

David Lopez

**256th Family District Court**

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

My most recent experiences is in the consideration of adoptions. Many same sex couples have become parents by adopting children. After reviewing the Adoption Evaluations performed according to required statutory provisions and the required criminal history reports I have not found any couples failing to be qualified to adopt children. Some of the best days in court involve granting these adoptions, which I have done and anticipate will continue to do. The other matters involve name changes in which same sex couples who wish to have the same surname, again after the required background check is performed, I don't recall ever denying any such request.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I do affirm the platform and policies and I have a voting history of being democrat.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

My most obvious qualification is that I have been the judge of this court for 15 years. I have a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge acquired as a result of being on the bench. I have attended every Advanced Family Law Conference since I was elected and I strive to stay current regarding legislative changes.

Prior to being elected I had a high volume practice that allowed me to meet different judges, people and issues.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

One of the greatest opportunities that has presented itself during the past COVID-19 timeframe is the implementation of ZOOM across the legal community. The result is that even unrepresented people have higher participation rates in that they are able to step aside from work and participate in a brief hearing and sometimes in an entire trial proceeding. It is my goal to incorporate ZOOM into the foreseeable future in as many proceedings that I can. Even represented parties have come to benefit from using ZOOM in that travel to and from the courthouse for pretrial hearings and other quick hearings has been cost effective. My goal therefore is to capture the benefits of ZOOM and maximize them into the future.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

Any endorsement made by Stonewall to my campaign would certainly be included on my online presence as well as any other campaign materials that would be created after receiving any such endorsement. A Stonewall endorsement is important to me and is recognized by other democrats as being meaningful.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

Everyone is entitled to have a friendly environment in which to work and employers, such as I, do have a responsibility to pay closer attention to people in minority groups to insure they are treated fairly. My position involves the hiring of about 2 people, a court coordinator and a court reporter. Currently both have been with me for 15 years, both are minorities although neither one is a member of the LGBTQ community, their consistent employment may demonstrate my ability to retain and create a friendly environment.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the***

***need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?***

Deeply held religious beliefs are important in personal life; however, religious beliefs cannot interfere with the lawful execution of duties involved in political life. As an elected official I have a duty to the religious as well as the non-religious and I serve them both. My personal religious beliefs and those of my staff cannot supersede lawful work duties.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you’ve identified as needing improvement***

The most challenging aspect of my time on and off the bench involve finding the time to review exhibits and other documentation that allow me to make rulings. Many times complicated matters are presented in a cursory manner in court and I’m left to review exhibits to either validate those representations or invalidate them. However, the cases keep coming and I have to continue to balance hearing cases and making rulings to keep from falling behind and unnecessarily delay making those critical rulings.

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

As expressed herein, the ZOOM phenomenon must continue to be utilized. I’m fairly bi-lingual which allows me to communicate with spanish dominate parties. Further, I have implemented policies to provide interpreters to parties who cannot communicate in english and the court will pay for that interpreter, regardless of the language, if the party is unable to pay for it. Finally, many more parties today have decided to represent themselves in court and in some matters this may be workable with some guidance from the court; however, I will recommend to many who endeavor to represent themselves in complicated matters to seek the many more services available to indigent individuals and direct them to those places that may be able to help them.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

We in the family court have very few cases that are tried to juries; however, from the few we do have it appears that many minorities are absent. Certainly, losing time off from work and losing pay from an hourly paid position might be a barrier to serving on a jury. The only thing I can do from my position is to be sensitive to those concerns and attempt to set reason jury trial times to keep people from being effectively excluded because of the time commitment.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

My general judicial philosophy is to treat people the way I would want to be treated while in their shoes. Patience, kindness and understanding are the virtues I most often attempt to practice.

*All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

Absolutely not. I have made many mistakes in my life, personal and professional. It is those mistakes that allow me to relate to others who also come into my court seeking someone who can understand them.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I am a current member and I joined as soon as I was informed that it was required. I am not a member of many organizations and my membership or lack thereof is not a reflection of my esteem for this organization.

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Sandre Streete

**256th Family District Court**

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

While in law school at St. Mary's University School of Law, I was a founding member of the 1st LGBTQ organization for our Law School. I was proud to be involved in the founding of this club, as many of my friends identified as LGBTQ, and I recognize the importance of equality for ALL people.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I affirm an affiliation with the Texas Democratic Party and its platform and policies. I am a Democrat and have voted Democrat for as long as I can remember.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I have practiced Family Law for over 20 years. Currently, I serve as the Managing Attorney for the Moncriffe Law Firm, a law firm dedicated to the practice of Family Law. I routinely handle cases involving all facets of Family Law including, divorces, child custody, property division, child support, child support enforcement, and child welfare cases. For 6 years, I served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Juvenile Division of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. As an Assistant District Attorney, I practiced Child Welfare Law, which is an area of Family Law dealing with children and CPS.

Prior to serving as an Assistant District Attorney I ran a law practice for 9 years, working exclusively in the area of Family Law. As a result of my combined experience as both an Assistant District Attorney and a Sole Practitioner, I have been exposed to virtually every area of Family Law. I am also a seasoned Trial Attorney, with significant Jury Trial experience. Moreover, I believe that my temperament, my judgment, my ability to work with people, my desire to continue in public service, as well as my considerable experience and knowledge of Family Law will serve me well as a Judge

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

1) A Pre Trial process for all cases to allow the Judge to streamline issues for Trial and to assist with moving the court's docket. 2) Improving the Court Appointment Wheel Process: The court could benefit from attracting a broad array of attorneys with the necessary skills and experience to work on the cases requiring that particular skillset such as child welfare cases, child support enforcement, amicus attorneys, and Judicial Bypass cases etc. 3) an oversight system for CPS cases; 4) ongoing prove up dockets with interpreters

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

If endorsed, I would publish my endorsement on my campaign website, campaign literature and mailers, Social media ( website, twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) and also in my your campaign advertisements.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I firmly believe in equal rights for all people. Therefore, I will expect nothing less from the Court Staff. I will be sure to make it plain to Court Staff that we are public servants, and that the public deserves courtesy, fairness and efficiency. Also, I will ensure that Court Staff understands that we serve ALL people.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the***

***need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?***

While I understand and appreciate that some individuals have deeply held religious beliefs, I have no such beliefs that would prevent me from carrying out my lawful duties. As for subordinates, the courthouse is not be the place to exercise deeply held religious beliefs that conflict with the law.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you’ve identified as needing improvement***

The following, I believe, are amongst most important policies or procedures to run a court effectively: 1) A Pre Trial process for all cases to allow the Judge to streamline issues for Trial and to assist with moving the court’s docket. 2) The Court Appointment Wheel: The court could benefit from attracting a broad array of attorneys with the necessary skills and experience to work on the cases requiring that particular skillset such as child welfare cases, child support enforcement, amicus attorneys, and Judicial Bypass cases etc. 3) an oversight system for CPS cases; 4) ongoing prove up dockets with interpreters if necessary.

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

I believe it is important for the court to provide an interpreter for Spanish speakers, provide resources for counseling for families at all income levels, and to provide resources for legal aid for pro se individuals. Some of these goals can be achieved by partnering with non profit groups or other organizations that offer services on a sliding scale for classes such as Parenting, Co Parenting and for mediation of cases.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

The composition of juries do not always adequately and fairly reflect society at large. Jurors are largely pulled from the voter registration pool. The more we encourage eligible people to become registered to vote, the more diversified our pool of Jurors should become. I also believe laws like “Batson Challenges” which

prohibit attorneys from excluding potential jurors based on race, sex, ethnicity or religion are important if we are to continue to level the playing field by having juries that more closely reflect society.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

In the words of Maya Angelou “...People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel...” I believe that this is applicable in our courtrooms, as people coming to Family court are usually going through traumatic, emotional situations. As a Judge, I will treat each litigant fairly, make sure their case is heard in a timely manner, and make rulings that comply with the law. I want people to leave my courtroom with the idea that I heard them, and even if I did not rule in their favor, I want them to feel that I listened, and I treated them fairly.

*All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I have been a Stonewall member since 2017.

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Bree West

**204th Judicial District Court**

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

As a previous prosecutor and a current defense attorney, I have had the opportunity to represent members of the LGBTQ+ community. During both of my roles, I realized the high number of domestic violence instances that occur within the community, that honestly aren't being addressed with the same concern and rigor as it is within other communities. Domestic Violence is a very serious issue - I spent years as a prosecutor solely focused on the issue, training others on the best ways to address the issues, and working to implement more innovative ways to assist both victims and offenders. In fact, I am currently the president of the board for First Choice Social Services an organization that provides counseling to people who have been prosecuted for domestic violence and in some instances their partners.

On a personal note, for many years I lived on Lemmon Ave between oaklawn and the tollway - during my time living in that community there were several instances of hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community. The response to these violent attacks included community meetings and involvement from various parts of the criminal justice system - while the problem was discussed, then - and allegedly addressed - once reports were no longer being made - the issue seemed to go silent. However, the issue isn't resolved, it seems people have just stopped talking about it as much. Hate crimes in the LGVTQ+ community is a huge issue. Our city is growing in ways that most of us couldn't have imagined even 10 years ago - its important that there is an

understanding of the role the criminal justice system will play in that growth and keeping people safe. I believe as a Judge serving this community, and with my understanding of both sides of the system, I am in a unique position to work from inside the criminal justice system to help support the growth it needs to meet the challenges of our growing community and the issues that may arise specific to the LGBTQ+ community at large.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I affirm that I support the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. I am a registered democrat and have been excited to vote to help turn Texas Blue over the years!

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I have been both a prosecutor and defense attorney for more than 10 years. I started my career with the Dallas County District Attorneys Office and worked under 3 administrations. I went into private practice because I saw a shift in the criminal justice system that I wasn't comfortable supporting and believed my efforts would be better used from the other side. I have proudly represented people across the metroplex who have been charged with various levels of felony offenses. And, I have tried, over the course of my career, more than 100 jury trials (misdemeanors and felonies).

While working as a prosecutor, I worked in courts as an attorney that prosecuted general felony crimes, and as a specialized prosecutor working with the family/domestic violence section, the child abuse section, and the adult sex crimes unit. I have seen prosecutors be terrible and lose sight of their true role and I have seen prosecutors be amazing, going beyond the call of duty and identifying creative ways to support accountability for a person accused, while not punishing a person for the sake of punishment. I have seen firsthand, the way crime, particularly violent crime, affects a victim and/or their family.

For the past several years I have worked as a criminal defense

attorney focusing on felony level offenses and federal criminal defense, I also became licensed in the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit to work on federal appeals to ensure I could continue to represent my clients in the federal system throughout their process. I have participated in all aspects of the judicial system, not just serving as a prosecutor and hoping that my basic understanding of the law would translate into being successful on the bench. I believe its important to have both side - since the role of a judge is “calling the balls and strikes” so to speak - it would seem one would need to know both sides of the game.

With all of that said, I believe I bring a level of compassion to the bench that appears to be missing from the judicial system right now. Our world is changing but our justice system in lagging behind. Accountability and appropriate punishment is what our community calls for, not punishment for the sake of having the ability to do so.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

One of the benefits of being a judge is that you have ability to create programs to fit into the gaps of our criminal justice system to help support rehabilitation or reintegration into our society as being a productive person after you have been prosecuted for a criminal offense. These types of programs, can be created by a judges, seem to be missing in our system currently. I plan to work with community organizations to help identify some of the barriers that exist within specific communities to work to identify the ways in which the criminal justice system can fill the gap with a speciality program. One of the problems I see is that there doesn't seem to be many programs that currently exist that were created by and with the input of the community in which the program is designed to serve. For example, while there are domestic violence specialty courts, they are really more of an extension of the probation department versus a community based approached created with buy-in from the community we serve. Wouldn't it make sense to go into the community and meet with community organizations to talk about the issues the organizations have identified and then work to address those.

As far as I am aware, that has not happened. I intend to meet with leaders of the LGBTQ+ community to work to identify ways the judicial system can support specific issues that exist in that community. If there is a way to incorporate some of the issues into existing programs with a specific focus on what's been identified, then I will support that, if not, then I will work to find funding (with the help and support of the community) to create a program that does address the issues identified.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

It would be an honor to be endorsed by the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, and I will include the endorsement in all my campaign information. I do a lot on social media, but I also have a news letter they goes out to a couple thousand people - this endorsement would be included on all my literature.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

Any person working with me in my court, or assigned to my court will be required to have a level of professionalism and courtesy that should be extended to everyone - something that doesn't always exist in the courts currently. I will have no problem dismissing or requesting someone be dismissed when these standards are not adhered too. Further, I will work to recruit members of the LGBTQ+ community to work in my court.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to "deeply held religious beliefs"?***

I believe everyone is entitled to their own opinions, however I don't believe that I need support those opinions when it comes to the fair administration of justice. Should someone in my court express their inability to fulfill their job responsibilities based on their deeply held religious beliefs - which could include disrespect of members of the LGBTQ+ community (or any other community) - that person cannot work with me. Full stop. Obviously, people accused of criminal offenses or victims of criminal offenses come from every background one can imagine - if someone is

unwilling to appropriately do their job because of some personally held belief - I believe that slope is slippery. I cannot support intolerance or hatred towards any group.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you've identified as needing improvement***

What I have found is that people who have been hired to do a specific job are doing the job of other people instead of their own. I believe in allowing the lawyers to do the lawyering, the probation department to do their job, the judge to play their role, and the administrative staff to do their job. I do not believe the administrative staff should be doing the work of lawyers, I do not think the probation department should do the job of the lawyers, and I do not believe the Judge should be acting as the prosecutor or defense attorney. If elected, I would make sure each part of the system is doing the work it was hired to do. I would put an end to the court coordinator making decisions for the lawyers, or the probation department dictating what the disposition of a criminal cases (that doesn't mean that the probation department doesn't need to have input, but it does mean they don't get to decide the outcome of a criminal case).

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

The first and most important way to improve access to the courts would be to show up for work. Criminal law is one of the few professions that doesn't sleep. I assure you the police will always arrest people, the jails will always have inmates, and therefore the courts need to have Judges present to address the issues that come up. Another thing that has always confused me is the cloak of inaccessibility that seems to hover over Judges (not all judges, but some seem to never want to be approached by people). I will be the type of Judge who will be on the bench, be accessible to anyone who wishes to meet (within the limits of the law - I cannot allow citizens accused to discuss the facts of their cases with me or allow them to have ex parte communications with me), and be kind and friendly on the bench. I have never understood the reason behind the unkindness from Judges - I believe you can carry the authority necessary to effectively execute your duties

while still being approachable and kind. That is the type of Judge I will be.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

I do not believe the juries that get seated reflect our society at large. I believe there is an unbiasedness when sending jury summons out to the community, but those who answer the call of duty or ultimately participate in the process, often look very different than the person sitting accused. A quick anecdote: as a prosecutor I was responsible for prosecuting a young black man who was accused of a serious felony offense. When the jury pool came into the courtroom, there was a mix of ethnic backgrounds visible (I did not and could not know any other personal information about any individual juror). However, at the end of the jury selection process without issues of striking potential jurors on the basis of race - the 12 jurors selected were all older white people. Each of the lawyers involved, almost collectively stated, the jurors selected were certainly not a jury of the defendants peers. I do not believe that the race of a person or the way in which a person identifies means only those same type of people are qualified to sit on a jury to judge that person for what they are accused of, but I do believe that we can do better in educating the public on the importance of serving as a juror and understanding that diversity in the jury is necessary to the fair administration of justice.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

Generally, my philosophy is that most often crime has an underlying cause (to be clear, not always) - be it mental health issues, substances abuse issues, lack of education or opportunity - if you can identify what causes a person to do what they have done, then you can work to treat the problem and work on that person not cycling back into the criminal justice system. I believe in making all reasonable attempts at rehabilitation, understanding the punishment is and can usually be apart of rehabilitation. But, I do NOT believe in punishing for punishments sake. Work to treat some of the underlying causes of crime, give people hope and access to better and more often than not, people will do better. The criminal justice system does not operate in a vacuum,

although many people treat it like it does, the harsh reality is that it occurs at the intersection of a host of social and economic problems that plague every facet of our society. Each part has to grow and change for the collective to move in a better direction. However, since the system is treated like it operates in a vacuum - the way in which we can work to address these issues - is to work to identify and address some of the underlying causes of crime.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

I am not aware of any issues in my background that would cause your organization to reconsider or withdraw your endorsement.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I joined the organization in 2021

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Tammy Kemp

**204th Judicial District Court**

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

As an African American woman, I have experienced prejudice and mistreatment in many areas of my life that I was powerless to prevent. No one should be subjected to mistreatment or the denial of opportunity for the person that they are. We should all strive to treat others as we ourselves would like to be treated.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I have been a registered Democrat my entire life and have voted in the democratic primary throughout my adult life with exception of my when there where not any democratic candidates to select.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I have served as the elected judge of the 204th Judicial District Court since January, 2015. Our court has efficiently and fairly administered justice and the court has consistently ranked among the most effective. I have experience as a criminal trial attorney, having tried all levels of felony cases. I have worked as both a prosecutor for a number of years and as a defense attorney. Having seen the impact of the law from all sides provides the perspective to continue to be fair to the accused, compassion towards victims and accountable to the public.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

We will continue many of the practices we put in place at the inception of my service. However the current pandemic enabled us to provide remote hearings and trials. We will continue to offer the remote services even after the pandemic ends as it will enable quicker resolution to issues.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

My endorsements will be added to our campaign website and campaign media and will be included in any answers regarding endorsements to interested parties.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

My staff is limited to two persons. Those persons have been with me since 2015 and will continue with me in the next term. Our court is welcoming and respectful of all persons. Mistreatment of any person will not be tolerated.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to "deeply held religious beliefs"?***

My oath of office requires me to uphold all lawful duties. My staff is familiar with my commitment to treat all persons as I would want to be treated and are committed to treating all persons with dignity and respect while performing our duties.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you've identified as needing improvement***

Encouraging attorneys on both sides of the cases to respect the time of others will greatly improve the court. Defendants and victims can suffer further harm when cases are not handled in a timely manner.

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

Community and civic organizations could assist in educating the public on the rights of all persons that are involved in criminal justice. As a part of the judiciary i would love to participate in such an educational program.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

No, our juries do not adequately reflect our society. We need community and social action organizations to encourage and educate our citizens on the importance of their participation. Jury verdicts reflect what our community believes criminal justice to be, therefore we need the input of all persons.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

I want to be fair to the accused, compassionate towards victims and accountable to the public. These goals require knowledge, experience and commitment to the effective administration of justice.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I will join before the endorsement screenings.

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Monique J Bracey Huff

**County Criminal Court 10**

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I was appointed a client that I met for the 1st time while he was in jail. They were set for a bond hearing so they were brought to court on the jail chain (Jail Chain means they are brought to Court where their case is pending in the morning of their court date & held in the holdover--small cell--connected to the courtroom). My Appointment information Form stated that my client was female and gave me their female government name. When speaking with my client, they had to pull down their mask and I realized that they had grown a beard. I immediately stopped the conversation and apologize for not asking already. I proceeded to ask my client "what name would you like to be called by?" and "what pronoun should I be using she/her or he/him?" My client was moved to tears and thanked me for even taking the time to ask. We reviewed his case and determined that the Magistrate Judge that would be hearing his Bond Review Hearing was not appropriately compassionate or well versed enough to determine the additional transgender factors affecting this case. We immediately asked the assigned Judge to come to the Magistrate Court and preside over this Bond Hearing. The Judge happily obliged and my client got the appropriate bond--a P.R. Bond.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes. I voted Biden in 2020 & Clinton in 2016. As a practicing

defense attorney, I vote in the non-presidential cycle elections to vote for the Judges in Dallas County that will be hearing my cases.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I have an undergraduate degree in social work where I worked at a crisis counseling hotline while matriculating. I have worked in domestic violence shelters directly with victims & their families during undergraduate & law school. I interned in the Family Violence Unit of the Dallas County DA's office, again interviewing victims/completing witness contacts, assisting in trial preparation, & performing case evaluations. For the past 13 years, I have had my own criminal defense firm defending those accused of family violence offenses & other crimes. I have a unique holistic view on how the legal justice system and domestic violence collide; and I have been actively practicing in this concentrated focus of the law my entire career. I work with indigent clients as a portion of my practice is through appointed cases. I have worked for bond companies employed to bond clients out of jail for Class C misdemeanors (tickets, assault, Public intoxication, etc.). Through these experiences, I have worked with and for LGBTQ+ clients. I understand trauma & how important it is not to retraumatize victims of domestic violence. Finally I have a personal experience with domestic violence as a child who grew up in a domestic violence household.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

OVERALL GOAL: To run an efficient, fair, unbiased court.

1. Meet with court clerks, assigned Assistant DA's to the Court, & the newly assigned Court 10 public defender to prepare a plan for the 1st 30 days in office.
2. Review arrested Defendants with pending bond review hearings, awaiting trial, & held on probation violations with goals for 1)availability of case disposition, 2)appointment of attorneys, 3) setting appropriate bonds, 4)immediate scheduling of trials, 5)review for the necessity of mental health evaluations & mental

health bonds, if appropriate.

3. Providing bi-lingual (Spanish & English) staff in-person for morning dockets.

4. Review pending trial docket to get trials scheduled to begin in February & continue regularly as needed.

5. Removal of Assessment fee for Conditional Dismissal Contract's for indigent defendants.

6. Begin project on providing Anger Management & BIPP courses in the courtroom, after hours, for low income Defendants.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

I would want ongoing suggestions from Stonewall on symbolism for a LGBTQ+ friendly courtroom. I would like a flag on the outside of the court where daily dockets are posted as well as on the bulletin board in the court coordinator's office that those entering the office would see upon entry.

I would like to place Stonewall's logo on my campaign website, social media, & campaign materials. I would be very proud to show our reciprocal support of each other.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I have 2 positions (court coordinator & court reporter) in which I can hire staff, and I am hoping to add a 3rd with a translator. I want that staff as diverse as possible, so I would hope to advertise in minority organizations AND LGBTQ friendly organizations to fill those positions. My staff are my family & they create the environment on whether people feel comfortable to enter my office and trust me to handle their legal matters. I want the same for my Court. I am genuinely interested in their family, interests, & goals.

Justice is served when people feel comfortable enough to speak their truth and know they will be heard. My staff will be spoken to & treated with respect. They will be expected to share their ideas & opinions; and we would all be united in the goal of justice. Diversity would be an on-going goal that I have my eye upon, and NO ONE will feel uncomfortable for their race, sex, gender identity, religion, socioeconomic status, naturalization, or sexual orientation!

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?***

I would ask them if they felt comfortable talking to me with the goal of educating me on their “deeply held religious beliefs” and why they feel they cannot complete their lawful work duties. I would explain that the purpose is for me to try to step into their shoes to understand the dilemma before them. I would also assure them that I understand that there is no intention on their part NOT to complete their job.

Once we had that conversation, we would outline their job duties & responsibilities. Then we would review which parts of their job obligations they feel they cannot fulfill. Then together we would work on our options.

If we discover that their beliefs no longer allow them to fulfill their job obligations, then we will decide together if it is appropriate for them to continue employment. I would also explain that not every job is for everybody--I know some Spanish, but I am not fluent, so translator is not an appropriate job for me.

My goal would be to empower my subordinate to make a decision on whether this job works for them. I don't want anyone feeling forced to violate their beliefs. So if we decide that their continued employment in this position does not work, then we would reach out to look for other positions that we could make a lateral move

to for this employee. I want to work towards a solution that works for both parties and that the subordinate does not feel undervalued, wrong, or demeaned. We have to work on finding a solution that works for both of us.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you've identified as needing improvement***

One of the primary reasons I running for this bench is to run a more efficient Court, which is a largely administrative role. Justice Delayed is Justice Denied. Dallas County requires all Defendants to have an attorney to defend their rights. Presently, private attorneys charge 2 to 3 times more for representation in this court because the administration of this court is lengthy & time consuming and attorneys spend hours sitting in court to achieve goals of resetting cases or pleas. Appointed attorneys decline appointments in this court because of the unnecessary waste of time in court not actually resolving cases as well as the Court refusal to pay for the time spent in Court waiting to be addressed. Every time an attorney denies an appointment, another 24 hour business day must expire before another attorney can be appointed. A Defendant in jail is left in jail without an attorney reviewing their case longer than necessary because they cannot get representation through no fault of their own. Victims sit in limbo unsure when or if their abuser will be punished and/or get help for their problem and no work towards rehabilitation is taking place to help our communities. Our jails unnecessarily fill up making taxpayers responsible for the care of unadjudicated Defendants.

1. Unlock the doors to the Court Coordinator and make their name & office available to the public. The coordinator would be accessible by phone, email, & in-person, while observing appropriate COVID safety protocols.
2. Get a public defender for the Court. Public Defenders make court run more efficiently because they are in the Court every day.
3. Stop resetting cases every 3 weeks when the Defendant has a felony pending.

4. I would allow the Court Coordinator to set dockets, and not require that all case docket settings go through the Court/Judge.
5. I would allow Attorneys & Defendants to appear electronically to reset cases after first appearance for non-dispositive settings
6. I want Bond Hearings to give priority in morning dockets.
7. I want clients arraigned for 1st settings to review conditions of bond & complete paperwork that they will not own, possess, or transport firearms while their case is pending & they are on bond.
8. Hire a court reporter so dockets can be run more efficiently and more cases be handled in daily dockets.
9. Please refer to answers to questions regarding plans for specific office responsibilities.

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

1. Unlock the doors to the Court Coordinator and make their name & office available to the public. The coordinator would be accessible by phone, email, & in-person, while observing appropriate COVID safety protocols.
2. Get a public defender for the Court. Public Defenders make court run more efficiently because they are in the Court every day.
3. Immediate review of the jail docket--those with pending cases & current held in jail.
4. Actual preside over trials in the Court & start having jury trials immediately & regularly--as safety protocols allow.
5. Hire a bi-lingual translator for daily morning dockets so court can run more efficiently and there are more attorneys available for appointments of jail chain cases that can be disposed of daily.
6. Clerks will accept paper in Court 10, so that Orders of the Court can be filed and entered in computer databases the same day and dispositions can be sent to the jail daily.

7. Probation officer would work in the court for morning dockets for Defendant & Attorney access & efficient completion of probation terms.

8. Provide a referral list in court for service providers of classes-- anger management, BIPP, etc.

9. Maintain a list of available jobs for Defendants to review for possible employment.

10. Docket sheets that can be printed by clerks & court coordinator in court 10.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

I do not believe juries currently reflect the composition of society. Communities of color are more hesitant to unnecessarily expose themselves to COVID & appear for jury duty. Minorities and/or lower income individuals tend to have jobs where they only get paid when they appear for work, so they tend to opt out of jury duty if able in order to take care of their financial obligations.

I think we as Democrats need to encourage our fellow Democrats to appear for jury duty. We also have to work to make sure attorneys are educated to obtain fair & impartial juries. I also think we need to fairly compensate juries for a higher daily rate for service if they make it onto the panel. We also need to give them a pass for free parking at the courthouse.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

The Court belongs to the people. It should be open for the people to do the Court's business. It is my job to be fair and impartial and act in the interest of justice and the safety of society. I want every person that enters my courtroom to be treated with compassion, respect, & impartiality. Justice delayed is justice denied. I have to run an efficient court for all parties involved.

I chose this court because I am interested in attacking the

problems that cause domestic violence in the home. I see this misdemeanor court as a court of opportunity for victims to get closure and the accused to get support--anger management classes, Batterers Intervention Prevention Program classes, job assistance, etc. My job as both an attorney & judge is to uphold the law; but my belief is in people and getting them the resources so that they do not return to the criminal justice system. When possible, I do not want Defendants, especially young adults, getting family violence convictions that start their cycle in the criminal justice and prison system. I want rehabilitation for Defendants, so they can become better versions of themselves for both themselves and their families. They can set better examples at home for their children and start to provide healing to the negative effects of domestic violence on the home. This is how I believe that this court can positively impact families and ultimately our communities.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

Since September 2021, I have been a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Elissa Wev

**Dallas County Criminal Court 10**

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

I was a lesbian before a global pandemic and TikTok made it cool. (Seriously, where were all these women loving women before COVID??) Living my truth openly and honestly as a queer Latina both in my personal and professional life is undoubtedly a privilege that not all of our LGBTQ+ siblings share, so I don't mean to make light of that fact. I also recognize that the privilege of living out and proud is both a gift and a limitation - a gift from the foreparents of liberation movements, and a limitation on the breath of my experience. I don't know what it is like to be a lawyer and not be able to be completely who I am no matter where I am. As a member of this profession I have the ability to access and remain in spaces which are relatively safe and comfortable for me. The needs of our community are not monolithic and the disparities within our family mirror the intersections of race, wealth, and class that exist in society at large. My personal responsibility (and what I hold as a moral imperative) is to always check my blind spots and earnestly ask out loud, "Who am I overlooking, and what do I need to better understand?"

As a criminal court judge, the greatest service I can offer in order to meet the needs of our queer siblings is to never assume or take for granted that I "get it" simply because we're cut from the same letter in the Alphabet Soup. The one need we all have is that

of dignity. The current culture surrounding our criminal justice system is one wrought with shaming people for committing behavior society has deemed undesirable. No person, regardless of who they love or how they express their corporal identity will ever be denied the recognition and respect of their full humanity in any courtroom which I am elected to be a judge of.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I affirm that I support the mission and spirit of the Texas Democratic Party. To the extent the party's platform may not have reached its full potential in some areas, I vow to continue to beat the dream of progress and inclusion for all under our big tent. My voting history began in a toga at The University Texas at Austin in 2005, where I cast my vote against Texas Proposition 2 (which would ultimately amend the Texas Constitution to define marriage as "only of the union of one man and one woman" and prohibited the state or any political subdivision of the state from creating or recognizing "any legal status identical or similar to marriage."). I have voted in national and local Democratic primaries since, becoming more acutely aware of and active in local and municipal elections since moving to Dallas in 2013.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I have established my legal career as a bilingual public servant to Dallas County, first as a Public Defender and then as an Assistant District Attorney. I am a former public defender, and assistant district attorney. As a Public Defender I provided criminal defense to individuals from low income situations and fought to overcome poverty-biased procedures and punishments. My advocacy and views on criminal justice are rooted in that work. I was responsible for maintaining a high-volume docket, with cases numbering in the hundreds. I saw firsthand how crucial the judge is in running an efficient courtroom where those accused receive a timely day in court. Being left in jail without representation or review, needlessly costs people their livelihoods, housing, and even their ability to remain in this country.

In 2016 I joined the Dallas County District Attorney's Office in hopes of providing a more balanced perspective to criminal prosecution. I spent several years in the Family Violence Division, where I prosecuted over 500 cases of felony level offenses involving intimate partner violence, including murders, aggravated assaults, and strangulations. I also served as the Chief Prosecutor of County Criminal Court 11, Dallas County's other domestic violence court. In total, I have practiced law in 12 of the 13 county criminal courts and 14 of the 19 criminal district courts in Dallas County. I have also made several presentations to the Grand jury.

I have built an expertise in the area of criminal law related to domestic violence. I am a two-time featured speaker at the Conference on Crimes Against Women, which convenes the leading experts from across the country to educate and train first responders and community stakeholders on best practices regarding the identification, investigation, and prosecution of crimes against women. I have also presented trainings to law enforcement and community groups on DV, including the Grand Prairie Police Department and the Metropolitan Dallas Alumnae Chapter - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

Docket management and Diversion. As people remained in their homes in response to COVID, incidents of domestic violence increased. The courts experienced a slow down with jury trials suspended for a long period of time. My first priority will be addressing the backlog. Next, with the input of community partners and experts, I will support a domestic violence diversion program to give offenders the opportunity to take accountability by addressing their underlying trauma to heal in order to support safer romantic partners and safer parents. My strategy to structure and implement these broad plans is to assess, consult, collaborate, then audit and adapt. The current state of the Court must be assessed by collecting and analyzing the existing data regarding the backlog of cases, but also recidivism. I will also

research the existing diversion programs so as to not create redundancies where certain issues are already being addressed. Next I will seek input from leading experts in best practices for working with low income populations in criminal justice settings, trauma informed courtroom procedures, alternative funding systems, and disability compliance. With this information I will invite all stakeholders to the table to offer input and concerns. This means reaching out to the DV advocacy community, mental health practitioners that work with those who commit violence, the District Attorney's Office, the criminal defense bar, and the probation department. I will use this input to guide the design of a diversion program, and to establish the metrics by which the Court can measure success. I will also invite audits of the program to be done by third-parties such as law school restorative justice research programs and make public any recommendations generated by those audits.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

At a minimum, if honored with and bestowed the responsibility of the SDD endorsement, I would include the endorsement in social media announcements, campaign website, and campaign newsletters. I would proudly include the endorsement in any stump speech or subsequent questionnaire/ interview. Depending on timing and budget, I would also hope to include the endorsement on a mailer or paid media/ traditional advertising.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

The robe will be black, but the vibe will be rainbow. I will continue to live and work as an open and out queer attorney, active in the LGBT Bar Association. Though the judge only directly hires for two staff positions (court coordinator and court reporter - the Sheriff's Office staffs the court bailiffs, and County Clerk staffs the clerks, etc.,) I will keep an open door for any member of the court staff to voice concerns of discrimination or bigotry. Language in the Court's communication will be intentionally inclusive so as to telegraph to all, County Criminal Court 10 is a safe space.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?***

My oath as an attorney requires me to support the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Texas. The Texas Code of Judicial Conduct requires judges to “comply with the law and should act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.” It specifically prohibits the manifestation of bias or prejudice “based upon race, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status,” and requires that a judge “not knowingly permit staff, court officials and others subject to the judge’s direction and control to do so.” A “deeply held religious belief” is not a recognized or legitimate exception to these rules. I will abide by and uphold these canons. Any staff or member of the Court who refuses to do the same will be counseled on expectations, and if unable to act in accordance, will be excused from service to the Court.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you’ve identified as needing improvement***

One of the most important positions in an efficient court is the Court Coordinator, which is hired by the judge. The role of the Coordinator is to be the muscle behind carrying out many of the Court’s administrative functions at the direction of the judge - including scheduling the docket, appointing attorneys to represent the accused, and maintaining and tracking caseload data. The first change I will make if elected to CCC10 is to actually hire a coordinator. Unfortunately, the Court does not currently have this position filled, and has not for some time. Any specific policy or procedure will be informed by the condition I inherit the Court in, and determining the true extent of any backlog or inefficiency will require an assessment of the state of the Court at that time.

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

One of the biggest issues facing County Criminal Court 10 is equal access to justice. Currently there are no public defenders working

in that court. There are many private attorneys who will not accept court appointed cases from CCC10, and some will even turn down a paying client or charge hundreds if not thousands of dollars over their standard rate to represent a person charged in Court 10. This means the talent pool of attorneys available to represent defendants is smaller than any other court and more expensive. In addition to inviting the Public Defender's Office to return to serving CCC10, I would work with the criminal defense bar to encourage private attorneys to return to the Court's appointed cases wheel. I would also invite the criminal law clinics of the North Texas law school to take court appointed cases (with the assistance of supervising attorneys, of course) to expand the universe of advocates available to those accused.

I am committed to expanding the community's access to information pertinent to pending cases and proceedings in CCC10 by implementing cost-effective technology. Basic information about what to do after an accused person receives notice of a court date, how to receive or hire an attorney, what to do if they miss their court date, up to date lists of approved providers for court-ordered classes and conditions, and general information about how to arrive to the court and what to do once you get there will be included on the Court's webpage. I am currently researching options to use text messaging for defendants on bond to check in with the Court, in lieu of spending time and money to appear in person when it is not necessary.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

Not even close. First, the jury pool begins with self selection. It's the people who choose to show up. (This is my questionnaire answer, so I'm going to take the opportunity to make a plug - show up for jury duty.) Next, the attorneys for the State and the Defendant will use their allotted strikes to remove people for essentially arbitrary reasons (i.e. "I don't like engineers on my jury because they are too critical,") that are not racially discriminatory. The first six people (in a misdemeanor trial) or 12 people (in a felony trial) who are not exempt (i.e. caregiver to small children, or heart surgery that needs to be performed and cannot be

rescheduled), removed for cause, or struck because the defense attorney thinks English teachers hand our harsher sentences, make up the jury. How do we get more representative juries? Get more people to show up.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

How much time do you have? In short, RGB was the GOAT, Scalia was a jerk, and more Black, brown, and queer women need to be in the judiciary. I believe a judge is responsible for contributing to the greater welfare of our community. Criminal courtrooms are more times than not places of pain and trauma. A judge has the ethical obligation to promote justice through healing, and run her court in a manner which is reflective of treating all human beings with dignity.

*All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I believe I have been a dues paying members since 2019, but definitely since 2020.

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

D'Metria Benson

**Dallas County Court at Law 1**

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

As a trial judge, the experiences in my court have not been based upon LGBTQ+ community needs but rather on legal questions involving members of the LGBTQ+ community.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

I am a life long Democrat and I believe in the sanctity of the privacy of the vote. That being said, I have always voted in accordance with my conscience and political beliefs.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

I am a sitting Judge. I have served as the Judge of Dallas County Court at Law No.1 for 15 years. I have been licensed to practice law for over 35 years and hold a Certificate of Special Competence in Civil Law from the Texas College for Judicial Studies as well as a Presidential Commendation for individual leadership in improving justice in Texas.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

If re-elected I plan to continue to treat those who come before me with dignity and respect. I intend to rule on each case that comes before me based on the facts presented and the law applicable to

that case.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

Yes.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

I will continue to treat all staff with dignity and respect and hire, recruit and retain based upon those best qualified for the position available.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?***

I would fulfill my legal obligations and expect my staff to do the same.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you’ve identified as needing improvement***

I am unable to answer the question as presented because it is unclear what type of administrative policies or procedures are being referenced.

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

I am unable to answer the question as presented because it is unclear which courts and court services are being referenced. We’ve learned a lot about remote video access to courts during the pandemic and I believe that such technology has merit and should continue after the pandemic ends in appropriate circumstances.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

This question is best addressed by the legislature.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

My judicial philosophy is that everyone who appears before me should be treated with dignity and respect. I also believe that each case should be decided on its own merits based upon the facts and law applicable to that case.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

Not that I am aware of.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I would like for your organization to make an endorsement with objectivity without reference to whether I am a member. I will consider joining at a later date.

## 2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

LeDouglas Johnson

**Dallas County Court at Law No. 1**

### *All Judicial Candidates*

***Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.***

By coincidence, one of my daughters is a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Prior to her coming out to me and after, I have always sought to broaden my understanding of the issues facing the LGBTQ+ community and teach my children accordingly. When my daughter came out to me, she told me that she already knew that she would have my support and understanding and she has and does.

***As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?***

Yes. I am a lifelong democrat.

***Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:***

Dallas County Court at Law #1 is a civil court. I am a civil litigator who has been licensed to practice law for nearly 22 years. I have practiced in the areas of Intellectual Property Litigation, Toxic Tort Defense, Probate and Estate Planning, and Public Interest Law.

I earned my B.A. in Economics from Duke University and my J.D. from Southern Methodist University School of Law. During law school, I earned distinction as an exceptional oral advocate competing and winning several national and regional advocacy

competitions and was selected as a National Member of the Order of Barristers.

***Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?***

I am an organizer. This court has consistently been identified as the civil court most in need of improvement regarding preparedness, timely orders, impartiality, knowledge of law, proper temperament, and overall performance. When I am elected, the court will (1) answer the phone, (2) set reasonable hours for the court to be open to hear matters, (3) stop repeatedly cancelling hearings at the last moment, (4) set hearings and trials within a reasonable time, (5) issue rulings without delay, (6) issue rulings that follow the law, (7) issue rulings without having to be reported to the appellate court [mandamus], (8) treat people with courtesy and respect, (9) understand that the people own the bench and the judge is accountable to them, and (10) issue impartial rulings based on the law instead of campaign contributions.

***How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?***

The Stonewall endorsement will be featured prominently on my website, social media, and printed campaign materials.

***When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?***

Equitably and organically. I've run my own law office and recently supervised recruitment of legal support staff at another. I've had my best success by recruiting through word of mouth. This past year, I was told to hire three legal assistants at my current firm. ALL THREE of those direct hires were LGBTQ+. They are important members of my team in an environment where we have actively made space for acceptance and respect. They have repeatedly told me that they love the team we have become and love working with at the firm. I will maintain my connection and involvement with my LGBTQ+ friends as I have always done. My LGBTQ+ friends have referred me impressive professional talents in the past (whom I have hired) and I know they will do so in the

future.

***How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?***

Educate AND terminate.

***Understanding that administrative matters can take up a significant percentage of your work day, what are the most important policies or procedures you’ve identified as needing improvement***

County Court at Law #1 ranks DEAD LAST among civil courts on every measure polled by the Dallas Bar including (1) preparedness, (2) timely orders, (3) impartiality, (4) knowledge of law, (5) proper temperament, and (6) overall performance.

The first step is to show up to do the job. When I am elected, I will enact court protocol and standard operating procedures that will ensure each case gets the settings and attention necessary to efficiently progress to final resolution. The court will (1) answer the phone, (2) set reasonable hours for the court to be open to hear matters, (3) stop cancelling hearings at the last moment, (4) set hearings and trials within a reasonable time, (5) issue rulings without delay, (6) issue rulings that follow the law, (7) issue rulings without being forced by a higher court, (8) treat people with courtesy and respect, (9) understand that the people own the bench and the judge is accountable to them, and (10) issue impartial rulings based on the law instead of campaign contributions.

***Do you have ideas to improve access to the courts and court-related services? Yes. If so, what are they?***

1. Make the court available to litigants during regular business hours.
2. Answer the phone and respond to email.
3. Set matters without delay.
4. Show up to hear matters on the docket instead of cancelling.

5. Allow litigants to agree to choose their own mediators instead of limiting them to a list curated by the court.
6. Issue rulings without delay.
7. Draft orders that follow the law.
8. Treat litigants impartially regardless of campaign contribution.
9. Treat every person who enters the court with dignity and respect.

***Do you believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects society at large? Why or why not? If not, what can we do to change this?***

No. Minorities in particular respond to jury summons at a lower rate and become under-represented in the jury pool from which trial jurors are selected.

One method I have supported is public education regarding the importance of jury duty.

***What is your general judicial philosophy?***

In American jurisprudence, there are two distinct elements of justice, procedure and substance. The absence of either destroys the existence of the whole. I will be a judge who knows the law, follows the law, and does so without such a delay that the goals of justice are preserved.

### *All Candidates*

***Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might - without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?***

No.

***How long have you been a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? If you are not a member, will you pledge to join before the endorsement screenings? If no, why not?***

I pledge to join before the endorsement screenings.