

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas
Implementation Strategy for Legislative Endorsements and Priorities
Texas Legislative Session 86R (2019)

The following procedures shall be executed to give impact to the slate of legislative endorsements and condemnations as adopted by the membership of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

1. **Release of Statement of Endorsements and Condemnations:** following adoption by motion in the general membership of the legislative slate of bills being endorsed or condemned by Stonewall, the Legislative Affairs Chair will provide to the Communications Committee a draft statement laying out the reasoning for our endorsement or condemnation of the bills. This will be reviewed and edited by Communications and released by them to the public and press. Legislative Affairs will release the same statement to the Members and Legislative Directors of all House and Senate members from Dallas County, as well as the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the relevant Committees.
2. **Lobbying of Specific Votes:** the Legislative Affairs Chair will coordinate with the Dallas Democratic Delegation and the LGBT Caucus to identify members who have previously sought the support of Stonewall but who are not in line with our position on these bills, either opposing us or not giving sufficient priority to the issue, and will lobby those Members and the Legislative Directors directly, or through requesting the efforts of the President, Vice President, or Political Affairs Chair.
3. **Committee Notes and Testimony:**
 - a. Whenever a bill endorsed or condemned by Stonewall is scheduled for a hearing before a committee of the House or the Senate, the Legislative Affairs Chair will drop a card in support or opposition as appropriate to that bill; if the Legislative Affairs Chair is unable to attend the hearing and do so, they will designate another member of the Board or of their Committee to do so in their stead.
 - b. Where the Legislative Affairs Chair believes that specific testimony should be given on behalf of Stonewall in a hearing for or against a bill, they shall draft such testimony for approval by the Board; if the Legislative Affairs Chair is unable to attend the hearing and deliver this testimony, they will designate another member of the Board or of their Committee to do so in their stead.
4. **Failure to Support by a Member:** If a vote is held, in a committee or on the floor of the House or Senate, and a Dallas County member of the legislature votes against the recommendation of Stonewall, the Legislative Affairs Chair shall notify the Board and the Communications Committee of the nature of the vote in order that a statement of reprimand may be drafted and released at such time as the President or Board sees fit to do so.
5. **URGENT Final Votes:** If a bill endorsed or condemned by Stonewall is scheduled for a vote on the floor of its non-originating body (i.e. if, having passed the Senate, it is scheduled on the floor of the House, or vice versa), this being the last opportunity to ensure or stop it reaching the Governor's desk, the Legislative Affairs Chair shall immediately inform the Committee and the Board, so that we may rally the Board and members to write and call their legislators, and a group may go down to attend and rally or protest the vote.

Other bills and issues of importance: The strategy above is designed around the specific needs and best practices for our club in pursuing a pro-LGBTQ+ legislative agenda, and we believe it should only apply to the pro-LGBTQ+ specific slate introduced by the Legislative Affairs Chair alongside this strategy.

Beyond this, however, the Committee is committed to leveraging the research and resources at our disposal to track any other legislation or issues important to our membership. The Committee will report back to the requesting Member and to the Board any developments in the legislative session

Post session follow-up: After the close of session, the Legislative Affairs Chair will compile a list of votes by all members of the Dallas County Delegations to the Legislature, in committee and on the floor, and how that aligned with Stonewall's recommendations. This score-card will be included along with Primary voting history at the next Endorsement Screenings.